

S-T. Zhang<sup>1</sup>, A. Kounga<sup>1</sup>, K. T. P. Seifert<sup>1</sup>, R. Dittmer<sup>1</sup>, M. Blömker<sup>1</sup>, W. Jo<sup>1</sup>, J. Rödel<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Materials Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Alarich-Weiss-Str. 2, 64287 Darmstadt, Germany

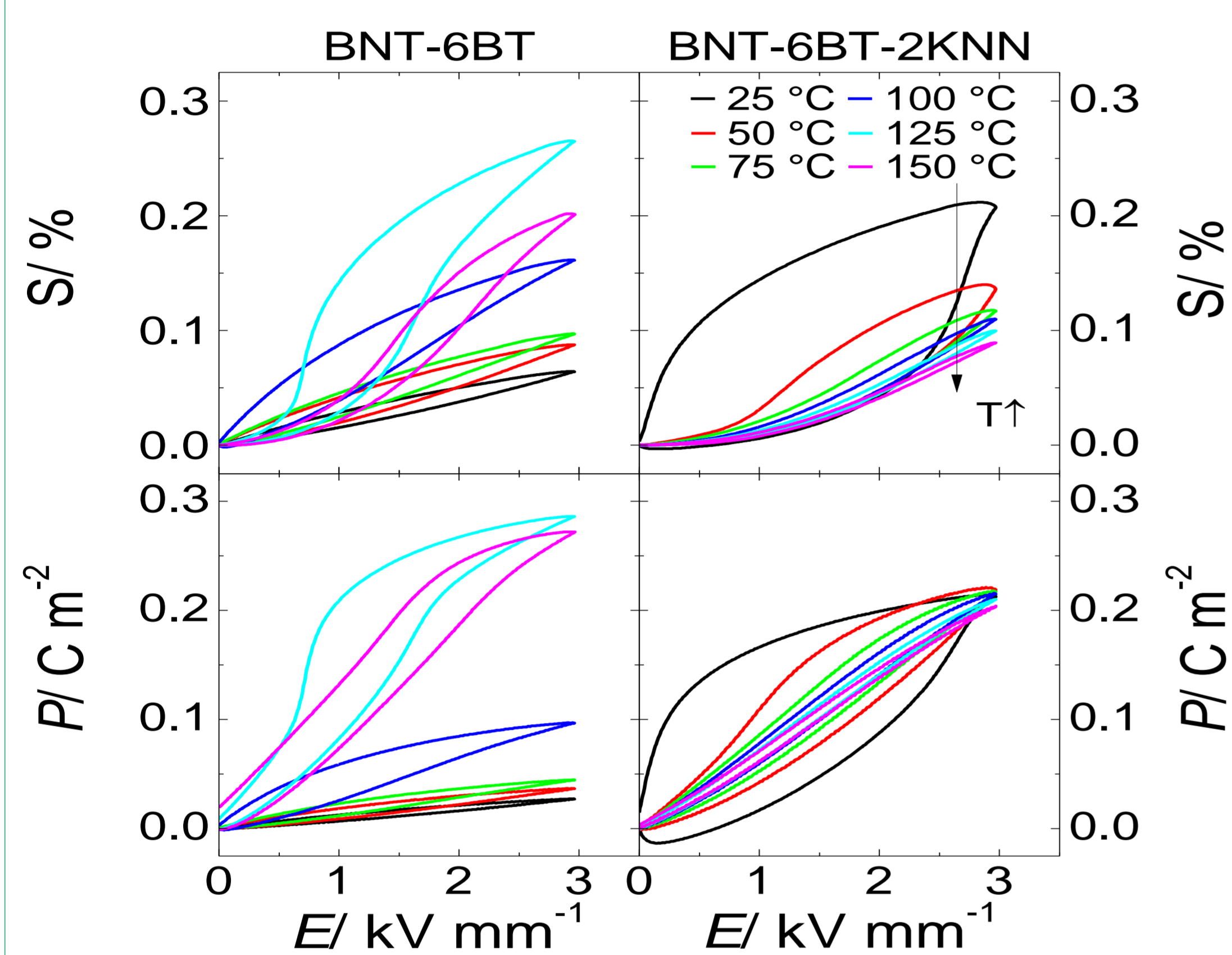
## Motivation

- Environmental and health issues urge replacement of lead-containing piezoactuators
- $\text{Bi}_{1/2}\text{Na}_{1/2}\text{TiO}_3$ -based solid solutions compete with PZT in terms of usable strain
- However: BNT-based systems are not as well understood as PZT and behave different in several respects
- Sound understanding of mechanisms will help designing novel actuator materials and further provide knowledge, applicable beyond the scope of actuators only

