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**V4 Seminars for Young Scientists on Publishing Techniques
in the Field of Engineering Science**

General structure of journal paper
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General Structure of the Journal Paper


Bibliography → [Corrosion Science \(2015\) 113–118](#)

Journal name → **Corrosion Science**

Article title → **Effect of current load on corrosion induced tin whisker growth from SnAgCu solder alloys**

Authors names → **Balázs Illés*, Tamás Hurtony, Bálint Medgyes**

Affiliations → **Department of Materials Science, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest, Hungary**

Abstract → **ABSTRACT**
The effect of current load was investigated on corrosion induced tin whisker growth from SnAgCu (SAC) solder alloys. Three alloys were studied: two low Ag content micro-alloyed SAC and the widely used SAC305. The solder joints were tested with six different DC current levels between 0 and 1.5A and they were aged in corrosion environments (5% CuCl2/HCl) for 3000h. The morphology of the whiskers and the micro-structural changes of the solder joints were examined by scanning electron microscope. It was shown that the current load can decrease the corrosion of the solder joints and consequently it can decrease whiskering as well.

Keywords → **Keywords:**
A. Illés
B. Hurtony
C. Corrosion protection
D. High temperature corrosion

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1. Introduction

Citation **1. Introduction**

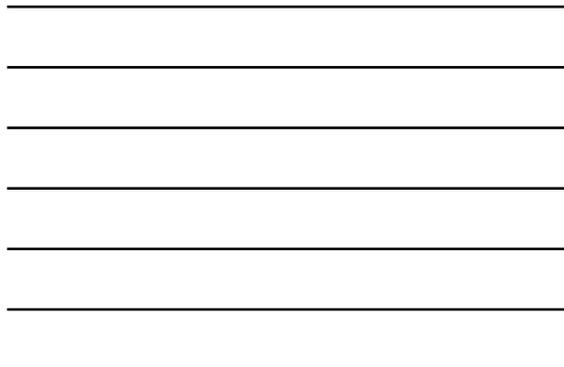
The tin whiskers are surface deformations of the pure – and in given circumstances alloys – tin layer [1]. Their usual size is 1–3 μm and their length is 50–200 μm [2]. Tin whisker growth is a serious reliability problem of microelectronics since whiskers result in short circuits between the conducting parts of the electronics like electrochemical migration [2]. Tin whisker formation is caused by the development of mechanical stresses in the tin layer such as: residual stresses of the electroplating, direct mechanical loads, volumetric expansion of the tin layer by intermetallic and oxide layer growth, or temperature change. Whiskers are extended from the tin layer by a stress release mechanism [1]. Up to 2006, tin-lead alloys (Sn37Pb and 60Sn40Pb) were mainly used in the electronics industry. The lead was highly effective in restraining tin whisker growth. Transition to lead-free technologies introduced the widespread use of tin-silver-copper (SnAgCu, SAC) solder alloys e.g. 96.5Sn3.5Ag0.5Cu (Sn3.5Ag) or 95.5Sn3.5Ag0.5Cu (Sn4.0Ag) [3].

The main disadvantage of the lead-free SAC solders is their high price (compared to the leaded alloys) due to their relatively high silver content. Therefore, most researchers aim to reduce the silver content of the SAC solder alloys with retaining the melting temperature between 217 and 221 °C. This can be achieved with micro-alloying other metals (Sn, Bi, Ni, etc.) into the SAC alloys.

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2. Materials & Methods

(Experimental) **2.1 Experimental**

A method based on the image processing was developed to automatically characterize whiskers. The key step of the image processing method in this case is the image segmentation using binarization, i.e. separating the objects (whiskers) from the background (substrate). A new thresholding method was developed for the binarization. The whisker parameters measured by the method reported here were compared to manual counting as a reference, and to four widely used automatic methods for general image processing purposes as well as the method by Otsu [20] – a clustering-driven method based on image entropy – the method by Wachs [36] – based on the determination of the rate of change of gray level around each pixel in the image – and by two methods, which are based on determination of the Entropy of the image derived from its histogram, described by Pan [31] and Kapur [32], respectively. The latter three methods are described in the Appendix as details.

