

# **FUNDAMENTAL DESIGN OF SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS: SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING**

**Richard Wool**

**Department of Chemical Engineering  
University of Delaware**

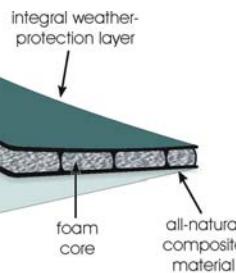
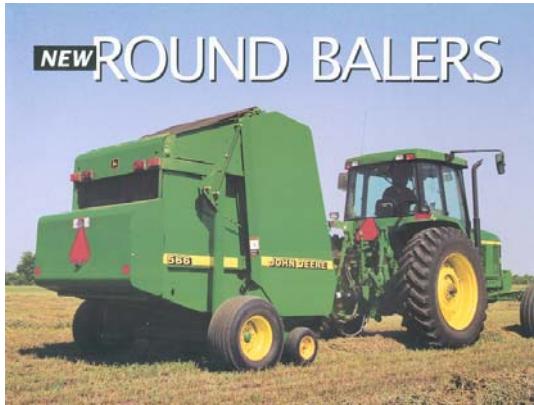
**NCMC-14**

**Gaithersburg MD Nov 5, 2008**

## **Objectives and Questions for NCMC-14**

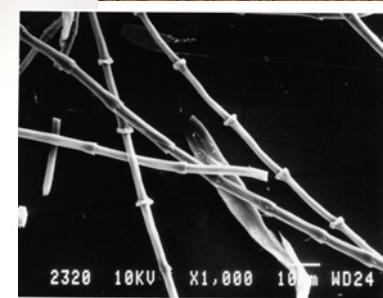
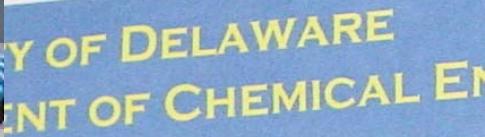
- 1. Can we use bio-based materials to solve global warming?**
- 2. What is the largest unsolved problem in solid state physics-have we solved it with bio-based materials?**
- 3. Role of bio-based materials in Renewable Energy-Wind, Solar, Hydrogen**
- 4. The Dream Team?**

# Advanced Bio-based Green Materials



Delaware  
says YES

Delaware says YES



# ACRES GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE







ACRES Group on Robert Redford's Sundance Channel—  
Big Green Ideas for a Small Planet, June 16 2008

**Can we make high  
performance carbon fibers  
from Chicken feathers-H2?**

**Can chicken feathers give 6 wt% H2?**

**Modulus E ~ 50-100 GPa?**

# Hydrogen as Energy Carrier



Hydrogen Powered UD Bus<sup>3</sup>

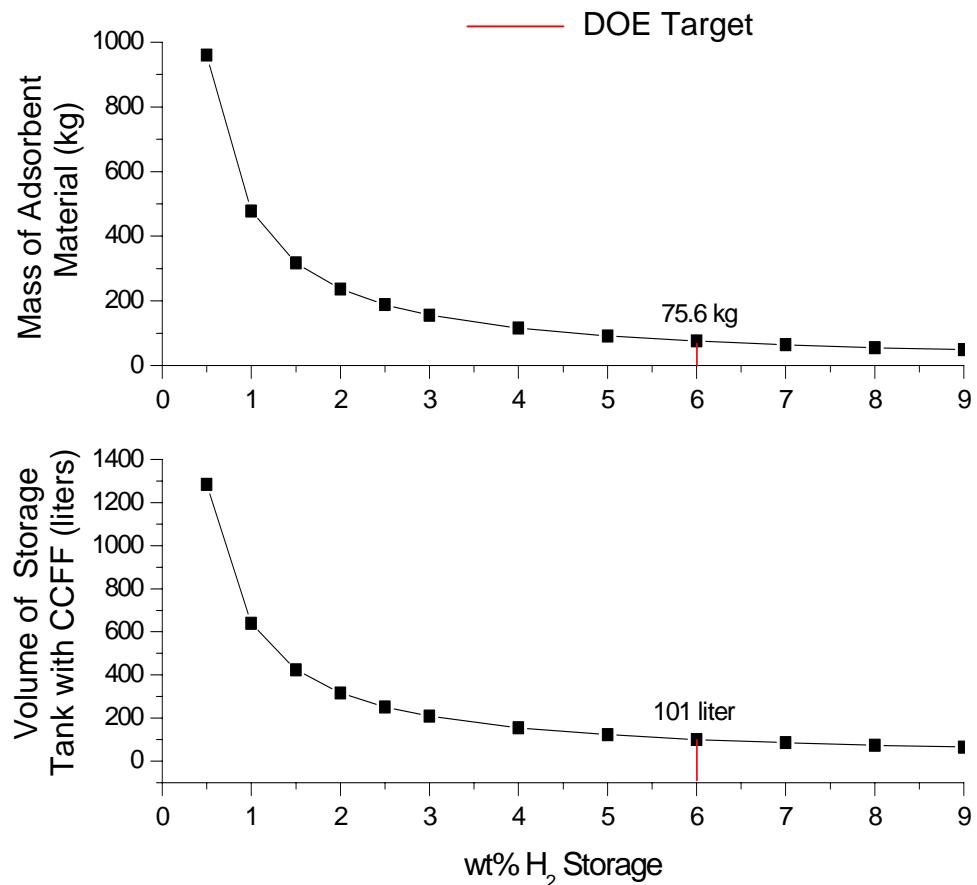
- Why hydrogen?
  - Clean source, no CO<sub>2</sub> emission, only product is H<sub>2</sub>O for fuel cell application
  - Energy density is ~3 times larger than gasoline<sup>1</sup>
  - Fuel cells are at least 2 times more efficient than combustion engines<sup>2</sup>
- Production and storage of H<sub>2</sub> are main bottlenecks for using it as a fuel

1 Louis Schlapbach, MRS Bull., 2002

2 Jesse L. C. Rowsell and Omar M. Yaghi, Angew. Chem. Int. 2005, 44, 4670-4679

3 UDaily Archive April 9, 2007

# How to reach 300 miles range?

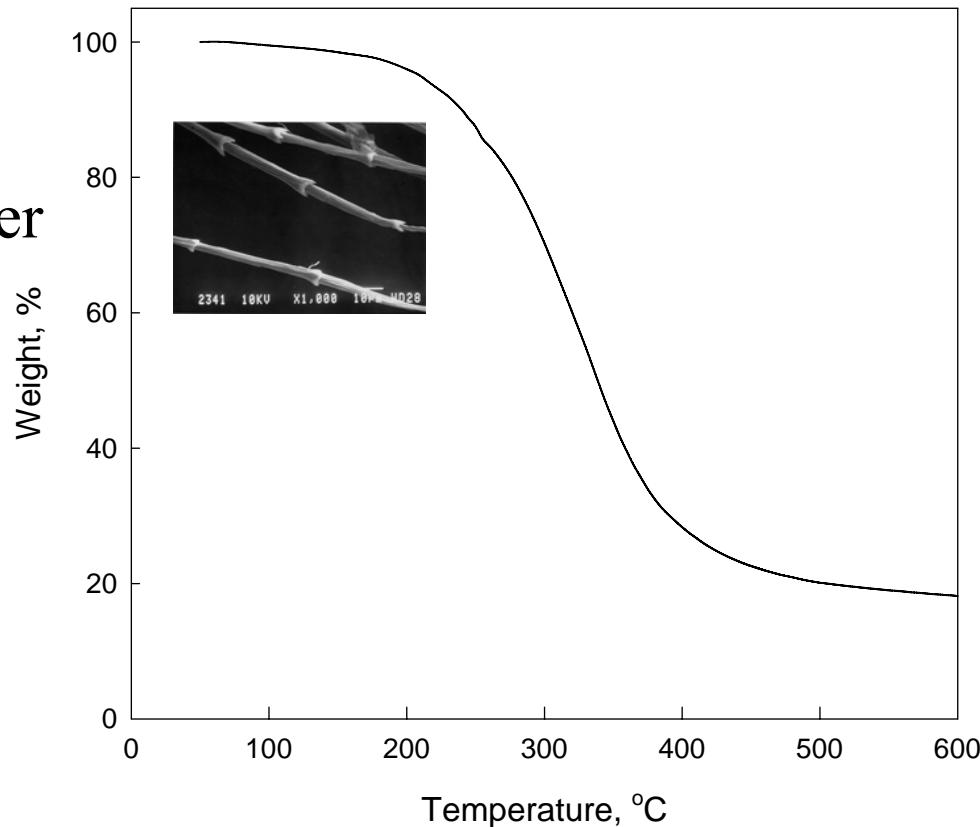


Required adsorbent mass and CCFF tank volume to build a car with 300 miles range

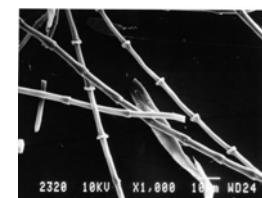
- Hydrogen's extreme low density requires huge tanks!
- Relatively high wt% H<sub>2</sub> storage values has to be achieved!
- Material has to be as cheap as possible!

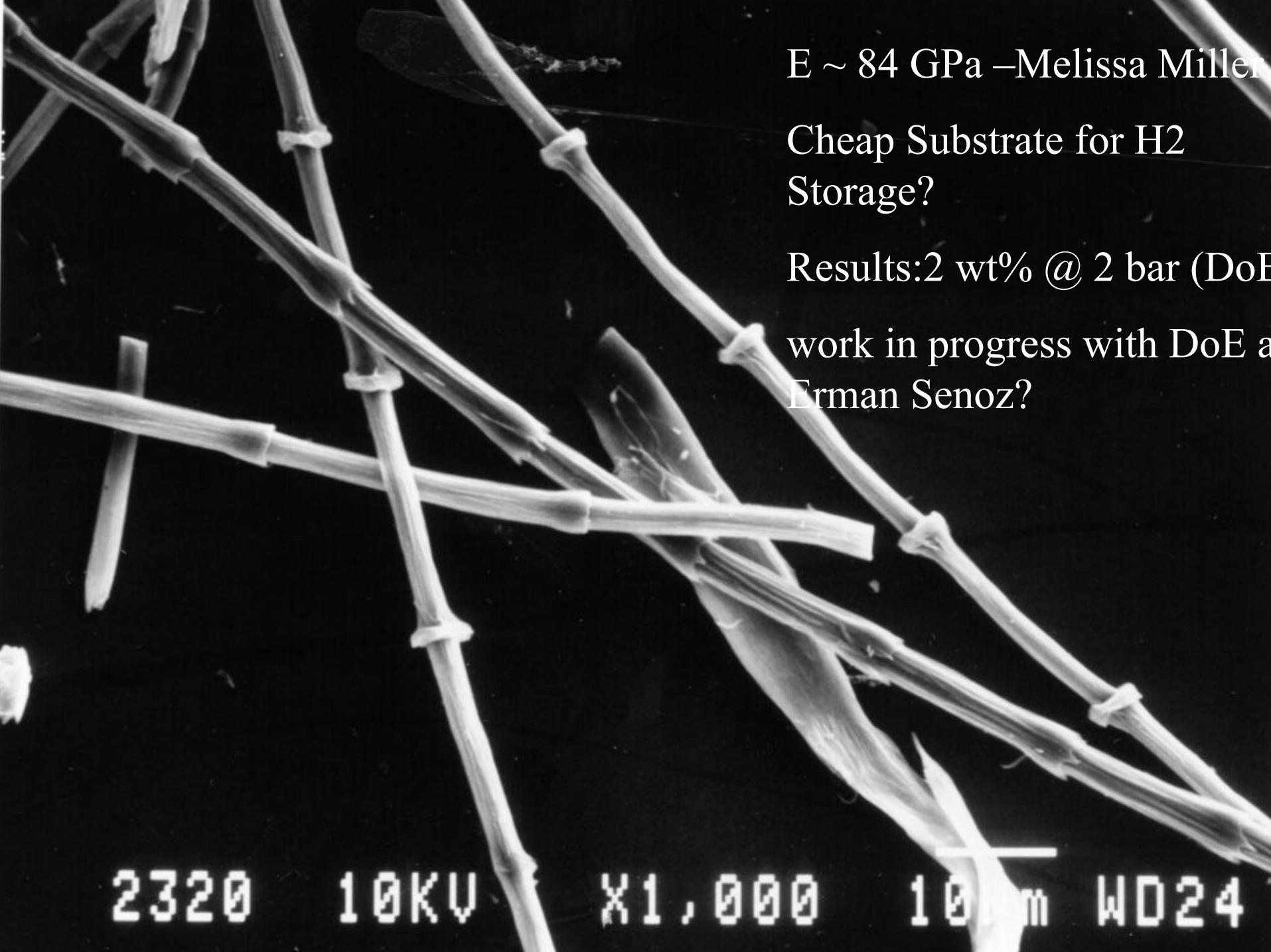
## Carbonization of Keratin Fiber

Chicken  
feather fiber



Carbon  
Microtubes with  
fractal walls,  
pores  $\sim 6\text{A}$





E ~ 84 GPa –Melissa Miller

Cheap Substrate for H<sub>2</sub>  
Storage?

