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Title

# IEC 62607-6-4: Nanomanufacturing – Key control characteristics – Part 6-4: Graphene - Surface conductance measurement using resonant cavity

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# INTRODUCTION

92 The microwave resonant cavity test method for surface conductance is non-contact, fast, sensitive and accurate. It is well suited for standards, research and development (R&D), and for quality control in 93 the manufacturing of two-dimensional (2D) nano-carbon graphene materials. These sheet-like or flake 94 like nano-carbon carbon forms can be assembled into atomically-thin monolayer or multilayer 95 graphene materials, which can be stacked, folded, crumpled or pillared into a variety of nano-carbon 96 architectures with the lateral dimension limited to few tenths of a nanometer. Many of these materials 97 are new and exhibit extraordinary physical and electrical properties such as optical transparency, 98 anisotropic heat diffusivity and charge transport that are of significant interest to science, technology 99 and commercial applications [1, 2]. 100

101 102

Depending on particular morphologies, density of states and structural perfection, the surface conductance of these materials may vary from 1 S to about 10<sup>-4</sup> S. Conventional direct current (DC) surface conductance measurement techniques require a complex test vehicle and interconnections for making electrical contacts, which affect and alter the measurement, making it difficult to decouple the intrinsic properties of the material.

In comparison, resonant cavity measurement method is fast and non-contact. Thus, it is well suited for use in R&D and manufacturing environments where the surface conductance is a critical functional parameter. Moreover, it can be employed to measure electrical characteristics of other nano-size structures.

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# NANOMANUFACTURING – KEY CONTROL CHARACTERISTICS –

# 118 Part 6-4: Graphene - Surface conductance measurement using resonant cavity

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#### 121 **1 Scope**

This part of IEC 62607 establishes a method for determining the surface conductance of 2D single-layer or multi-layer atomically thin nano-carbon graphene structures. These are synthesized by chemical vapour deposition (CVD), epitaxial growth on silicon carbide (SiC), obtained from reduced graphene oxide (rGO) or mechanically exfoliated from graphite. The measurements are made in an air filled standard R100\* rectangular waveguide configuration, at one of the resonant frequency modes, typically at 7 GHz.

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Surface conductance measurement by resonant cavity involves monitoring the resonant frequency shift and change in the quality factor before and after insertion of the specimen into the cavity in a quantitative correlation with the specimen surface area. This measurement does not explicitly depend on the thickness of the nano-carbon layer. The thickness of the specimen does not need to be known, but it is assumed that the lateral dimension is uniform over the specimen area.

#### 134 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in publications listed below and the following terms and definitions apply.

- ISO/IEC TS 80004-13, Nanotechnologies Vocabulary Part 13: Graphene and other two-1 dimensional
   materials
- IEC 62565-3-1 (113/247/CD), Nanomanufacturing Material Specifications Part 3-1: Graphene Blank
   detail specification for electrotechnical applications
- 144 IEC 60153-2, Hollow metallic waveguides Part 2: Relevant specifications for ordinary rectangular 145 waveguides
- 146 NOTE In some countries the R100 standard waveguide is referenced as WR-90

# 147 **3 Terms and definitions**

#### 148 **3.1 Graphene Layers**

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# 150 Single graphene layer (SLG)

a single atom-thick sheet of hexagonally arranged, bonded carbon atoms with sp<sup>2</sup>-electronic hybridization in a honeycomb structure.

153 NOTE: SLG is an important building block of many carbon nano-objects.

#### 154 Bilayer graphene, trilayer graphene (BLG, TLG)

- 155 2D (sheet-like) materials, either as free-standing films or flakes, or as a substrate-bound coating,
- 156 consisting of 2 or 3 well-defined countable, stacked graphene layers of extended lateral dimension.

#### 158 Multi-layer graphene (MLG)

a 2D (sheet-like) material, either as a free-standing flake or substrate-bound coating, consisting of a small number (4-10), stacked graphene layers of extended lateral dimension.