It was proven in previous studies that the evaporated tin layers on copper substrates can produce numerous tin whiskers in various shapes and lengths in a short time, this layer deposition technology was chosen therefore for the comparison of the thresholding methods. During the sample preparation, 99.999% pure tin was vacuum evaporated onto 1.5 mm thick copper substrates. The evaporation was carried out with a Balzers BA 510 evaporator utilizing the Electron Beam – Physical Vapor Deposition (EB-PVD) method. Before the evaporation, the samples were cleaned in isopropyl alcohol and were neutralized by ion bombardment directly under the evaporation. The applied cathodic heating current was 100 mA with 7 kV acceleration voltage. A high vacuum (10^{-7} Pa) was used, and the evaporation duration was 25 min. The deposition resulted in an average of 400 nm thick Sn layer with ± 1.5 μm sized globular grains. The samples were then stored at room temperature for up to 120 days to allow whiskers in many different lengths. Whisker growth was monitored every 31 days by a FEI Inspector 530 Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) with a magnification of 1000 \times .

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differs from the average grain size of the substrate (1.25 μm). So, it has been found that if the mean inspur length (MI) is calculated for every pixel thresholded (i.e. 1 – maximum, binary) a definite value on the MI function can be found, which represents the whiskers; and its argument is the optimum threshold. The aim of the MI function (illustrated in Fig. 2) can be described as follows:

1. At first, the image is completely white after binarization, and the value of MI equals to the average of the height and of the width of the image (277 μm in our case).
2. The MI function then decreases, as the general image noise is more and more eliminated, indicated by mark 1 in Fig. 2.
3. The function reaches a local minimum, which represents the value of MI, regarding the noise induced by surface roughness of the substrate.
4. Next, the MI function increases, as the noise induced by the substrate surface is eliminated gradually (indicated by mark 2 in the Fig. 2).

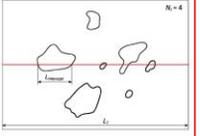


Fig. 1. Determining the mean inspur length (MI) by the method described in the text. N is the number of pixels. The corresponding value of the MI function is indicated by the red arrow. The red arrow indicates the value of the MI function, which is related to the whisker length.

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2. Experimental

(Sometimes the experimental section contain physical or mathematical descriptions)

The RANS equation for compressible Newtonian fluids is used to close governing equations. Here it is formulated by the Einstein notation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\rho \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\rho \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_i^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_j^2} \right) \quad (2)$$

where the mean rate of mass tensor is:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (3)$$

where the turbulent eddy viscosity is:

$$\nu = C_\mu \frac{k}{\epsilon} \quad (4)$$

where k is the turbulent kinetic energy:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\rho \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\rho \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial^2 k}{\partial x_i^2} + \frac{\partial^2 k}{\partial x_j^2} \right) - \rho \epsilon + \rho \left(\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (5)$$

and ϵ is the turbulent dissipation rate:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\rho \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_i} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\rho \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_j} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial^2 \epsilon}{\partial x_i^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \epsilon}{\partial x_j^2} \right) - \rho C_\epsilon \frac{\epsilon}{k} + \rho \left(\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (6)$$

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ing mass is determined by the heat flux which the condenser surface in the case the reaction pipe wall) can conduct away [29]:

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = \frac{q_w A_{p,w}}{h_{fg}} \quad (10)$$

where $A_{p,w}$ is the area of the pipe wall [m²].

2.2. Numerical solution and parameters of the model

The numerical conversion of the previously defined partial differential equations was done by Finite Difference Method (FDM) and run coded by explicit Forward Time Central Space (FTCS) algorithm in order to achieve high solving calculation speed and flexible implementation. The general numerical form of FTCS is the following:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \frac{\phi_i^{n+1} - \phi_i^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{\phi_{i+1}^n - \phi_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta x} - \frac{\phi_i^n - \phi_{i-1}^n}{\Delta x} + \frac{\phi_i^n - \phi_{i+1}^n}{\Delta x} \quad (11)$$

where ϕ is a general variable, t is the time [s], x is the space [m] and i and j are the indexes of the numerical grid and time steps respectively. The numerical model was built and solved in MATLAB software.