Results: 2 wt% @ 2 bar (DoE)

work in progress with DoE a  
Erman Senoz?

2320

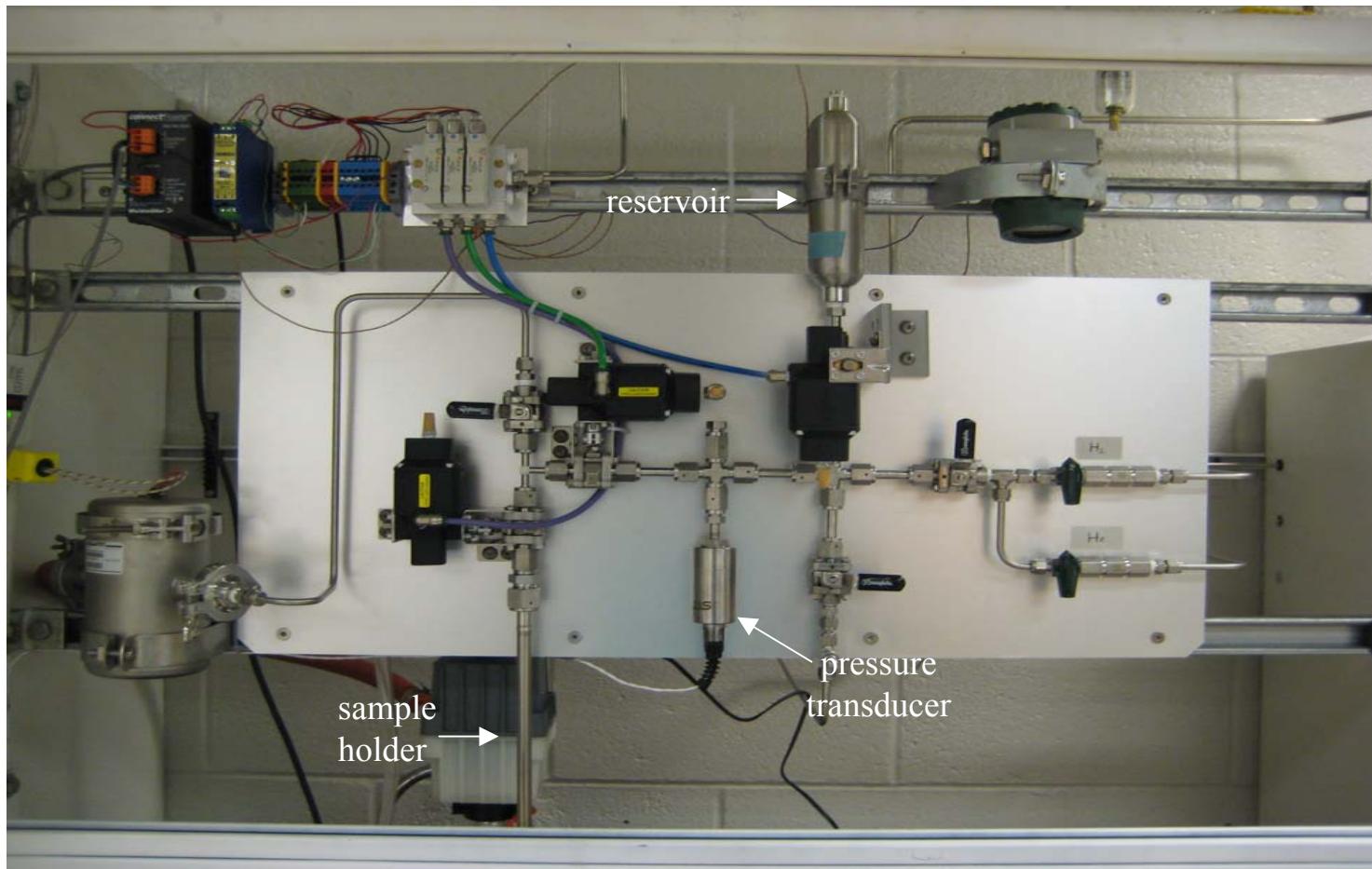
10KV

X1,000

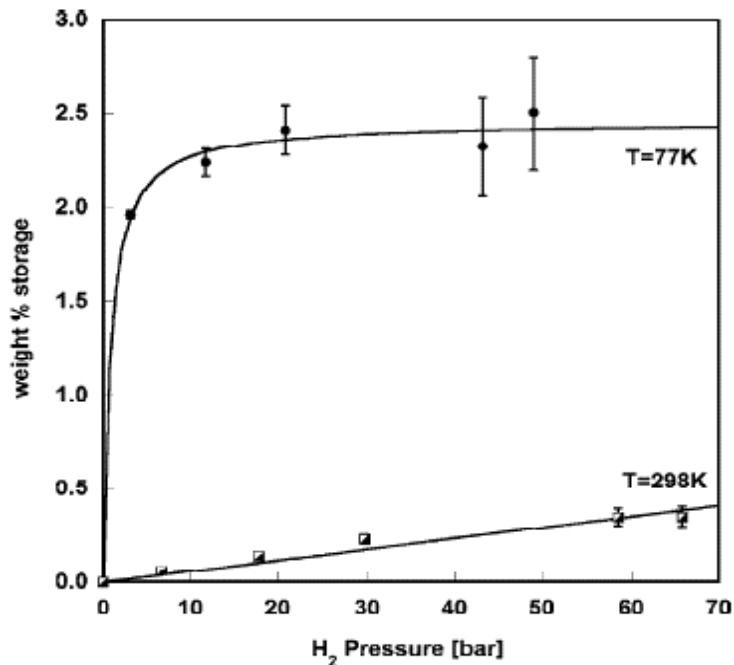
10

m WD24

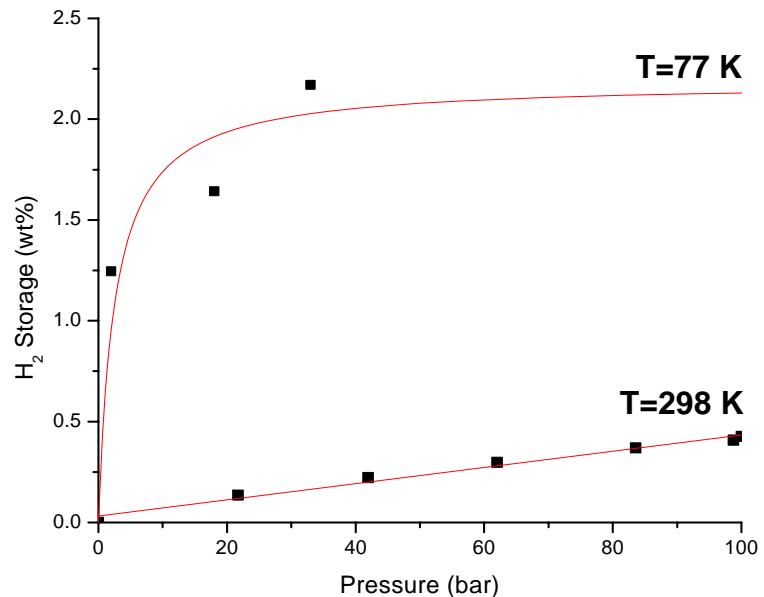
# $H_2$ STORAGE (SIEVERT'S) APPARATUS



# $H_2$ STORAGE RESULTS



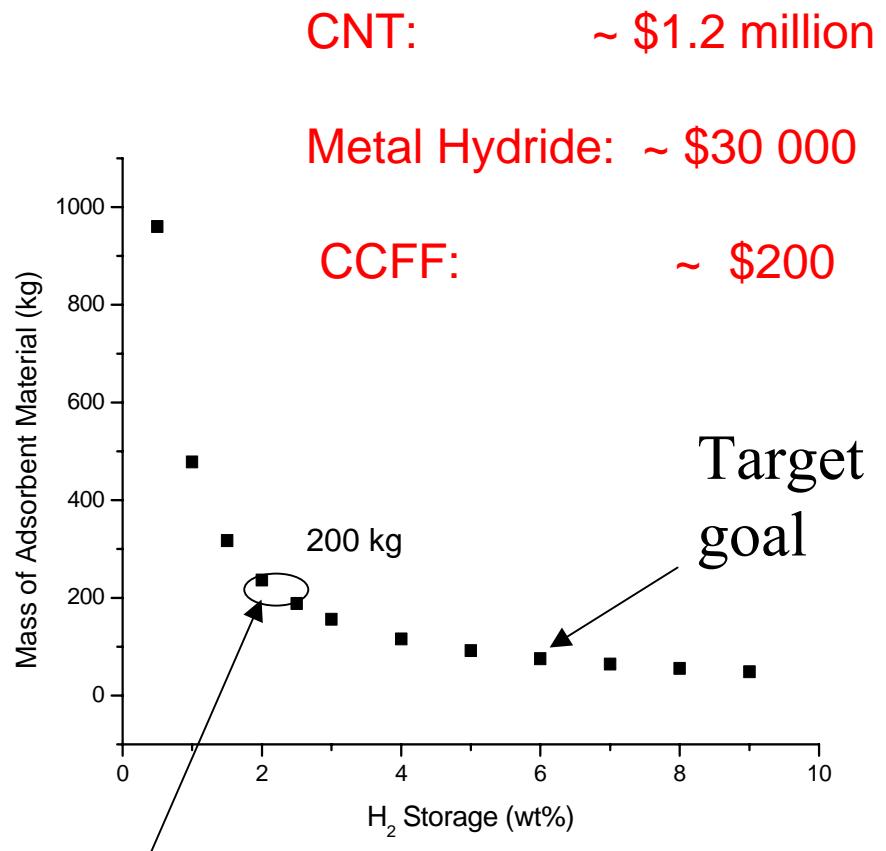
Hydrogen adsorption isotherms at room temperature and 77 K with Henry type and Langmuir type equation for purified SWCNTs<sup>1</sup>



Hydrogen adsorption isotherms at room temperature and 77 K for CCFF

# Progress on H<sub>2</sub> Storage

- Surface of the fibers is not completely keratin, carbonization doesn't increase the carbon content.
- Initial results from the equipment are consistent with the literature and NREL (up to 2wt% at 77K)
- H<sub>2</sub> storage capacity of CCFF is as high as that of purified SWCNTs<sup>1</sup>



Today, we can drive 300 miles on H<sub>2</sub> with a 200 kg (~100 gal) tank of feathers