#### 161 Graphite nanoplates

nanosheets, nanoflakes, 2D materials of graphite, with ABA or ABCA stacking and having a thickness
 and/or lateral dimension less than 100 nm.

#### 164 Graphene oxide (GO)

chemically modified graphene prepared by oxidation and exfoliation that is accompanied by extensive oxidative modification of the basal plane. Graphene oxide is a monolayer material with a high oxygen content, typically characterized by C/O atomic ratios less than 3.0 and typically closer to 2.0.

#### 168 **Reduced graphene oxide (rGO)**

169 graphene oxide that has been processed to reduce its oxygen content.

#### 170 Graphene materials

overarching term representative of graphene-based materials, graphene nanomaterials, graphene-family nanomaterials [11] for the collection of 2D materials that contain the word "graphene", including multilayered materials (n less than about 10), chemically modified forms (GO, rGO), and materials made via another precursor material or process such as chemical vapour deposition (CVD).

#### 175 3.2 Measurement terminology

#### 177 Surface Conductance

applicable to thin films that can be considered as two-dimensional entities having the geometrical width (*W*) and length (*L*), where the charge transport takes place along the plane of the specimen layer rather than perpendicular to it. When voltage (*u*) is applied uniformly across *L*, the resulting electric current (*i*) is proportional to the surface conductance ( $\sigma_s$ ) and the specimen width, *W*, while in reciprocal proportion to the specimen length:

$$G=i/u = \sigma_s (W/L)$$

184 Where:

176

183

 $\sigma_s$  = the characteristic property of 2D materials.

186 Note the SI unit of measure of  $\sigma_s$  is siemens (S). In the trade and industrial literature, however, siemens per square (S/square) 187 is commonly used when referring to surface conductance. This is to avoid confusion between surface conductance and electrical 188 conductance (G), which share the same unit of measure.

#### 189 Electrical Conductance (G)

- <sup>190</sup> measure of how easily electrical current flows along a certain path.
- 191 NOTE The SI unit of G is siemens (S).

#### 192 Electrical conductivity

- characteristic physical property of 3D materials describing the ability to conduct electric current.
- 194 NOTE The specific volume conductance can be obtained from surface conductance dividing it by the conductor 195 thickness (*t*):  $\sigma_v = \sigma_s t$ . The unit of measure of  $\sigma_v$  is siemens per meter (S/m).
- 196
- 197 Surface (sheet) resistance ( $\rho_s$ )
- a reciprocal of  $\sigma_s$ , a characteristic property of 2D charge transport.
- 199 NOTE Sheet resistance measurements are commonly made to characterize the uniformity of conductive or semi-conductive 200 coatings for quality assurance. The SI unit of measure of  $\rho_s$  is ohm ( $\Omega$ ). In the trade and industrial literature, however, ohm per

- 8 -

square (S/square) is commonly used when referring to surface resistance. This is to avoid confusion between surface resistance and electrical resistance (R), which share the same unit of measure.

#### 203

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# 204 Microwave Cavity

also known as a radio frequency (RF) cavity, a special type of resonator consisting of a closed metal structure that confines electromagnetic fields in the microwave range of the spectrum.

NOTE: The structure can be filled with air or other dielectric material. A microwave cavity acts similarly to a resonant circuit with extremely low loss at its frequency of operation.

209 Microwave resonant cavities are typically made from closed (or short-circuited) sections of a waveguide. Every cavity has 210 numerous **resonant frequencies** ( $f_r$ ) that correspond to electromagnetic field modes satisfying the necessary boundary 211 conditions i.e. the cavity length must be an integer multiple of half-wavelength at resonance.