A commercial vacuum VPS system was studied. The working principle of the device is as following: until the melting of solder paste, it works like a simple VPS-oven with a non-hermetic solder

Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

Do not use in abstract:

- Figures
- References
- Abbreviations (only well known ones, like „SEM“)
- Definitions and explanations

Typical abstract mistakes:

- The abstract is not a „mixture“ of Introduction and the Conclusions sections!
- The abstract is not for to present the „state of the art“!
- The abstract has to contain some findings, but it is not necessary to tell everything there!
- The abstract should not be too wordy about the work which was done!

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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

1. Introduction:

- The Introduction section is the place for presenting of the „**back ground**“ of the work and define „**what we did and why we did**“
- **Mandatory parts** and general structure of the Introduction section:
 - Description of the investigated topic, definition of the main terms
 - Presenting the „state of the art“ with a literature survey with references!
 - Highlight the problems, missing, contradictions in the literature
 - Concluding the literature survey which confirm your aims (what you did and why you did)
- Figures are valid to use, but not too much!
- Typical length of the Introduction section is 600-1000 words

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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

1. Introduction:

Typical problems with Introduction:

- The topic is not introduced or not enough deeply
- There is no literature survey in the introduction
- There are no references
- The Introduction is too wordy (over 1500 words) with a too long literature survey and/or a lot of figures (max. 1-2 figures)
- The Introduction is too short, (under 500 words) only like an abstract.
- The introduction contains part from the Experimental section (e.g. description of materials, test settings and measurement methods)
- There is no any conclusions from the literature and aims are not defined and/or confirmed
- Undefined abbreviations are used

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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

2. Materials and Methods (Experimental):

- The Materials and Methods (sometimes called Experimental) section is the place for **presenting the applied materials, test and measurement settings, models, algorithms** etc.
- Mandatory parts** of the Materials and Methods section:
 - Description of the **investigated materials** (e.g. solder pastes, PCBs, components, etc.)
 - Description of the **applied processing technologies and machines** (e.g. screen printing, reflow soldering, etc.)
 - Description of the **applied test and other settings of the experiments** (e.g. aging methods, loading methods, etc.)
 - Description of the **applied evaluation methods** (e.g. measurements, data processing algorithms, statistical methods, etc.)



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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

2. Materials and Methods (Experimental):

- Typical length of the Materials and Methods section is 300-600 words
- If the article is „less material“ (like numerical simulations, information science) the applied models and algorithms are presented in the M&M section or in a separated section after the M&M.

Typical problems with Materials and Methods section:

- It contains parts from the Introduction (e.g. the definition of the aims)
- Settings of the measurements or the machines are not presented or not enough deeply (**do not forget: your measurements has to be repeatable by other researchers!**)
- BUT it is not necessary to copy the manuals of the machines into the M&M section or it is not necessary to present the working principle of the measurement machines (only if they are unique)!

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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

3. Results (and Discussion):

- The Results (and Discussion) section is the place for **presenting our results and observations during the research** (and discuss them).
- Usually it is allowed to combine the Results and Discussion into one section!** (Applied when the obtained results can be explained „easily and shortly“)
- Mandatory parts** of the Results (and Discussion) section:
 - Presentation of our results and observations with clearly **good quality and understandable figures and graphs**
 - (Discuss the results via scientific explanation of the observations and compare them with other results from the literature)
- Typical length of the Results (and Discussion) section is 500-1000 words



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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

3. Results (and Discussion):

Typical problems with Results and Discussion section:

- It contains parts from the Materials and Methods section (e.g. the introduction of the measurement methods)
- The quality of the figures are bad or they are unclear
- In a combined Results and Discussion section:
 - there is no discussion at all
 - not enough deep discussion is presented
 - the statements are not justified (by references)
- In a simple Results section the results are discussed (or partially).
- The main findings are not or not enough highlighted („the paper points nowhere“)



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4. Discussion (separated):