# BIO-FUEL SUCCESS STORY

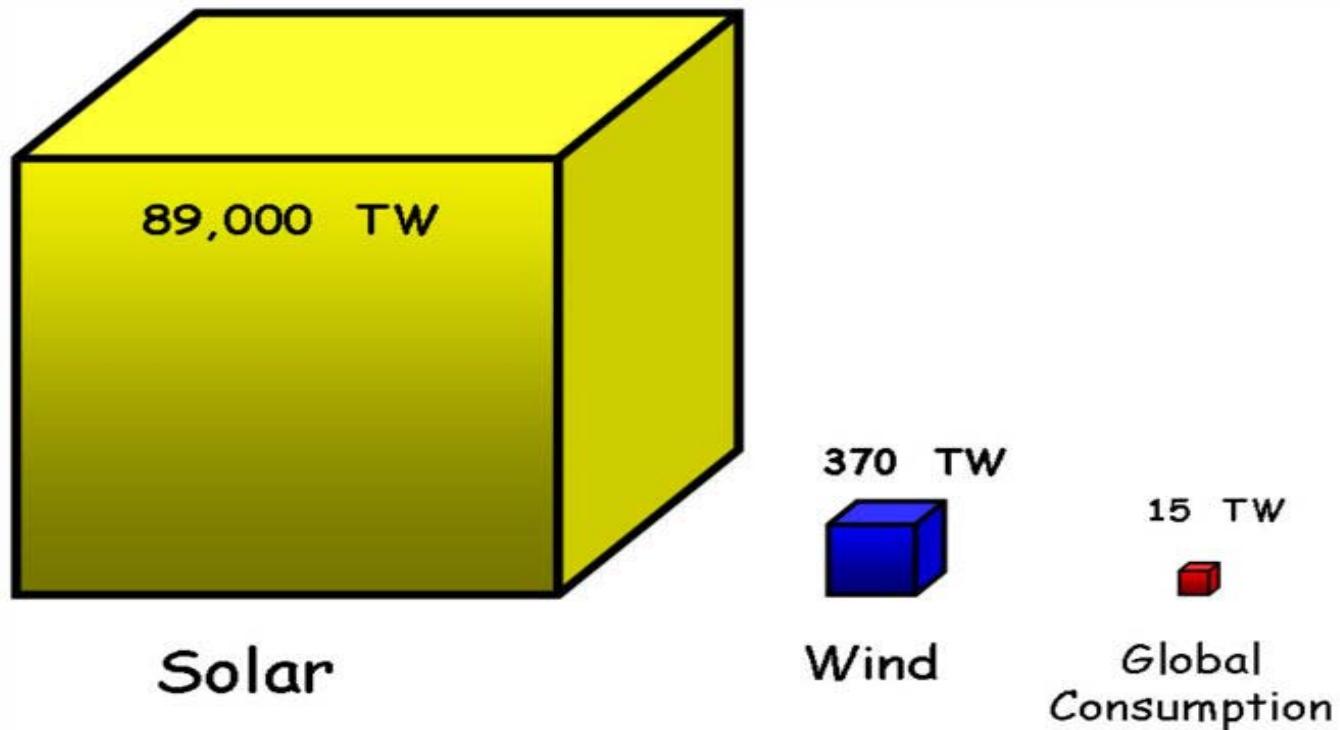
COST FACTORS  
BIO-FUELS VS BIO-BASED  
MATERIALS





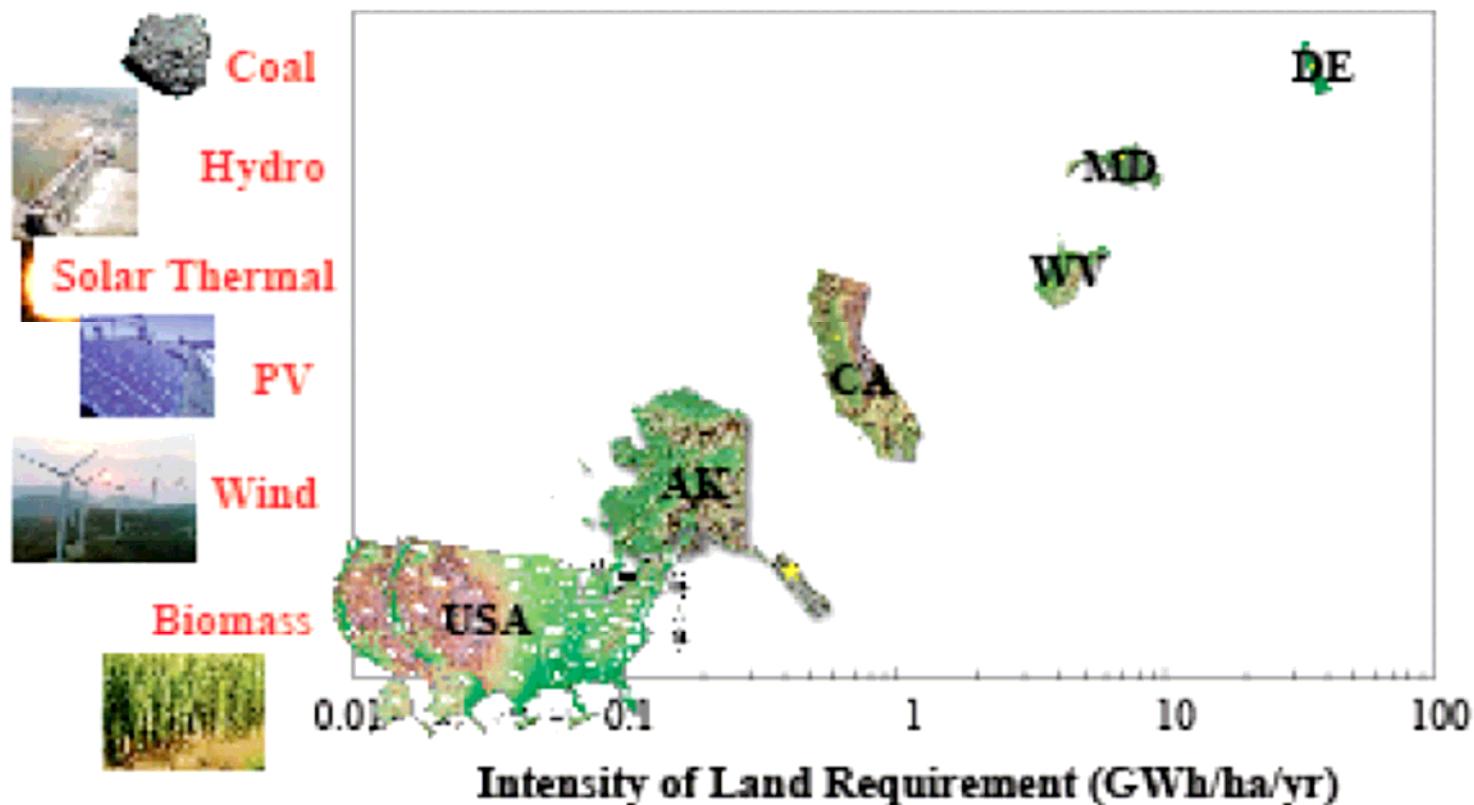
The Bio-Fuel Program is considered to be  
an International Disaster

# Available Renewable Energy





# Land Requirements to Produce 100 Quads



Source: International Energy Agency; Benign Energy?  
The Environmental Implications of Renewables, 1998

Graphic: Prof. L.T. Thompson (UD '82), U. Michigan

Delaware approved Offshore Windfarm on June 26 2008

MD, NJ, TX, MA, others to follow



18 tons of composites in  
66 meter blade.

9 tons soyoil/blade

Delaware—  
here we come!

A photograph of a wind farm under a clear blue sky. Numerous white wind turbines with three blades each stand in a green field. In the foreground, the tower and part of the blades of one specific turbine are visible, angled towards the right.

## Pickens Plan: Step One

**Generate 20% of electricity from  
wind power in 10 years**

2000 turbines will require 120,000,000 lbs  
of petroleum based resin + steel + towers

Lets do it with bio-based materials!