#### 213 Quality factor (Q)

a dimension-less parameter describing the ratio of energy stored in the resonant circuit to time-averaged power loss of the cavity, or equivalently, a resonator's half power bandwidth, ( $\Delta f$ ) relative to the resonant frequency ( $f_r$ ):

 $Q = f_r / \Delta f$ 

# 219

#### 220 Microwave scattering parameters (S-parameters) (S<sub>ij</sub>)

Factors that quantify how RF energy propagates through a microwave multi-port network. Subscript (*i*) indicates the detecting port. Subscript (j) refers to the sourcing (input) port. Accordingly,  $S_{21}$  quantifies microwave energy that is transmitted from port\_1 to port\_2. In comparison,  $S_{11}$  quantifies microwave energy that is sourced and detected at port\_1 and it is often referred as a reflection coefficient.

#### **4 Microwave cavity test fixture**

The test fixture is shown in Fig. 1. It consists of a R100 waveguide (1), having nominal load impedance of 50  $\Omega$  such the Voltage Reflected Standing Wave ratio (VRSW) is 1.04:1.0 or less, and the insertion loss is less than 0.5 dB/m. This waveguide can operate in the microwave frequency range of 6.6 GHz to 13 GHz. The waveguide dimensions are: a = 10.16 mm, b = 24.6 mm and its length l = 134 mm. The walls of the cavity are implemented via coax to R100 waveguide couplers (2), which are cross-polarized ( $\theta = 87^{\circ}$ ) with respect to the waveguide electromagnetic field polarization, E and H. The resonant frequency of the fundamental modes excited along the propagation direction is determined by the electrical length ( $l_e$ ) of the cavity. For an air filled waveguide with the relative permittivity  $\varepsilon_r = 1.0$ ,  $l_e \approx l$ .



#### Figure 1 - Microwave cavity test fixture. (1) waveguide, (2) couplers, (3) slot for specimen insertion, (4) specimen, (5) specimen holder

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The specimen is inserted into the cavity through a narrow slot (3) (1 mm x 10 mm), precisely machined through both walls of the waveguide in the centre of the cavity, where the electric field (E) attains a maximum value. The specimen (4) is attached to a stage (5). The stage is used to control and measure the specimen area inside the cavity. In the case of liquid samples the entire test fixture in Figure 1 may be reoriented to perform the measurement of the specimen in horizontal position.

#### 242 **5 Test Specimen**

The test specimen consists of a graphene layer coated on or bonded to a non-conducting substrate. The 243 substrate provides mechanical support for handling and positioning the graphene materials inside the 244 test fixture. In order to minimize effects of the substrate on the measurement, the substrate material 245 should exhibit low conductivity and low dielectric permittivity. The recommended substrate for graphene 246 obtained from CVD, exfoliation or other synthetic routes, is electronic grade fused silica wafer, 200 µm to 247 250 µm thick. The graphene material to be tested should be transferred onto the substrate surface using 248 a process that preserves the integrity and purity of the graphene layer, while minimizing the possibility of 249 contamination. The method requires both, the coated and uncoated substrate. The recommended size of 250 test specimen is 3 mm x 20 mm. Epitaxial graphene grown on silicon carbide (SiC) may be tested directly 251 on the native substrate after removing either the Si- or C-terminated face. Epitaxial graphene can be 252 grown by heating the SiC single crystal in under ultra-high vacuum or in an inert gas atmosphere. The 253 SiC surfaces used for graphene growth contain Si- and C-terminated faces. On the Si-face, 254 255 homogeneous and clean graphene can be grown with a controlled number of layers. The carrier mobility reaches as high as several m<sup>2</sup> V s<sup>-1</sup>, although this is reduced by the presence of the substrate steps. On 256 the C-face, although the number of layers is not homogeneous, twisted bilayer graphene can be grown, 257 which is expected to be the technique of choice to modify the electronic structure of graphene (see 258 Clause 9, note 1). 259

# 260 6 Measurement procedure

#### 261 6.1 Apparatus

The measurement requires an automatic two port vector network analyser (VNA) operating in the frequency range that covers the X- frequency band (6 GHz to 12 GHz) with the capability of measuring the scattering wave parameters  $S_{21}$  or  $S_{12}$  transmitted between ports 1 and 2 of the VNA. Connections between the test fixture (Clause 4) and the network analyser should be made using high quality coaxial cables and appropriate adapters. The dynamic range of the measurements should be within 70 dB or greater. The instrument should be equipped with an IEEE 488.3 I/O interface or equivalent, for transferring data between the network analyser and a data collection unit.