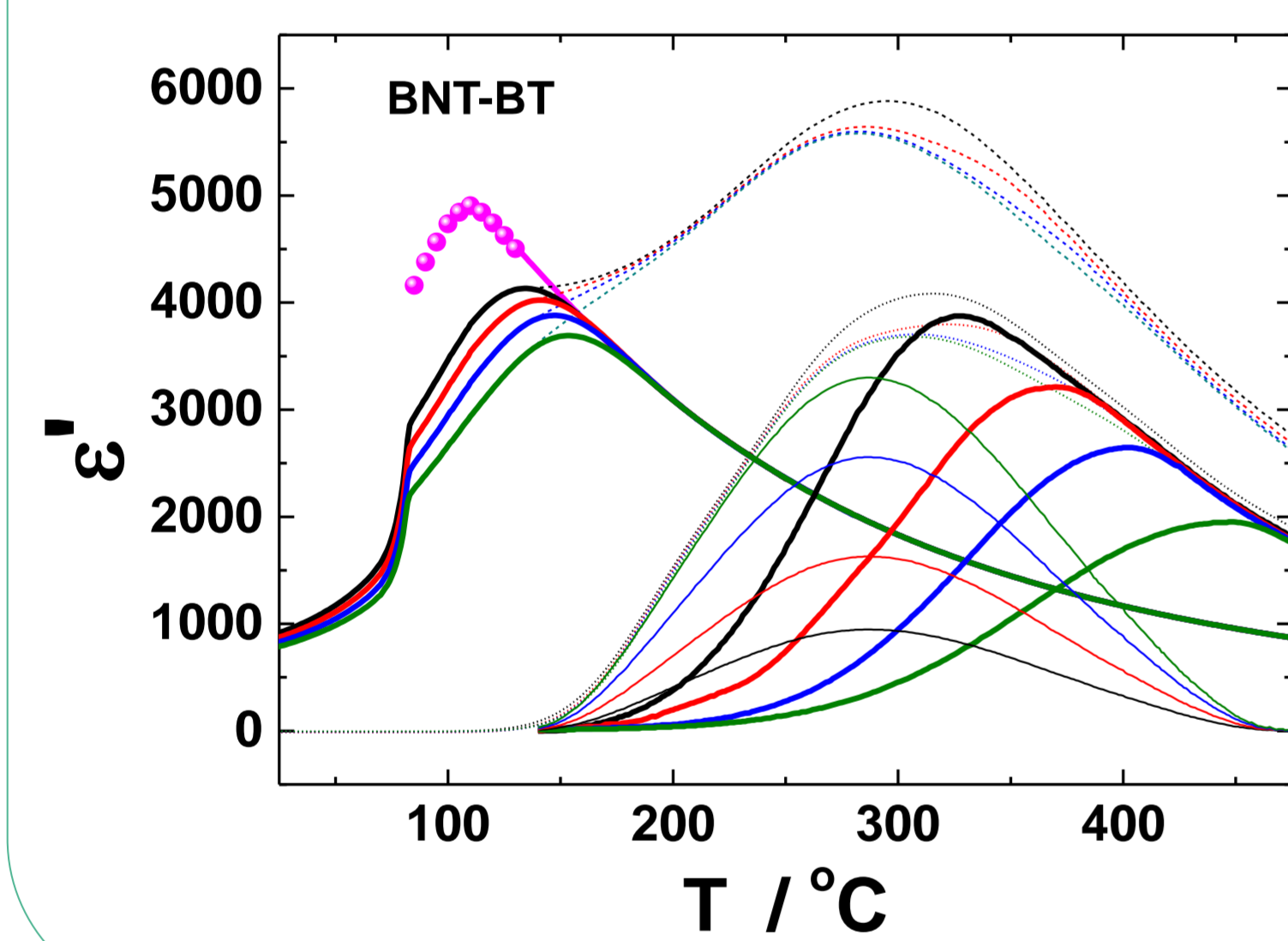
## Objectives

- Elucidate nature of relevant phase transitions
- Characterize blocking stress ( $\sigma_b$ ) as important figure of merit for actuators
  - At different temperatures
  - At varying electric fields
- Evaluation of actuator performance via maximum work output density  $w$
- Influence of (co-)doping effected defect chemistry on piezoelectric properties