- Separated Discussion is applied when the obtained results has to be discussed more deeply and long.
- Typical length of the Discussion section is 500-800 words
- **Mandatory parts** of the Discussion section:
 - Discuss the results via scientific explanation of the observatic and compare them with other results from the literature
 - Further figures and equations are usually applied for the explanations



Typical problems with the Discussion section:

- It is too short (only 200-300 words)
- Only presenting further results but not a real discussion

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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

5. Conclusions:

- The Conclusions section is the place **to briefly concluded your work, results and findings** it is possible to point out further research possibilities in the topic (according to the results).
- Typical length of the Conclusions section is 150-250 words
- **Mandatory parts** of the Conclusions section:
 - A sentence about the research which was done
 - **THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE RESEARCH!**



Typical problems with the Conclusions section:

- Too wordy and not focused conclusions (over 400 words)
- Only repeating the main results and the findings without real conclusions

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Visegrad Fund **Role of different parts and sections** 

Acknowledgement:

- Acknowledge for organizations and/or people the financial or any kind of support which helped your research to reach the **PRESENTED** results!
- More grants or financial supports can be mentioned together

References:

- Listing the cited references with bibliography data
- Different reference formats (APA, MLA, Harvard, Chicago, etc.) are existing (always check the „guide for authors“)



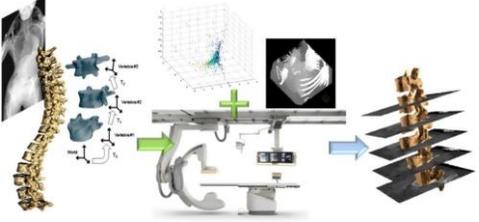


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Visegrad Fund **Optional parts** 

Graphical abstract:

- A single, concise, pictorial and visual summary of the main findings of the article. This could either be the concluding figure from the article or a figure that is specially designed for the purpose, which captures the content of the article for readers at a single glance.* (Elsevier)



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Visegrad Fund **Optional parts** 

Videos:

- publishers accept video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. They usually embedded into the article with links. They can be referred on the same way as a figure or table
- Since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article has to be provide that refer to this content. * (Elsevier)

Audio Slides:

- gives the opportunity to summarize your research in your own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. * (Elsevier)



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Optional parts

Highlights:

- Three to five result-oriented points that provide readers with an **at-a-glance overview of the main findings**. Each Highlight must be **85 characters or fewer**, and the Highlights together **must clearly convey only the results of the study**. Don't try to capture every piece of data or conclusion. Let the paper do the talking.
- Example:
 - Fading of a script alone does not foster domain-general strategy knowledge
 - Performance of the strategy declines during the fading of a script
 - Monitoring by a peer keeps performance of the strategy up during script fading
 - Performance of a strategy after fading fosters domain-general strategy knowledge
 - Fading and monitoring by a peer combined foster domain-general strategy knowledge



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Optional parts

Appendix:

- contains information that is non-essential to understanding of the paper, but may present information that further clarifies a point and findings of the paper
- An appendix is an *optional* part of the paper, and rarely used.
- **Some examples of material that might be put in an appendix (not an exhaustive list):**
 - raw data
 - maps (foldout type especially)
 - extra photographs
 - explanation of mathematical formulas, either already known ones, specialized computer programs for a particular procedure
 - full generic names of chemicals or compounds
 - program codes



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Optional parts

Cover letter:

- The cover letter accompanying your journal submission is your chance to lobby on behalf of your manuscript (sometimes mandatory!)
- Parts:
 - The title of the manuscript and the names of the authors
 - Describe the rationale behind your study and the major findings from your research. (Refer to prior work that you have published if it is directly related!)
 - Explains why your manuscript would be a good fit for the journal
 - Close with a brief paragraph indicating the following:
 - The manuscript is original (i.e., you wrote it, not copied it)
 - No part of the manuscript has been published before, nor is any part of it under consideration for publication at another journal
 - There are no conflicts of interest to disclose
 - A list of potential reviewers (only if requested by the journal)
 - Any researchers who should NOT review your manuscript



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