#### 269 6.2 Calibration

Calibration is required only at the coaxial ends. Two-port full calibration for  $S_{21}$  and  $S_{12}$  should be performed in accordance with the network analyser manufacturer's specification using an appropriate Short-Open-Load calibration kit.  $Q_0 = \frac{f_0}{\Lambda f}$ 

#### 273 6.3 Measurements

Connect the empty test fixture to the vector network analyser (VNA). Set the VNA to measure  $S_{21}$ magnitude with 800 data points or more. Select the frequency span to 2 GHz and the centre frequency to 8.5 GHz. Several resonant peaks should appear on the VNA screen, each with the  $|S_{21}|$  max value of about -20 dB and the  $S_{21}$  minimum value (noise floor) in the range of -60 dB or less. Identify the resonant frequency ( $f_0$ ) of the third resonant peak TE<sub>103</sub>, for which the electric field of the standing wave attains its maximum value in the middle of the cavity (see Clause 9, note 2).

#### 280 6.3.1 Empty Cavity

Set the centre frequency to  $f_0$  and the frequency span to about  $2\Delta f$  (4 MHz or less), such that  $|S_{21}|$  peak height is about 5 dB. Determine the half power bandwidth,  $\Delta f = |f_2 - f_1|$ , where  $f_2$  and  $f_1$  are frequencies of the resonant peak, 3dB below the  $|S_{21}|$  maximum. Determine the quality factor  $Q_0$  of the empty cavity from equation (1).

285

(1)

#### 286 6.3.2 Specimen

Insert the specimen into the cavity in steps (x), while measuring the length of the insertion ( $h_x$ ) perturbing the cavity volume (see Clause 9, note 3). Record the area ( $A_x$ ) of the sample inside the cavity at each step (x).

$$A_x = w \cdot h_x \tag{2}$$

where w is the width of the test specimen. When the cavity is perturbed by the specimen, the position  $(f_x)$ of the resonant peak should move to lower frequencies and the  $|S_{21}|_{max}$  value should decrease when  $A_x$ increases. Adjust the *canter frequency* and the *frequency span* as in 6.3.1, if necessary. Record the resonant frequency  $f_x$ , half power bandwidth  $\Delta f$  and the corresponding quality factor  $Q_x$  (Eq. 1). (See Clause 9, note 4).

#### 296 6.3.3 Repeated procedure

Repeat the steps in 6.3.2 recording  $Q_x$  and  $A_x$ , until  $h_x \ge 10$  mm ( $h_x \ge a$ ) or when the resonant peak height, |S<sub>21</sub>|<sub>max</sub>, decreases to about 10 dB above the noise level.

#### 299 6.3.4 Substrate

300 Optionally perform steps 6.3.2 – 6.3.3 for bare substrate.

# **301 7 Calculations of surface conductance**

Equation (3) correlates the specimen surface conductivity with the measured quality factor and the specimen surface area [4]: – 11 –

$$\frac{1}{Q_x} - \frac{1}{Q_0} = \sigma_s \frac{2}{\pi \varepsilon_0 f_0 V_0} (w h_x)$$
(3)

305 where:

 $\sigma_{s}$  = specimen surface conductance

- 307  $w h_x$  = specimen surface area inside the cavity
- $Q_x = quality factor of the specimen$
- $Q_0, f_0$  = quality factor and resonant frequency of empty cavity
- 310  $V_0$  = volume of the empty cavity,  $V_0 = a \cdot b \cdot l$  (see Fig. 1)
- $\epsilon_0$  = permittivity of free space.