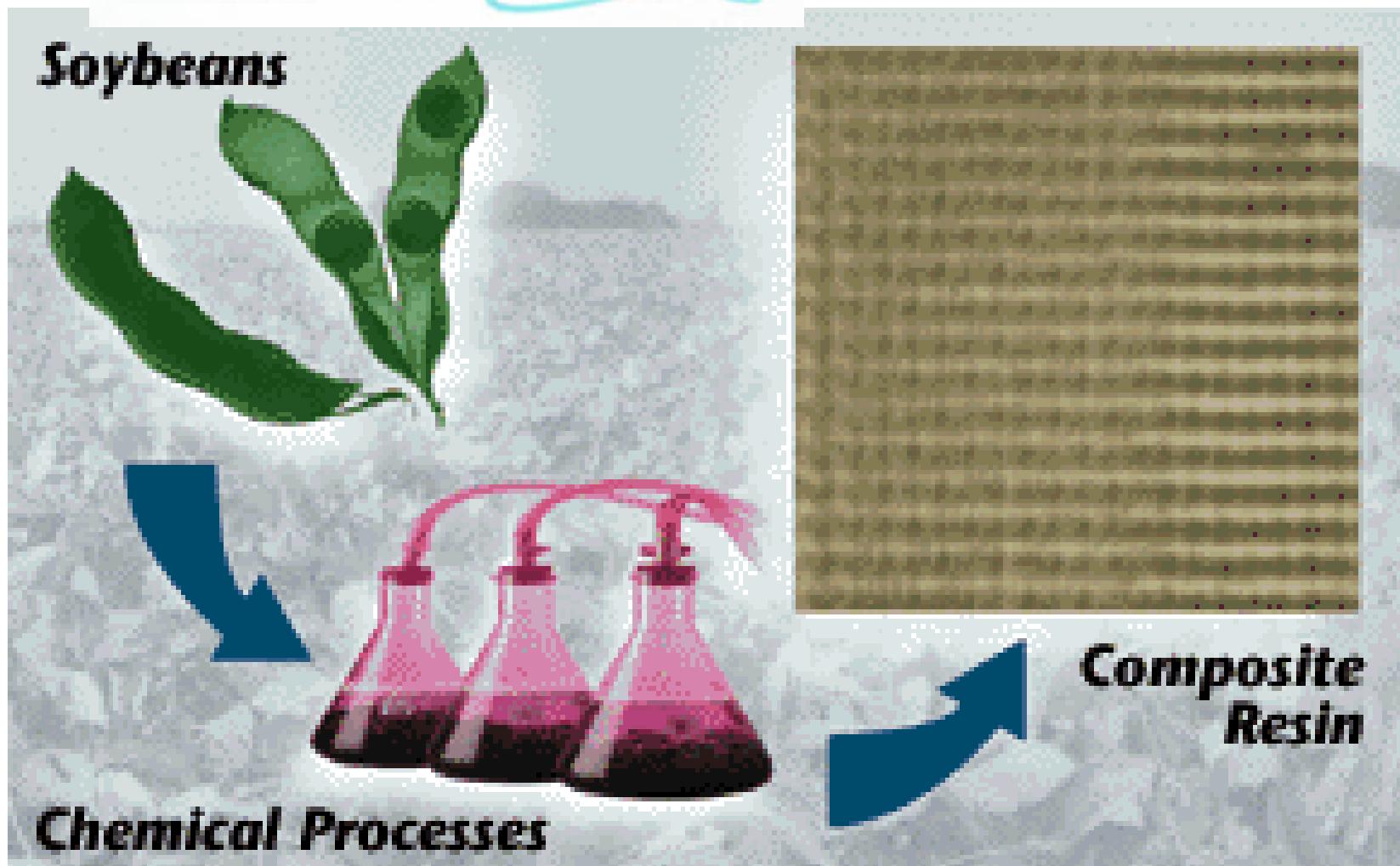
**WATCH THE VIDEO ►**

# University of Delaware

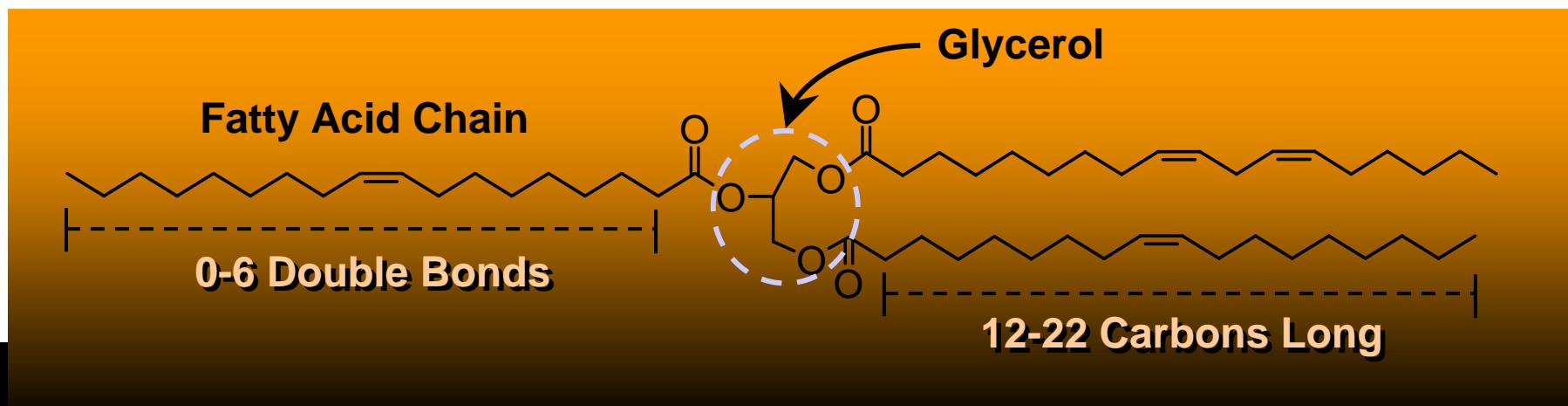
DynaChem



CARA

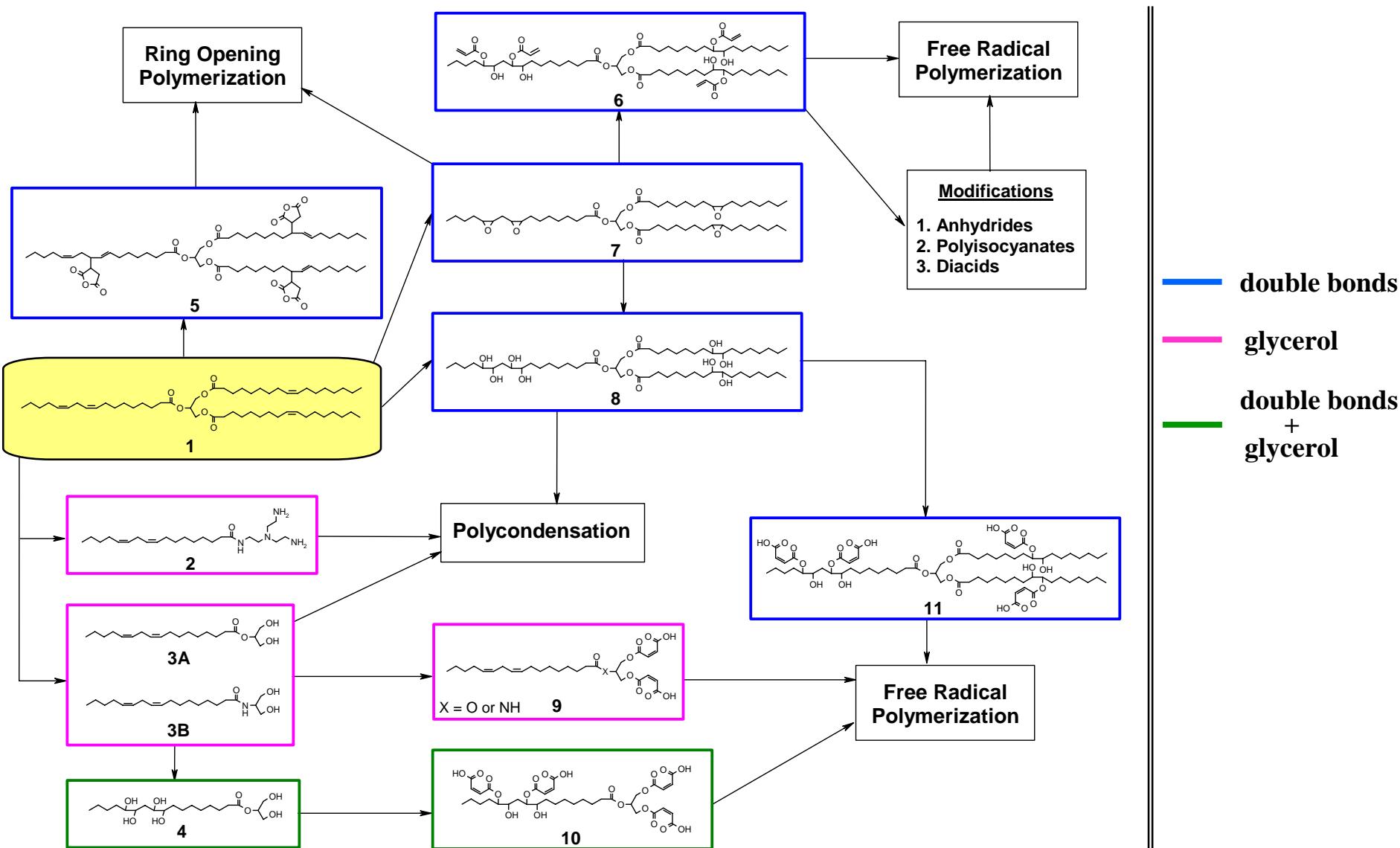


# Oils to Plastics



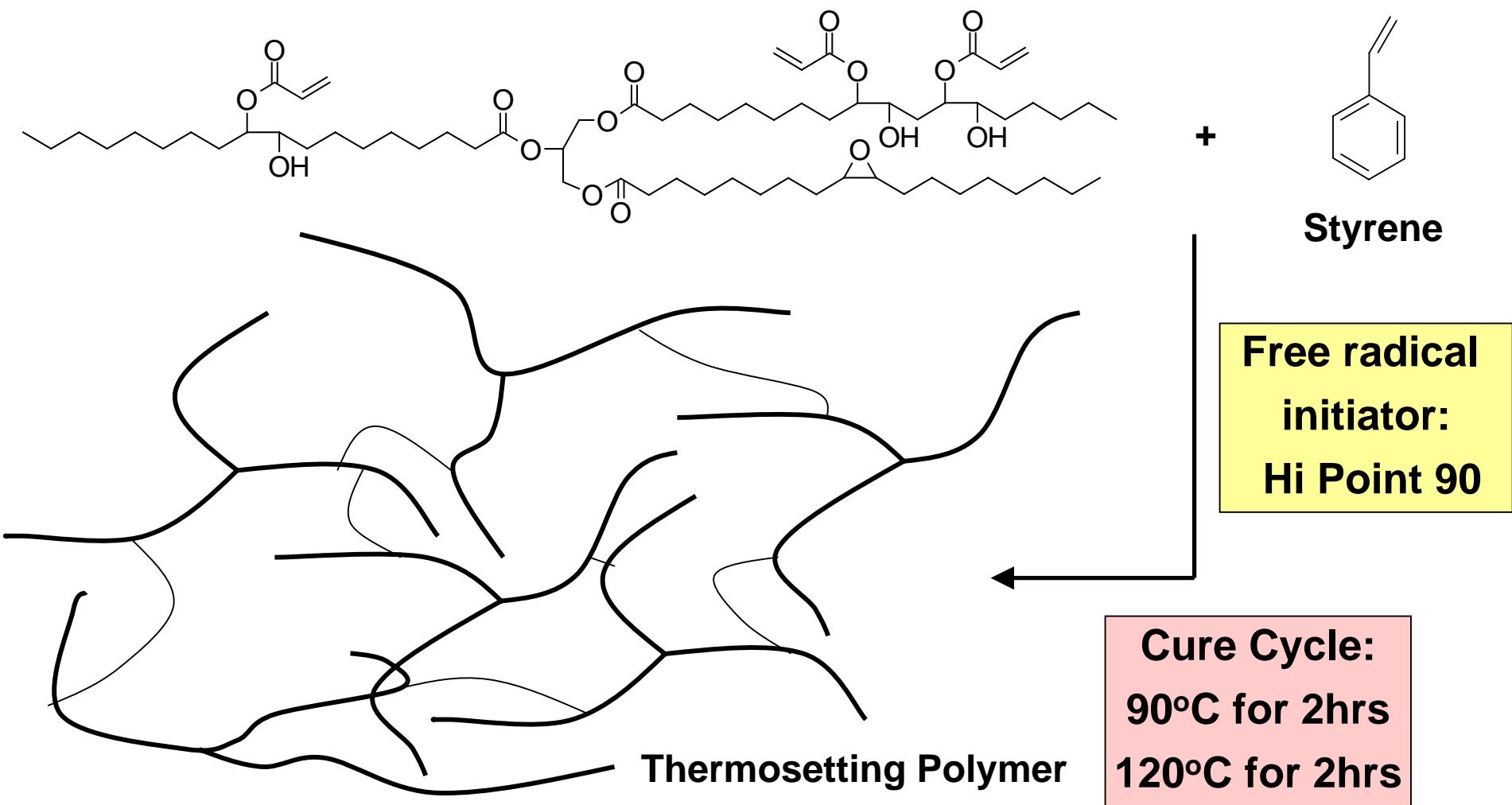
# Plant Oils to Composite Resins

R. P. Wool et al (Patent 2000)

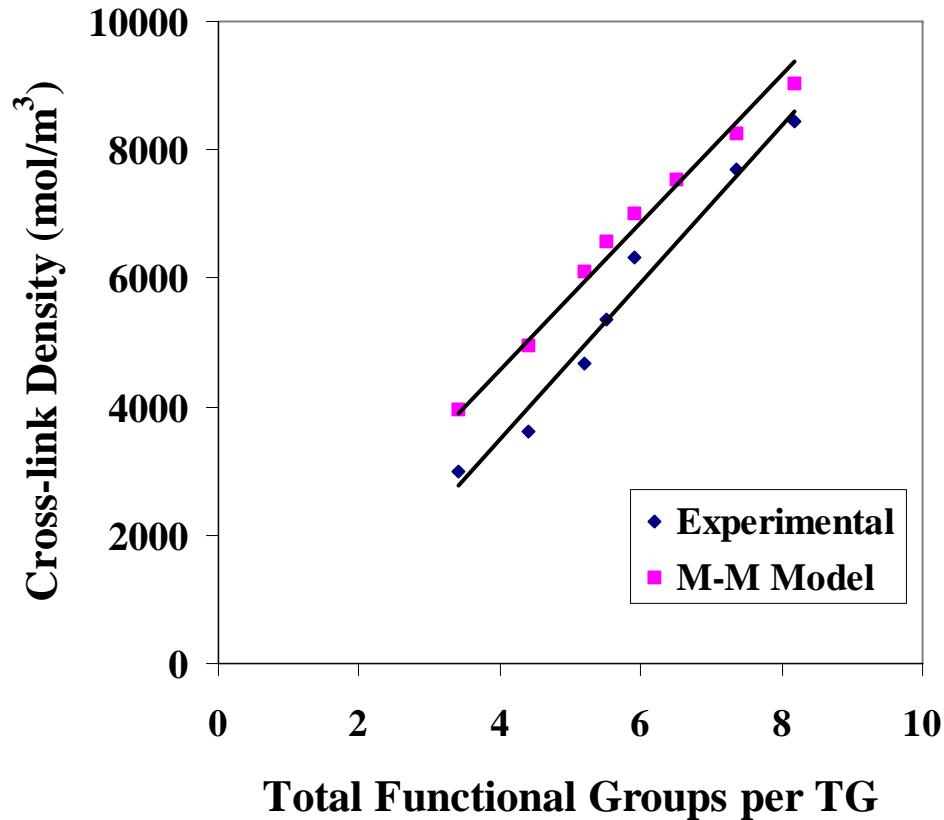


# High Performance Composite Resins

## Polymerization of Triglycerides



# Cross-link Density $\downarrow$ Predictions



$$v = v_o(x f - f_c)$$

(LaScala, Wool 2004)

$$f_c = 1$$

$x$  = degree of reaction

$v_o(f) \sim$  Miller-Macosko

Inspection—LaScala

Computer Simulation (SNL)

Crosslinks  $\sim$  No. Chemical Groups  $f$

# Strength of Triglycerides Resins

Tensile Strength with styrene -  
Filled Symbols (Pa)

