

## electrostriction

Contraction of a dielectric in an electric-field gradient.

Notes:

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*.
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.

**Source:**

PAC, 2007, 79, 293 (*Glossary of terms used in photochemistry, 3rd edition (IUPAC Recommendations 2006)*) on page 331