Since for a given cavity  $V_0 Q_0$ , and  $f_0$ , are constant parameters (3) can be rearranged into to (4) which can be fitted to a straight line.

304

$$\frac{1}{Q_x} - \frac{1}{Q_0} = \sigma_s \cdot k(w h_x) \tag{4}$$

315 Where:

316

322

317 
$$k = 2/(\pi \varepsilon_0 f_0 V_0)$$
.

Thus,  $\sigma_s$  can be solved from the slope of a linear portion of plot  $(1/Q_x - 1/Q_0)$  vs  $(k \ w \ h_x)$  (see Figure A2 of Annex A).

# 320 8 Report

321 The report shall include the following:

- 323 Preparation procedure and dimensions of the specimen.
- 324 Values of  $V_0 Q_0$ , and  $f_0$ .
- 325 Table of  $f_x$ ,  $Q_x$  and  $h_x$  for the sample specimen with graphene layer
- 326 Plot of  $1/Q_x 1/Q_0$ ) vs (k w  $h_x$ ) for the sample specimen containing graphene layer on the substrate.
- Table of  $f_x$ ,  $Q_x$  and  $h_x$  for the specimen of bare substrate having nominal width *w* same as the sample specimen.
- 329 Plot of  $1/Q_x 1/Q_0$ ) vs (*k* w  $h_x$ ) for the bare substrate.
- 330 Measured surface conductance for specimen containing graphene layer on the substrate,  $\sigma_{s_m}$ .
- 331 Measured surface conductance for specimen of bare substrate,  $\sigma_{s_{1}t}$ .
- The effect of substrate may be neglected if  $\sigma_{s_m} \gg \sigma_{s_t}$ . In the case if  $\sigma_{s_m}$  value is comparable to  $\sigma_{s_t}$ but  $\sigma_{s_m}$  is larger than  $\sigma_{s_t}$  at least by two orders of magnitude, subtract  $\sigma_{s_t}$  from  $\sigma_{s_m}$  [5].
- 334 Report surface conductance,  $\sigma_s$ , for the graphene layer  $\sigma_s = \sigma_{s_m} \sigma_{s_t}$
- 335 In the case if  $\sigma_{s_m} \approx \sigma_{s_t}$  examine the test specimen preparation procedure (see Clause 9, note 5).
- 336

#### 337 9 Notes

1. From the application point of view, graphene on SiC will be used as a standard reference graphene
 material and the platform used to fabricate high-speed electronic devices and dense graphene
 nanoribbon arrays, which will be used to introduce a bandgap [3]

2. The electric field inside the cavity attains a maximum value in the middle of the cavity where the specimen is inserted for odd fundamental  $TE_{1,0,n}$  modes, where n= 1,3,5,...,. The first resonant mode,  $TE_{1,0,1}$ , may fall within the waveguide cut-off frequency, below 6.5 GHz, if the cavity is electrically too long. Therefore, the test method recommends to use modes 3,5,7,...,. These modes can be easily identified. Inserting the specimen into the cavity causes all the resonant peaks corresponding to odd modes to decrease in magnitude and shift to lower frequencies, while the resonant peaks corresponding to even modes (n=2,4,6,..,) remain intact.

3. The active length  $(h_x)$  perturbing the cavity volume corresponds to the portion of the specimen inside the cavity (see Fig.1-1). The typical value of  $Q_0$  is about 3000, which can be measured with uncertainty  $\Delta Q \approx 10$  [5]. Therefore, the minimum insertion  $h_{xo}$  which cause the quality factor to change from its initial value  $Q_0$  can be determined experimentally from uQ.