1.0E+09

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 [E(f-f_c)]^{1/2} \sim [Ev]^{1/2}$$

LaScala and Wool (2004)

1.0E+08

1.0E+07

1.0E+06

1.0E+05

1.0E+04

1.0E

1.0E

1.0E

1.0E

1.0E

1.0E

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

f

No of Functional Groups

- ◆ HOSO
- Soybean
- ▲ Linseed
- Percolation

# Fundamental Problem with Soy-based Thermosets!

Scaling Law correct: (LaScala and Wool)

$$\text{Fracture Stress } \sigma \sim [2E_v D_o(p-p_c)]^{1/2}$$

Exact for PLA, PE, PP, PS (Craze dominated)

$E$  = Modulus

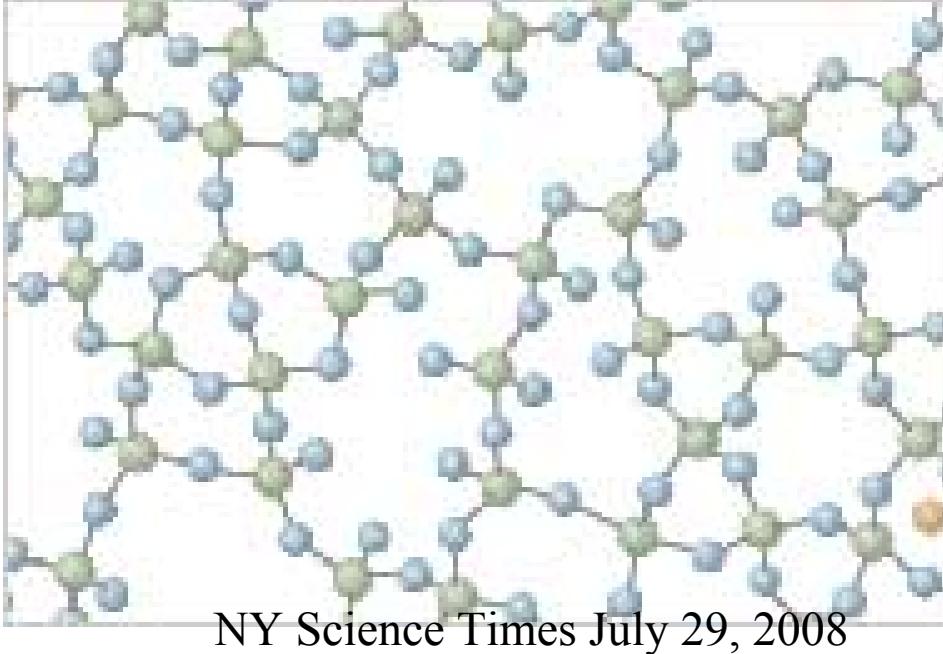
$v$  = crosslink density

$D_o = 80 \text{ Kcal/mol}$

BUT--Magnitude off (too high) by  $\sim 2$  orders of magnitude

New Theory needed for thermosets—Yield Dominated

**NEW THEORY OF YIELD, CTE AND Tg**



NY Science Times July 29, 2008

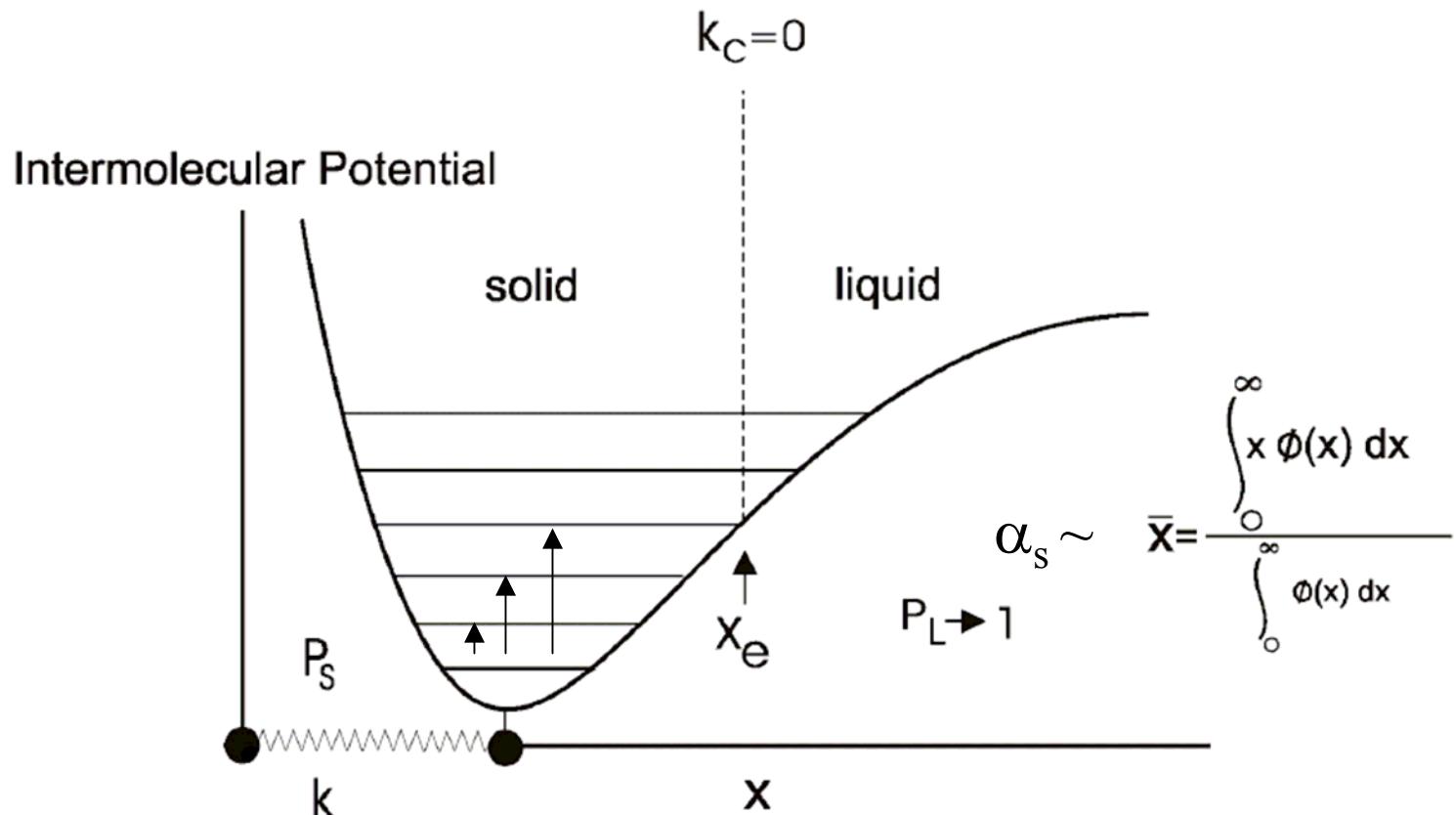
Phillip Anderson, Princeton, Nobel Prize winner (1995):

“The deepest and most interesting unsolved problem in solid state theory is probably the theory of the nature of glass and the glass transition”

NY Times—”the solution is certainly Nobellable”

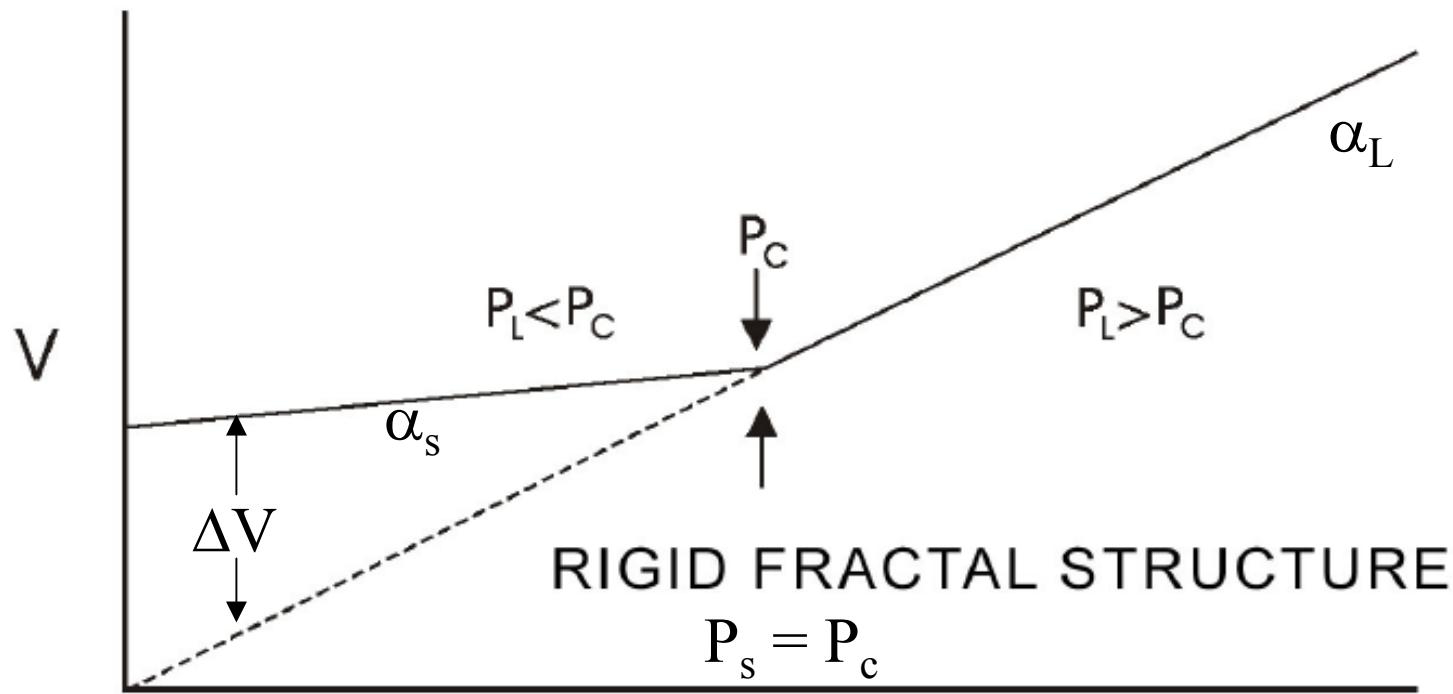
# Twinkling Fractal Theory of the Glass Transition