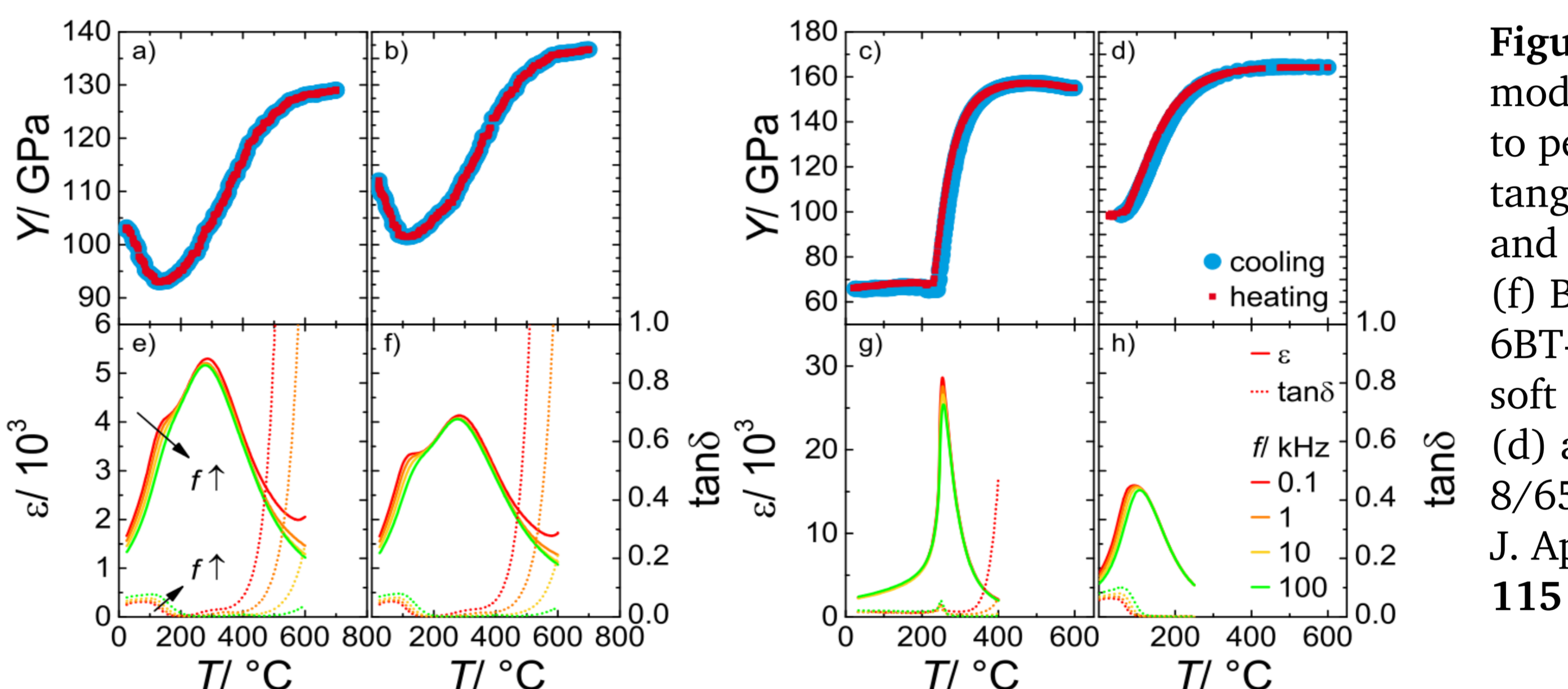
## Result Highlights of Project A1



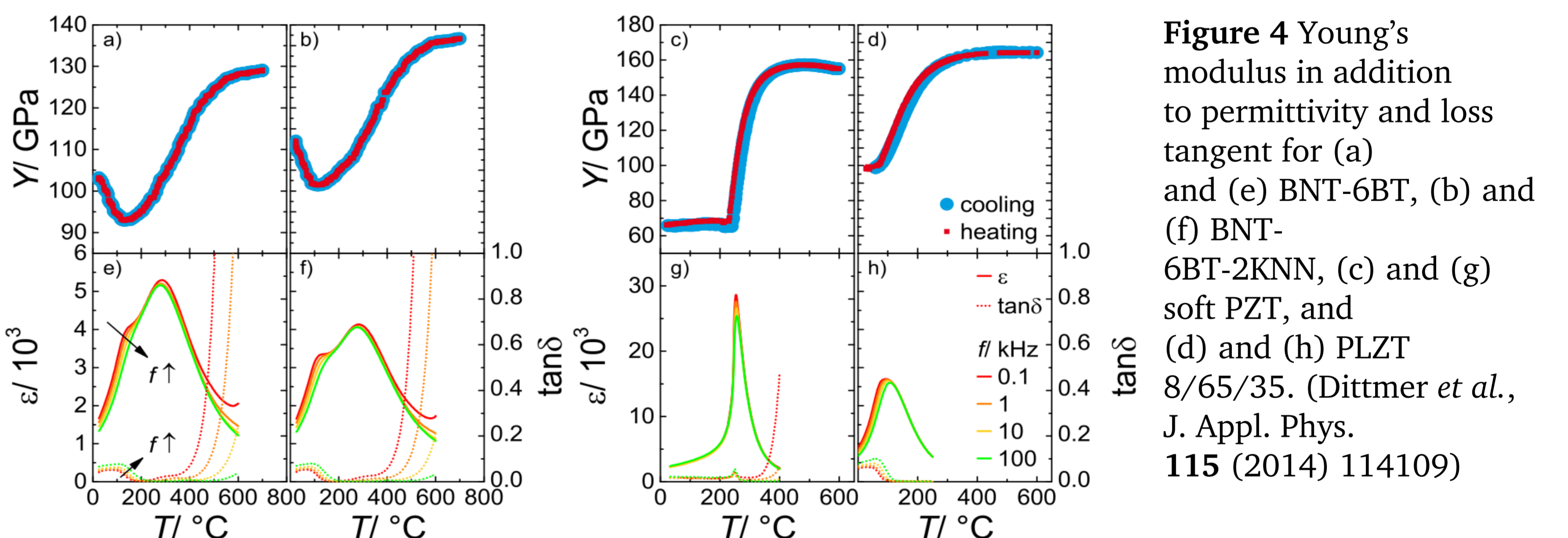
**Figure 2** A giant strain was discovered for BNT-based materials (as for instance BNT-6BT or BNT6BT-2KNN), which also can be generated by adding other end-members such as BZT ( $\text{Bi}_{1/2}\text{Zn}_{1/2}\text{TiO}_3$ ) or BMT ( $\text{Bi}_{1/2}\text{Mg}_{1/2}\text{TiO}_3$ ) to the BNT system.



**Figure 1** BNT-based materials were successfully evidenced as relaxor materials. (Jo *et al.*, J. Appl. Phys., **110** (2011) 074106)



**Figure 3** 6BT provides 39  $\text{kJ/m}^3$  of maximum work density at 125 °C. 2 mole% KNN shift optimum working temperature to 125 °C. (Dittmer *et al.*, Scr. Mater. **67**, (2012) 100-103)