4. The operating menu of a typical automatic network analyser includes functions for finding the *peak maximum* (resonant frequency), calculating the *half-power* bandwidth, *Q factor*, and for adjusting the *centre frequency* and the *frequency span*. These functions can be executed either manually or invoked from a stored macro program for automated calculation of *Q* after each specimen insertion step.

5. The typical surface conductance value of graphene materials can be between 1 S (for a multilayer 356 and/or doped graphene) and 10<sup>-5</sup> S (for SGL). Such conductance values are much larger than the typical 357 surface conductance of fused silica substrate and therefore the effect of substrate can be neglected in 358 most cases. When the film consists of a not percolated semi- continuous network of graphene flakes,  $\sigma_s$ 359 can be much smaller than  $10^{-5}$  S. Similarly,  $\sigma_s$  can decreases rapidly with increasing concentration of 360 carbon sp<sup>3</sup> defects, for example, after chemical functionalization or incomplete reduction of rGO. In the 361 case when the measured surface conductance is comparable to surface conductance of the substrate the 362 measurement results may be unreliable. Example measurements are illustrated in Figs A1 and A2 for 363 single layer and multi-layer CVD graphene deposited on a fused silica substrate (see Annex A) 364

# 365 **10 Accuracy Consideration**

Several uncertainty factors such as instrumentation, dimensional uncertainty of the test specimen 366 367 geometry, roughness and impurities contribute to the combined uncertainty of the measurements. 368 Adequate analysis can be performed, however, by using the partial derivative technique for equations (3) or (4) and considering the instrumentation and the experimental errors. The standard uncertainty of  $S_{21}$ 369 can be assumed to be within the manufacturer's specification for the network analyzer, about  $\pm$  0.01 dB 370 for the magnitude and  $\pm$  0.5 ° for the phase. The resonant frequency can be determined to within few kHz 371 when collecting 800 data points over the frequency span of  $2\Delta f$ . The corresponding relative uncertainty of 372 the  $Q_x$  factor is then typically below 0.5%. The combined relative standard uncertainty of the 373 measurements is typically better than 6 %. Further improvement in accuracy can be achieved by fitting 374 the resonant peak data to a damped oscillator model, which utilizes both, the magnitude and phase of the 375 measured complex scattering parameter  $S_{21}$  [5]. Comparison of calculation techniques for Q-Factor 376 influenced by the measurement uncertainty of the network analyser is given in reference [6]. 377

Additional limitations may arise from the systematic uncertainty of the particular instrumentation, calibration standards and the dimensional and structural imperfections of the actually implemented test specimen.

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# Case study of surface conductance measurement of SL and ML graphene

Annex A

(informative)

#### 386 A.1 General

In this case study, surface conductance of commercially available SL and ML graphene from the CVD process was measured using non-contact resonant cavity (std. R100 (WR 90) waveguide) operating in the 7.2 GHz frequency range. The implemented partial specimen insertion allows precise control of the sample area in the cavity, more data points for fitting and overall better accuracy. The measurements are referenced to resonant frequency in air.

#### 392 A.2 Cavity Perturbation Procedure

The cavity perturbation by a specimen, having relative complex permittivity,  $\varepsilon_r^* = \varepsilon_r^{'} - j\varepsilon_r^{''}$ , is given by equations (1) – (3), where (3) accounts for non-uniform fields [4, 5].

(A1)

(A5)

395 
$$\frac{f_0 - f_r}{f_0} = (\varepsilon_r' - 1) \cdot 2\frac{V_r}{V_0} - b_r$$

$$\frac{1}{Q_{\rm r}} - \frac{1}{Q_0} = \varepsilon_{\rm r}'' \cdot 4 \frac{V_{\rm r}}{V_0} - 2b_q \tag{A2}$$

396

$$C_{V} = \frac{2\int_{V_{T}} E_{r} E_{0} dV}{\int_{V_{0}} E_{0}^{2} dV} = b_{r} + b_{q}$$
(A3)