R.P. Wool, J. Poly. Sci., Physics 2008



## Diatom anharmonic Morse oscillator

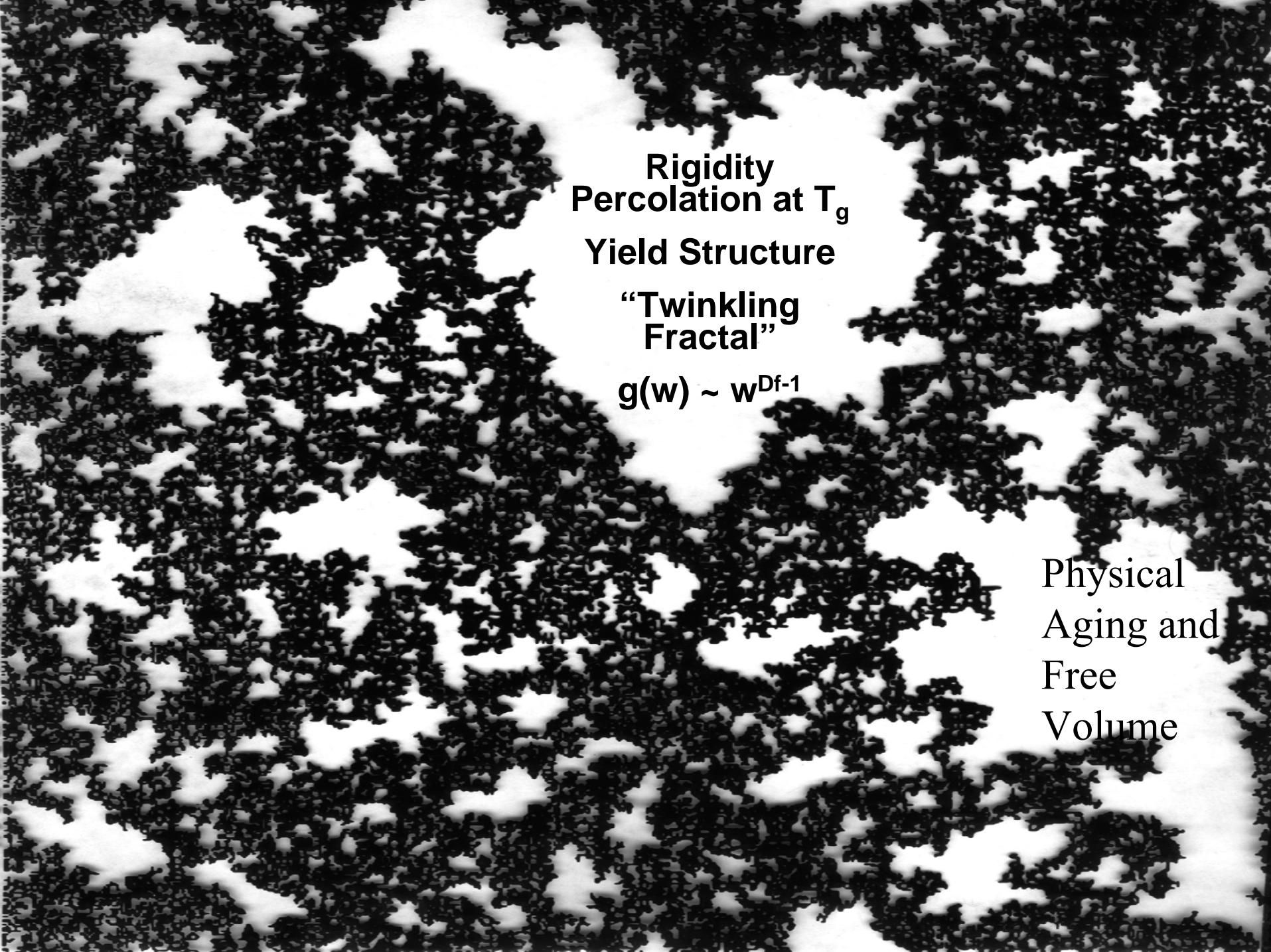
$U(x) = D_o[1 - e^{-ax}]^2$  with Boltzmann energy levels and populations  $\phi(x) \sim \exp[-U(x)/kT]$  shows the Liquid ( $X > X_c$ ) and Solid ( $X < X_c$ ) phase diagram.



Solid Fraction:  $P_s(T) = \int_0^{x_c} \phi(x) dx = p_c \text{ at } T_g$

$$T_g = 2D_o/9k; \quad \alpha_L = 3k/4D_oR_o a; \quad \alpha_s / \alpha_L = p_c; \quad \alpha_L * T_g \approx 0.03$$

Example: if  $D_o = 3.5 \text{ kcal/mol}$ ,  $T_g = 391 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{K}$  ( $118 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ); using  $R_o = 3 \text{ \AA}$  and  $a = 2/\text{\AA}$ , then  $\alpha_L = 71 \text{ ppm}/{}^{\circ}\text{K}$ .



**Rigidity  
Percolation at  $T_g$**

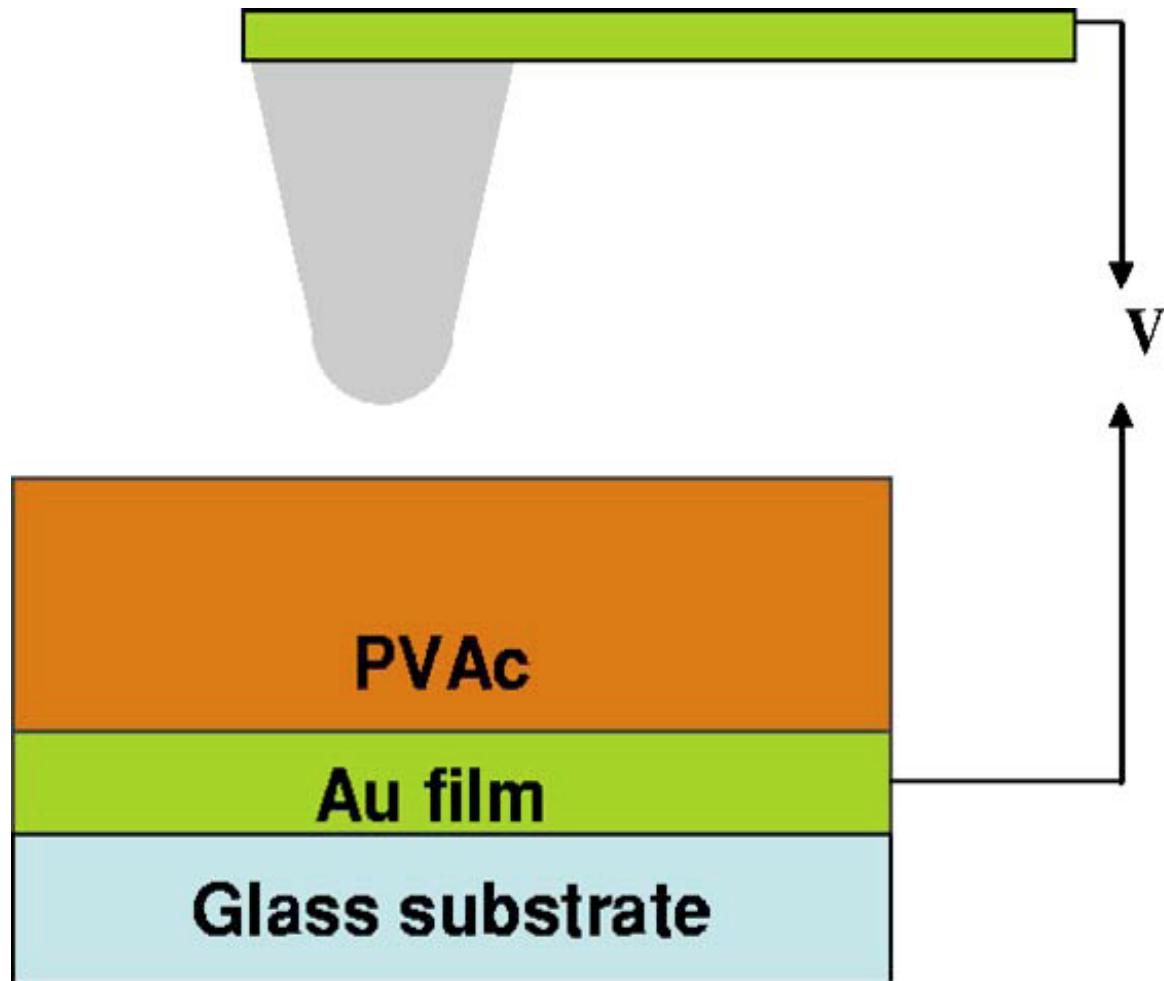
**Yield Structure**

**“Twinkling  
Fractal”**

$$g(w) \sim w^{Df-1}$$

**Physical  
Aging and  
Free  
Volume**

# Experimental Proof of TFT

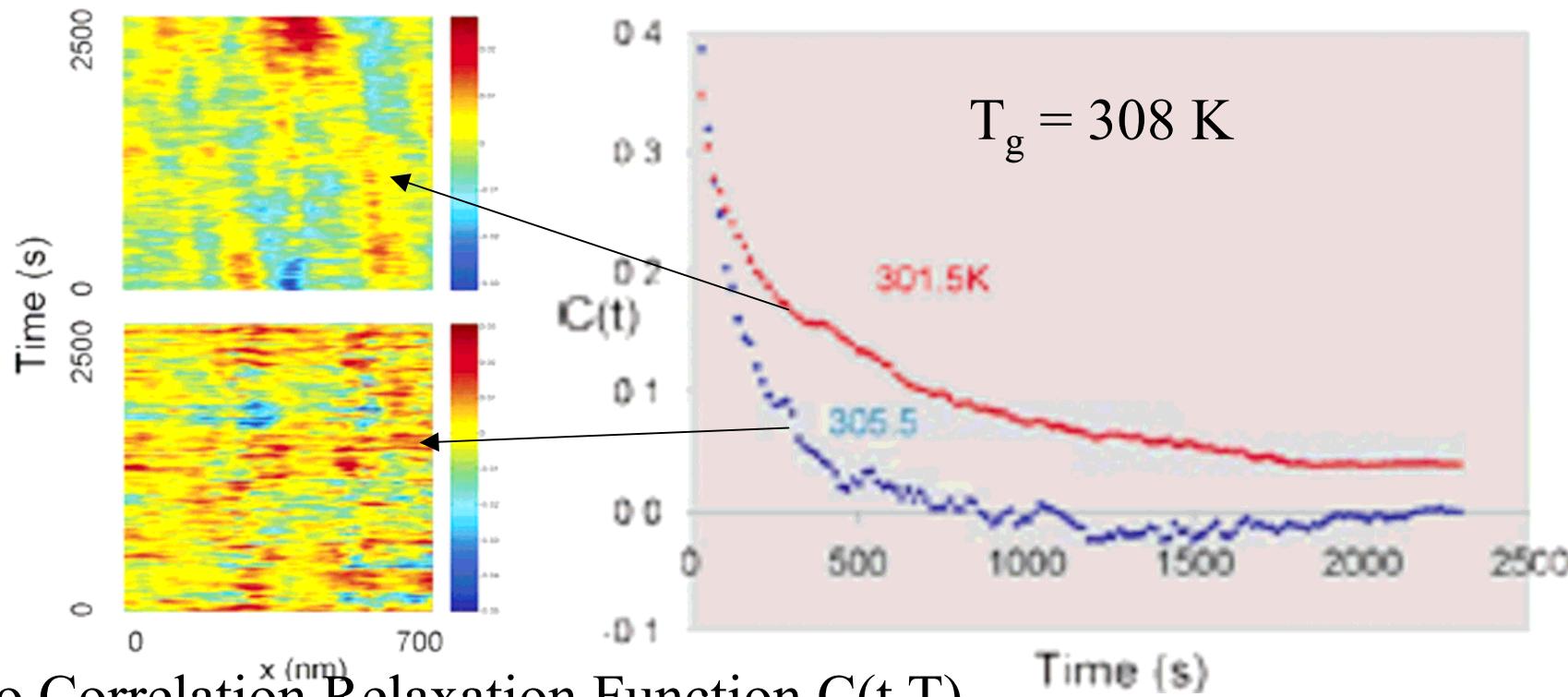


**Local dielectric spectroscopy of polymer films at T<sub>g</sub>**

P. S. Crider, M. R. Majewski, Jingyun Zhang, H. Oukris, and N. E. Israeloff<sup>a</sup>

# Spatio-Temporal Fluctuations (Twinkles) in PVAc near T<sub>g</sub>

Dielectric AFM Spectroscopy, N. Israeloff et al, Nano Letters, 6(5) 887 (2006)



Auto Correlation Relaxation Function  $C(t, T)$

$$\omega = 1/t$$

$$C(t, T) = \int_{\omega_0}^{\omega_{df}} \omega^{df-1} \exp - [ \omega t + \exp - |\beta(T^2 - T_g^2)| / kT ] d\omega \quad (\text{TFT Prediction})$$