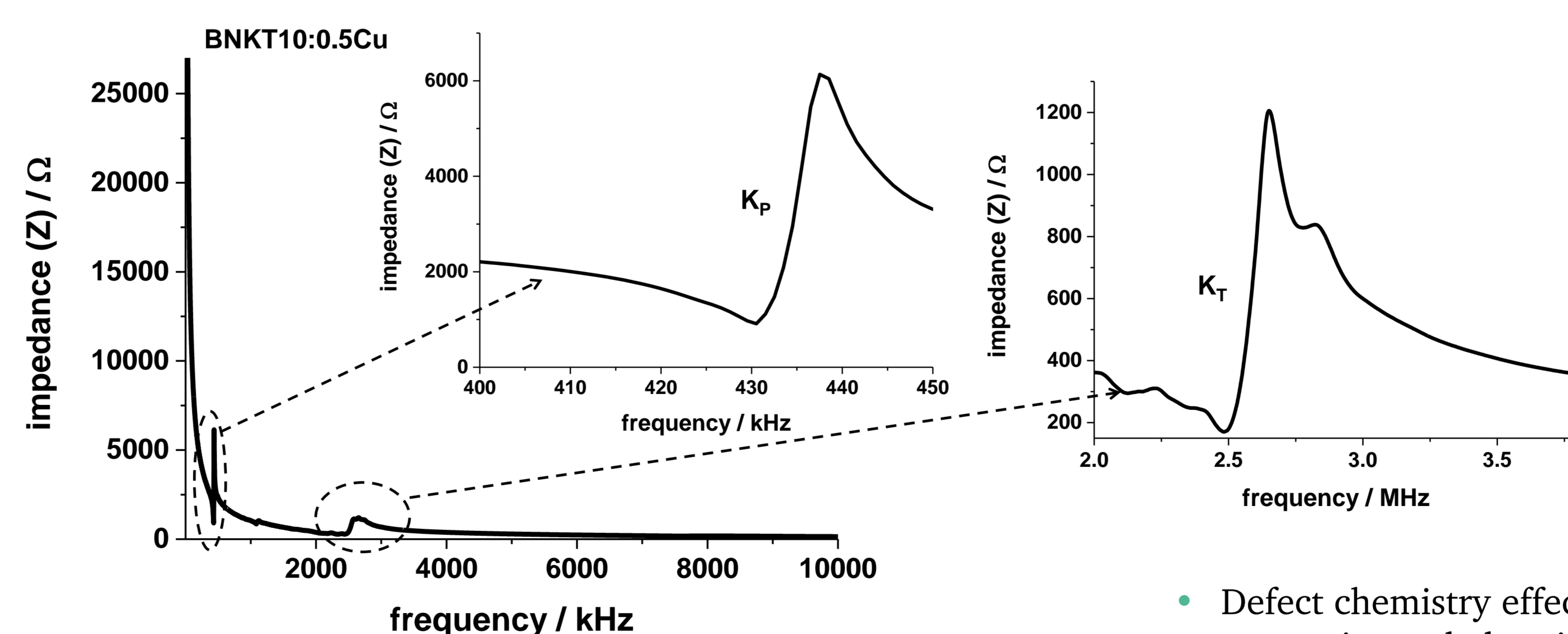


**Figure 4** Young's modulus in addition to permittivity and loss tangent for (a) and (e) BNT-6BT, (b) and (f) BNT-6BT-2KNN, (c) and (g) soft PZT, and (d) and (h) PLZT 8/65/35. (Dittmer *et al.*, J. Appl. Phys. **115** (2014) 114109)