High frequency structure simulator (HFSS) software was employed to solve (A1-A3) numerically under 398 the assumption that the specimen volume,  $V_r$ , is small compared to volume of the cavity,  $V_0$ ,  $V_r << V_0$ , 399 and the sample permittivity does not depend on  $V_r$ . In the range of  $Q_r$ , and  $V_r$  values where  $b_r + b_q =$ 400 constant equations (1) and (2) are linear and can be solved for  $\varepsilon_r^*$  by measuring  $Q_0$ ,  $Q_s$ ,  $f_0$  and  $f_r$  as a 401 function of  $V_r$  [4]. Inserting into cavity, tuned at the resonant frequency  $f_0$ , a low loss substrate, having 402 permittivity  $\varepsilon_{sub} = \varepsilon_{sub} - j\varepsilon_{sub}$ , thickness  $t_{sub}$  and volume  $V_{sub} = w t_{sub} h$ , causes the resonant frequency shift 403 to lower frequencies from  $f_0$  to  $f_{sub}$ , which is proportional to  $\varepsilon'_{sub}$ . The corresponding quality factor 404 decreases from  $Q_0$  to  $Q_{sub}$ , which depends on  $\varepsilon'_{sub}$ . Similar experiments with nominally the same 405 substrate coated with a conducting layer of graphene material, having permittivity  $\varepsilon_{G}^{*} = \varepsilon_{G}^{'} - j\varepsilon_{G}^{''}$ , thickness 406  $t_{\rm G}$  and volume  $V_{\rm G}$ =w  $t_{\rm G}$ , h, causes the resonant frequency shift from  $f_0$  to  $f_{\rm G}$ , which is proportional to the 407 effective dielectric constant  $\epsilon_{Gs}'$ . The quality factor decreases from  $Q_0$  to  $Q_{Gs}$ , due to combined losses of 408 the substrate and the graphene layer,  $\varepsilon_{\rm G}'' + \varepsilon_{\rm s}''$ . The dielectric loss and surface conductance are related 409 by equation (A4): 410

411 
$$\varepsilon_G'' = \frac{\sigma_G}{2\pi\varepsilon_0 f_0 t_G}$$
(A4)

Assuming that the dielectric loss of graphene is much larger than that of the substrate  $\varepsilon_s$ " + $\varepsilon_G$ "  $\approx \varepsilon_G$ ", equation (A2) can be simplified and rearranged into equation (A5):

414 
$$\frac{1}{Q_x} - \frac{1}{Q_0} = \frac{\sigma_G}{\pi \varepsilon_0 f_0} \frac{2wh_x}{V_0} - 2b_q$$

415 where:

- 416  $\sigma_{\rm G}$  = surface conductance of the graphene layer
- 417  $\varepsilon_0$  = permittivity of free space
- $wh_x$  = area of the graphene layer specimen inserted into the cavity
- 419  $Q_x$  = quality factor at insertion  $h_x$
- $f_0$ ,  $Q_0$  and  $V_0$  = resonant frequency, quality factor and volume of the empty cavity respectively.

421 NOTE Equation (A5), from which  $\sigma_{G}$  is determined, does not depend on the thickness of the graphene layer but on its area,  $wh_x$ , 422 which can be determined with much higher accuracy than  $t_{G}$ .

# 423 A.3 Experimental

Single (SL) and multi-layer (ML) graphene from a CVD process were obtained from a commercial source [6] and transferred on to 200  $\mu$ m thick fused silica wafers [7], from which 3 mm x 20 mm specimens were extracted by dicing.

