

electrostriction

Contraction of a dielectric in an electric-field gradient.

Note 1: For example, the contraction taking place around the charged centres created as a consequence of the sudden formation of separated positive and negative charges in the process of *electron transfer*.

Note 2: The thermodynamic description of electrostriction was given by Drude and Nernst in 1894 to explain the phenomenon of contraction of a continuum medium, such as an alkane, around charges suddenly produced in that medium.

2007, 79, 331