$C(t) \sim t^{-1/3}$ —short times or low T

$C(t) \sim t^{-4/3}$ —long times

$C(t) \sim t^2$  when  $w < w_c$  at very long times

# A VERY NICE PREDICTION!

$$\alpha_L * T_g \approx 0.03$$

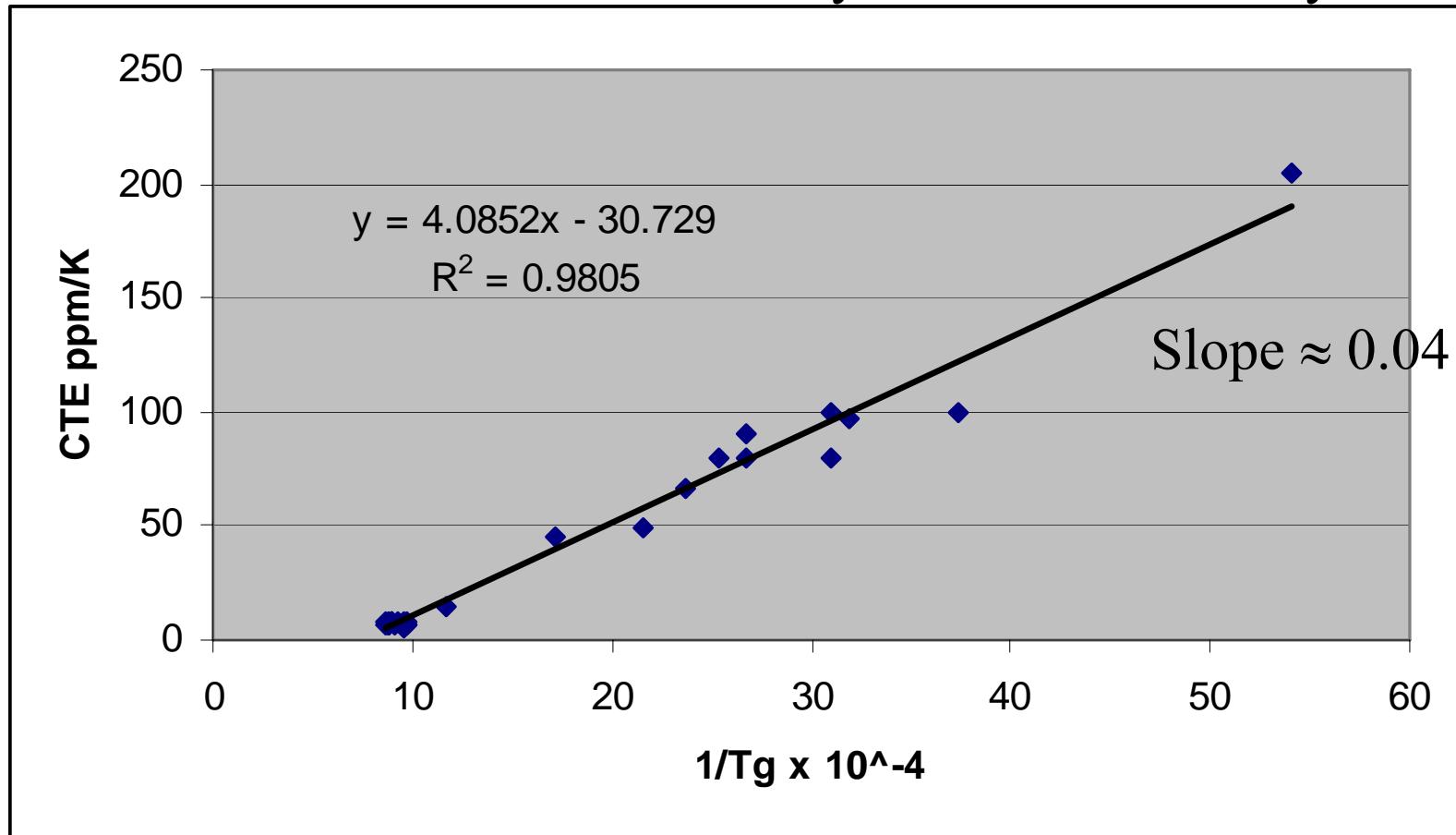
$$\alpha_L = \frac{3}{4} k / (D_o a R_o) \quad T_g = 2 D_o / 9 k$$

$$\alpha_L * T_g = 1 / 6 a R_o \approx 1 / 6 * 2 \text{\AA}^{-1} * 3 \text{\AA} \approx 0.03$$

Polymer	$\alpha_L$ ppm	$T_g$ °K	$\alpha_L * T_g$
PE	100-200	223	0.02-0.4
PP	100	268	0.027
PS	80	373	0.03
PC	66	423	0.028
N66	80	323	0.026
PMMA	90	373	0.033
PA12	97	313	0.03
PBT	100	323	0.032
PPA	80	394	0.031
PPS	49	363	0.02

$$\alpha_L * T_g = 1/(6 aR_o) \approx 0.03$$

Metals---Ceramics---Polymers----- Glycerol

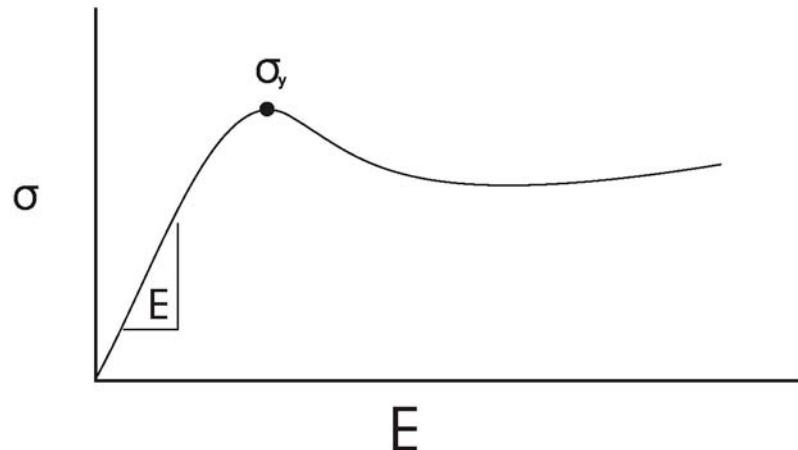


# Twinkling Fractal View of Yield,

## Percolation Theory of Yield

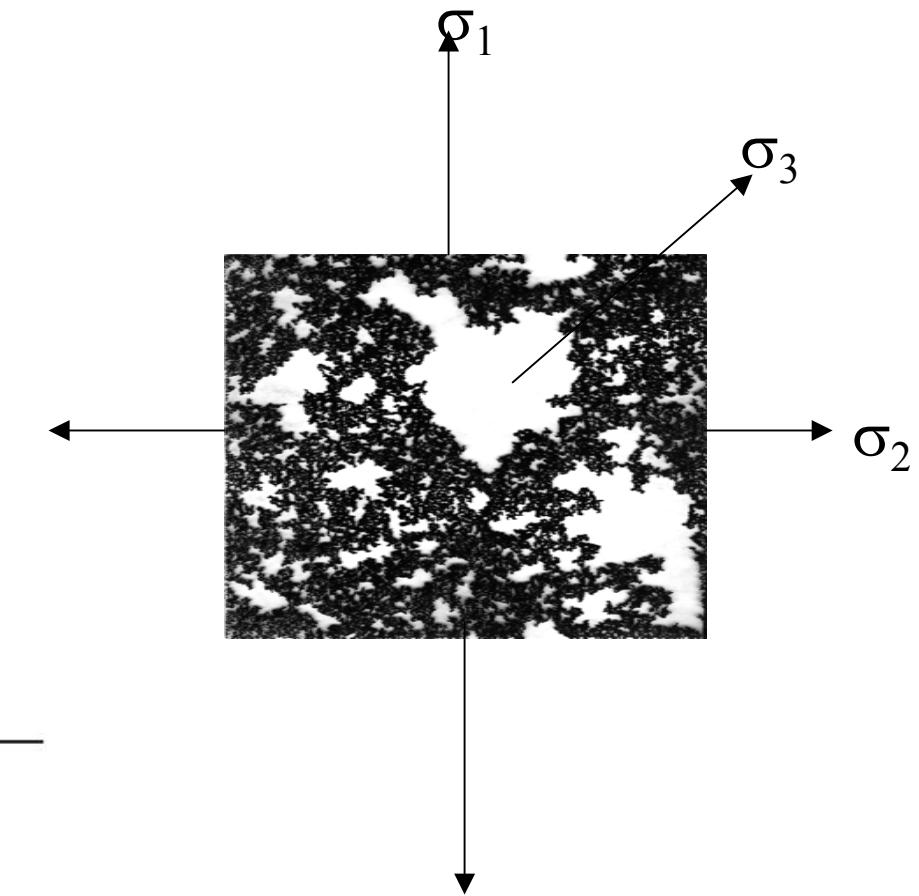
$$\frac{\sigma^2}{2E} \geq \frac{U(X_c)}{V_m} |P-P_c|$$

$V_m \approx$  Molar Vol ;  $U(X_c) = 0.08D_o$



$$\sigma_y = [0.16ED_o|P-P_c|/V_m]^{1/2}$$

$D_o/V_m$  = Cohesive Energy Density



Rate  $\sim 1/(\text{Twinkle Frequency } w)$

Density States  $G(w) \sim w^{D_f}$ ; ( $D_f = 4/3$ )

Liquid Armor Transition

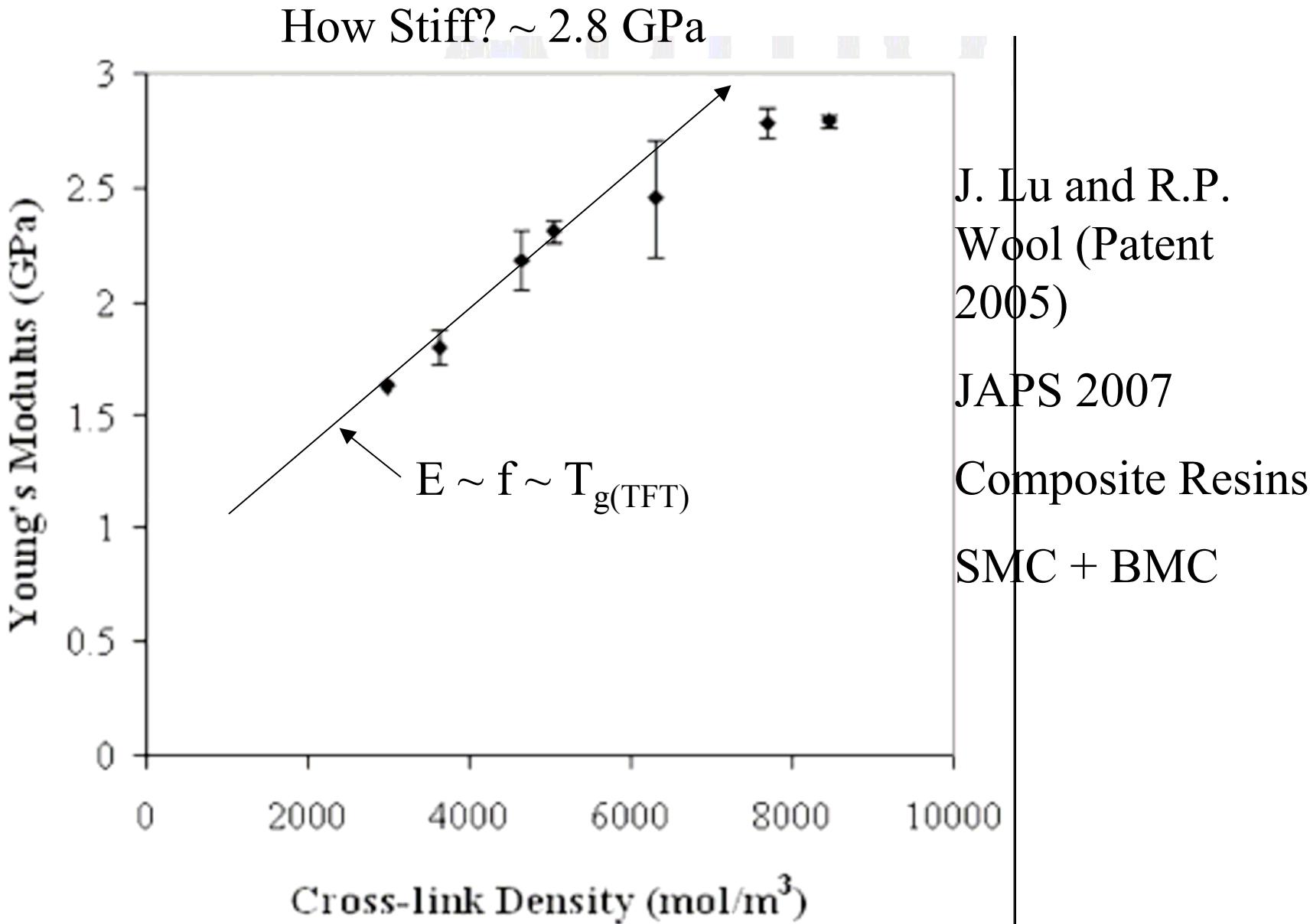
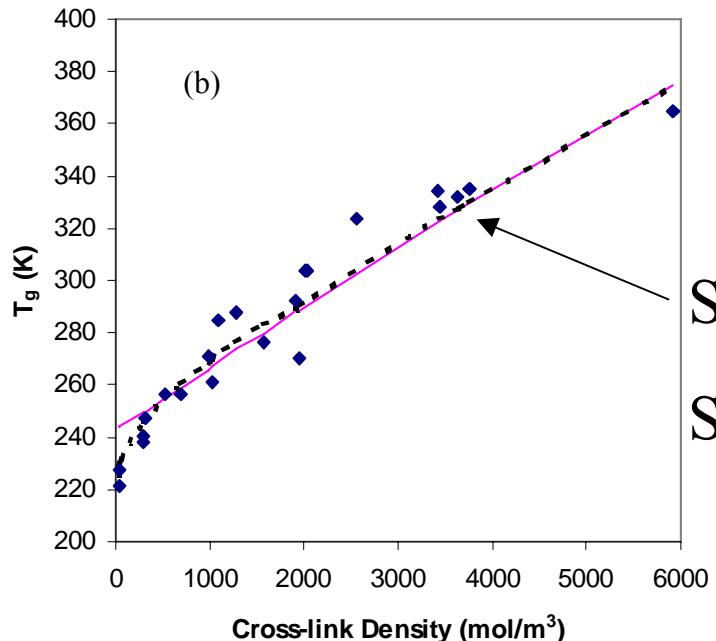