427 The cavity test fixture design shown in Figure 1 employs a 134 mm long R100 waveguide operating in the microwave X-band, 6 GHz to 12 GHz [5]. The specimen area inside the cavity is controlled by partial 428 insertion. The fixture is connected to a network analyser (Agilent 8720D) with semi-rigid coaxial cables 429 and coaxial to R100 adapters. The walls of the cavity are implemented via R100 couplers, which are 430 cross-polarized ( $\varphi$ = 87°) in respect to the waveguide polarization. The system is calibrated at the coaxial 431 432 ends using a Short-Open-Load calibration kit. The resonant frequency  $f_x$  and half power bandwidth  $\Delta f_x$  is determined for each TE<sub>103</sub> - TE<sub>109</sub> odd resonant modes, from the measured scattering parameter peaks 433 between 6 GHz and 12 GHz. The test fixture, instrumentation and the measurement procedure are 434 described in Clauses 4–8. Here,  $f_0$  of the TE<sub>103</sub> peak = 7.3191125 GHz,  $Q_0$  = 3000 and  $V_0$  = 33.491 cm<sup>3</sup>. 435

NOTE Certain commercial equipment, instruments, or materials are identified in this document in order to specify the procedure adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply recommendation or endorsement, nor does it imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

# 439 A.4 Results

Figure A.1 shows the magnitude of the scattering parameters  $|\mathbf{S}_{21}|$ , at the TE<sub>103</sub> resonant peak measured 440 441 for a single and multi-layer graphene, as a function of the specimen insertion into cavity. Figure A.1a shows that with increasing insertion, the height of the resonant peak of fused silica substrate remains 442 relatively unchanged indicating a low conductivity of the substrate, therefore confirming validity of 443 simplifying assumption in equation (5). In comparison, Figure A.1b shows that the height of the resonant 444 peak of SL graphene decreases considerably with increasing specimen insertion due to much higher 445 conductance of the graphene layer. The conductance of ML graphene is larger than that of SL graphene, 446 as evidenced by the rapid decrease in the height of the resonant peak shown in Figure A.1c. 447





Figure A.1 – Scattering parameters  $|S_{21}|$  of the resonant peak TE<sub>103</sub> as a function specimen insertion ( $h_x$ ), a-silica substrate, b- single-layer graphene and c- multi-layer graphene.

In addition to the decrease in height, this ML resonant peak shifts to lower frequency considerably, indicating a large dielectric polarization, likely at the boundaries between grains in the ML graphene sample.

# 453 A.5 Surface conductance of SL and ML graphene

Figure A.2 shows graphical representation of equation (A5), using experimental  $Q_x$  and  $h_x$  data for SL and ML graphene, shown in Fig A1. The solid lines are linear fits to equation (A5) through the data points.



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The surface conductance,  $\sigma_{G}$ , is obtained from the slope of the linear portion of the plots where the parameter  $b_{q}$  in (A5) can be neglected.

465 For SL graphene  $\sigma_{\rm G}$  = 1.84 x 10<sup>-3</sup> S ( $\rho_{\rm G}$  = 543 Ω).

467 In the case of ML graphene,  $\sigma_{\rm G} = 7.19 \times 10^{-3} \text{ S} (\rho_{\rm G} = 139 \Omega)$ .

The combined relative uncertainty in  $\sigma_{\rm G}$  is approximately 1.5%.

# 470 A.6 Summary

The presented surface conductance results qualitatively agree with the published data for similar graphene materials [8-10], though they may reflect the particular morphologies, density of states and structural imperfections resulting from the particular CVD process. Graphene material (up to 10 layers) is considered to be a 2D conductor, for which the surface conductance  $\sigma_s$  is the appropriate measure of its electrical conduction. Volume conductance of thicker layers can be obtained dividing  $\sigma_s$  by the layer thickness.

The effect of conductivity (and the dielectric constant) of the substrate on the measurement of conductivity of graphene can be corrected using the procedure described in 8.1.10, and in reference [5].

Fig A.2 – Plots of  $(1/Q_x - 1/Q_0)$  as a function of the normalized specimen area,  $wh_x$ , for (SL) and (ML) CVD graphene. Symbols represent the data points and lines are linear fits though the points

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