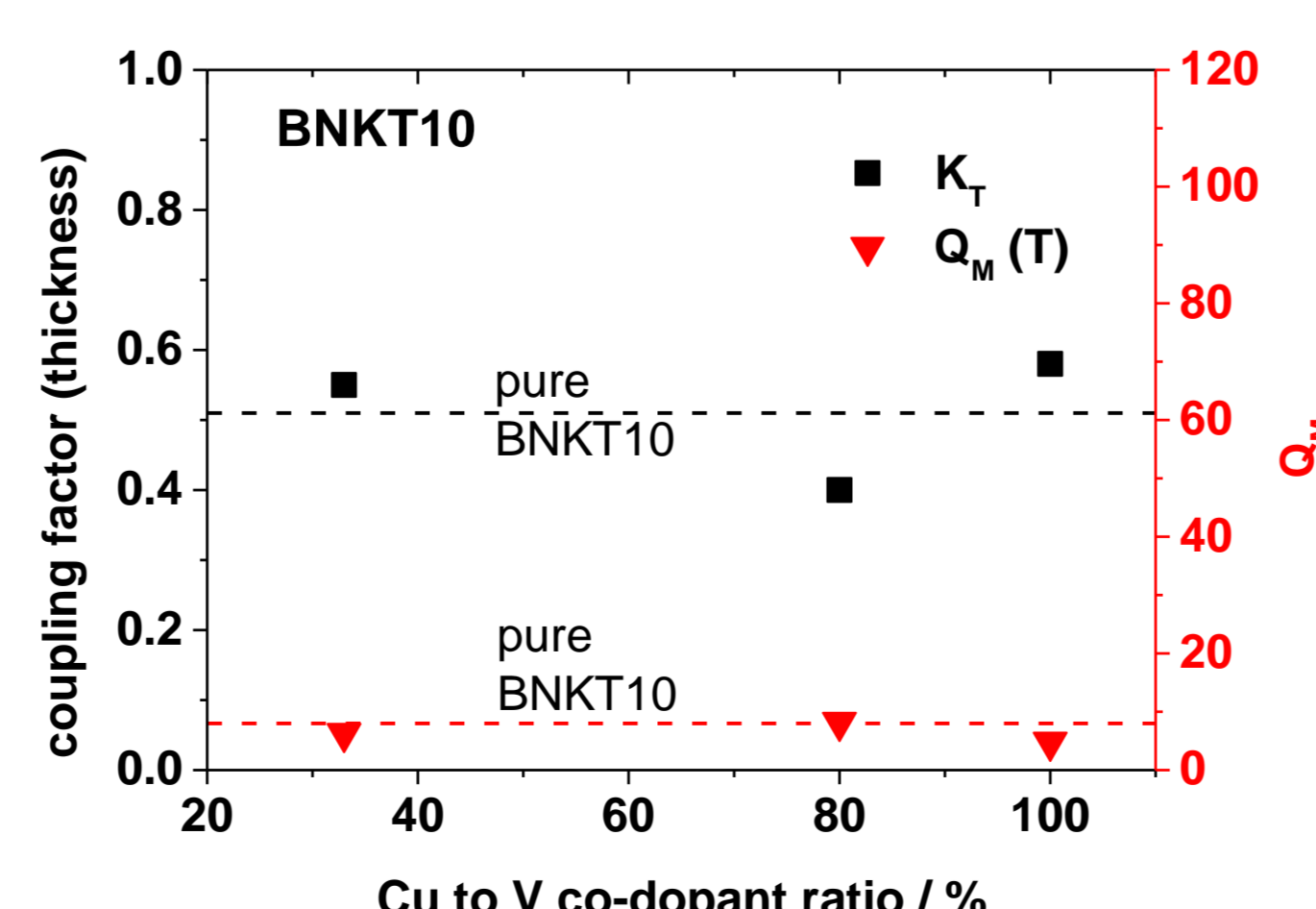
## Conclusions

- BNT-based materials were characterized as relaxor materials (c.f. **Figure 2**)
- Giant strain for BNT-based materials was discovered (c.f. **Figure 1**) and results in a very high blocking stress
- Blocking stress exceeds lead based material (102 MPa at 125 °C for BNT-6BT vs. 85 MPa for PZT; c.f. **Figure 3**)
- Structural changes, characteristic to BNT-based materials were identified by temperature-dependent Young's modulus measurements (c.f. **Figure 4**)
- The generated broad scientific understanding of BNT-based materials can additionally be utilized in the fields of sensors, transducers, high-T dielectrics or high-power applications

## Current / Ongoing Work: Co-Doping in the BNT-BKT (BNKT) System



**Figure 5** BNKT10 resonance response is especially pronounced in thickness mode ( $K_T$ ) at about 2.5 – 3 MHz as compared to the planar mode ( $K_P$ ) at about 420 - 450 kHz.



**Figure 6** Dependence of the thickness mode coupling factor ( $K_T$ ) and the respective mechanical quality factor ( $Q_M$ ) of doped BNKT10 samples on the ratio of Cu to V co-dopant.

- Defect chemistry effects on piezoelectric properties and electrical properties
- EPR spectroscopy to characterize defects and their local surrounding
- Coupling factor (planar + thickness) determination according to IEEE standard
- $K_T$  of BNKT10 with (co-)dopants is close to PZT (c.f. **Figure 6**) e.g. PIC151:  $K_T$  of 0.53
- Neutron diffraction studies of BNKT-samples for further elucidation of strain mechanism