FIG. 9. Effect of crosslink density on the Young's modulus of triglyceride-based polymers.

# $T_g$ vs Crosslink Density v.



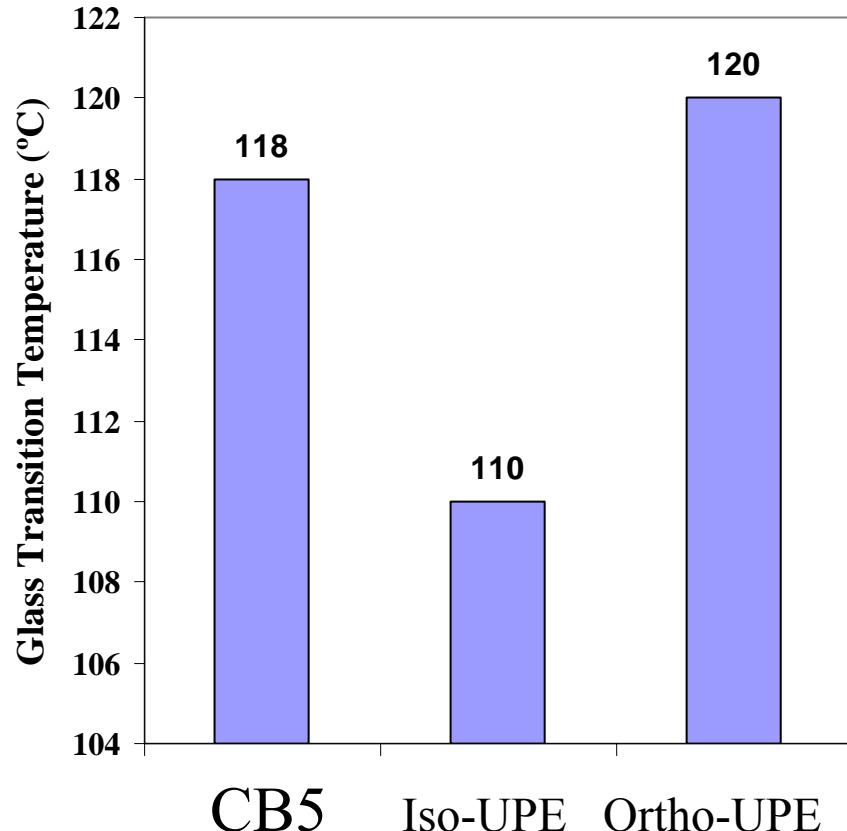
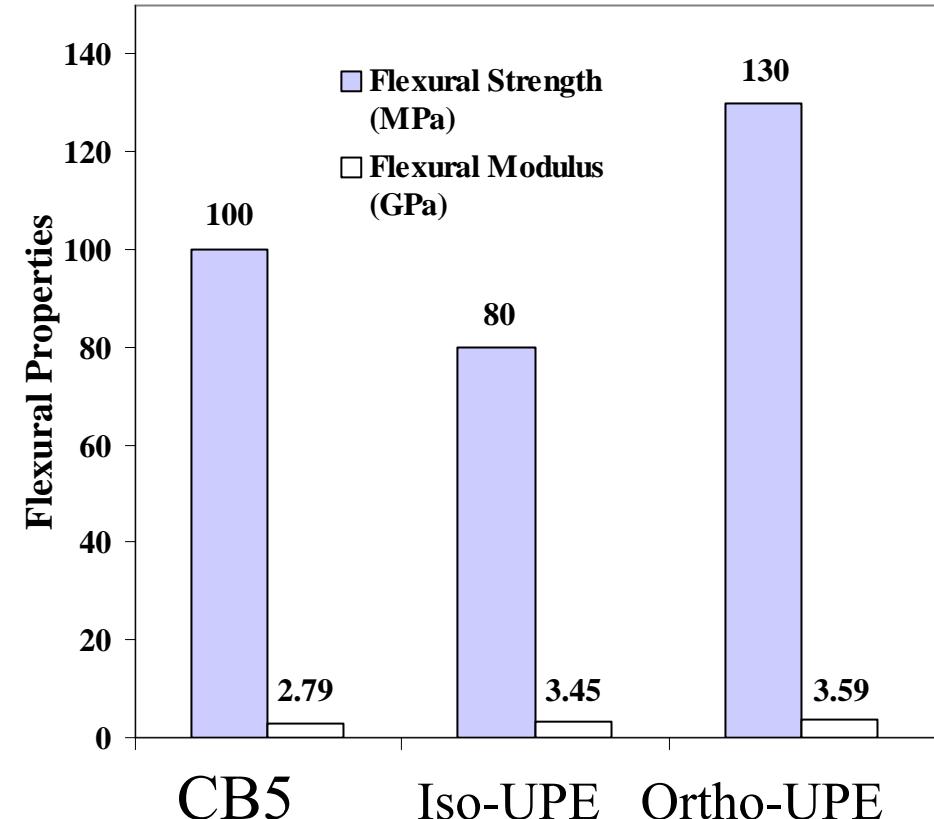
$$\text{Slope} = T_g^{\circ} M_j / p_c \rho$$

The  $T_g$  of model acrylated crosslinked triglycerides with 30 wt% styrene is shown as a function of crosslink density  $v$  (LaScala and Wool 2006)

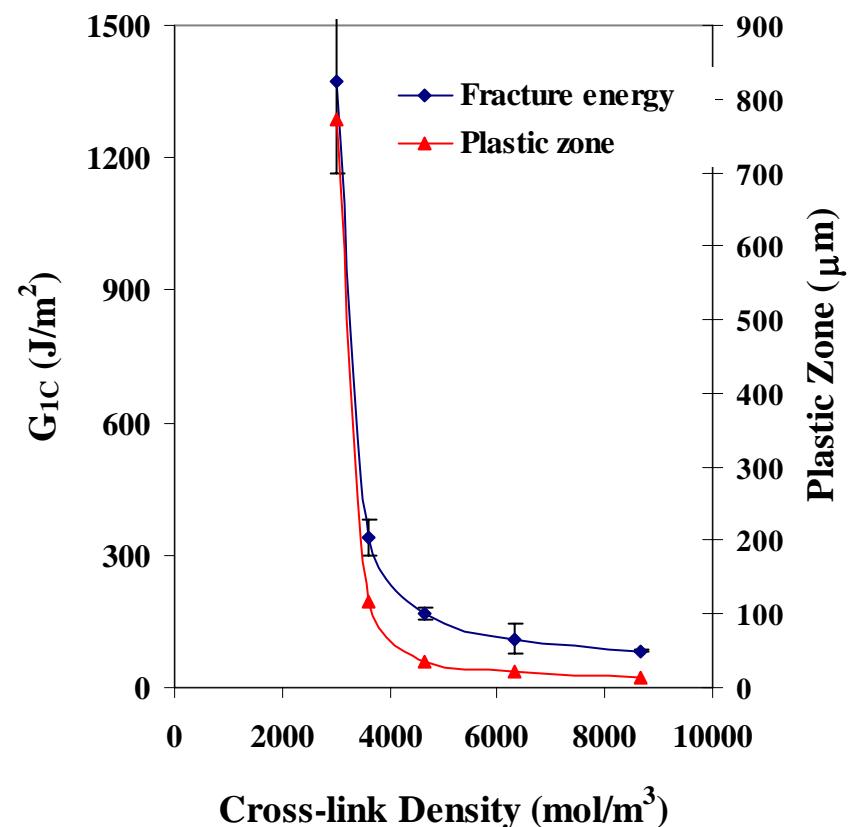
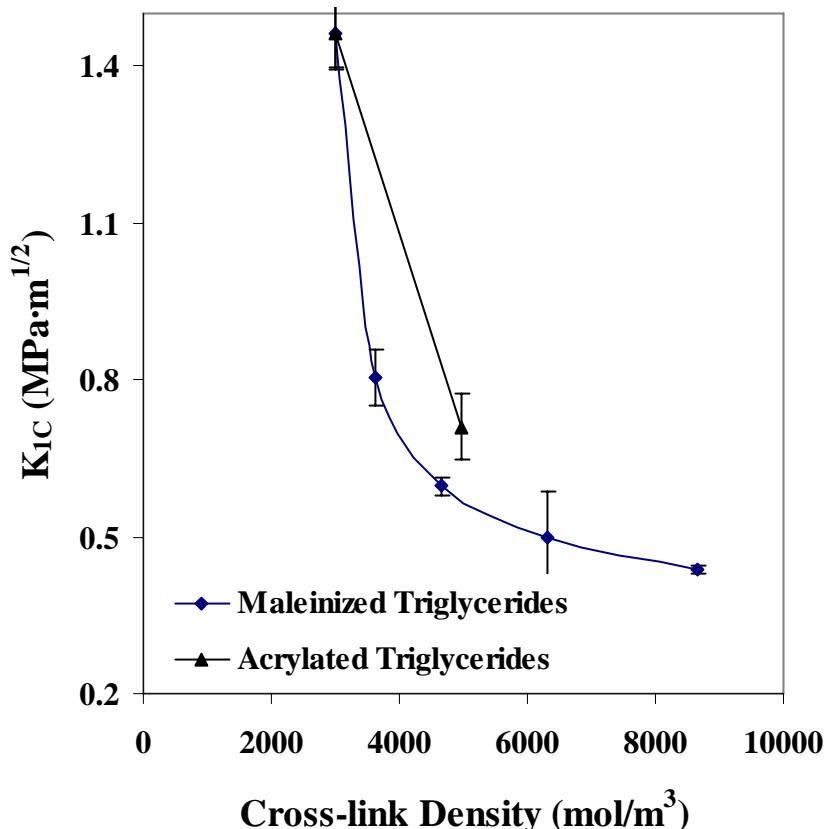
**TFT Prediction:**  $T_g(v) = T_g^{\circ} + (T_g^{\circ} M_j / p_c \rho) v$

Example:  $T_g^{\circ} = 242$   $^{\circ}\text{K}$  at  $v = 0$  intercept,  $p_c \approx 0.4$ ,  $\rho = 1.1$  g/cc and  $M_j \approx 43$  g/mol, then the predicted slope  $\approx 0.024$   $^{\circ}\text{K m}^3/\text{mol}$ , which is in excellent agreement with experiment

# Comparison of Cara CB5 Resin to Petroleum- UPE Resins

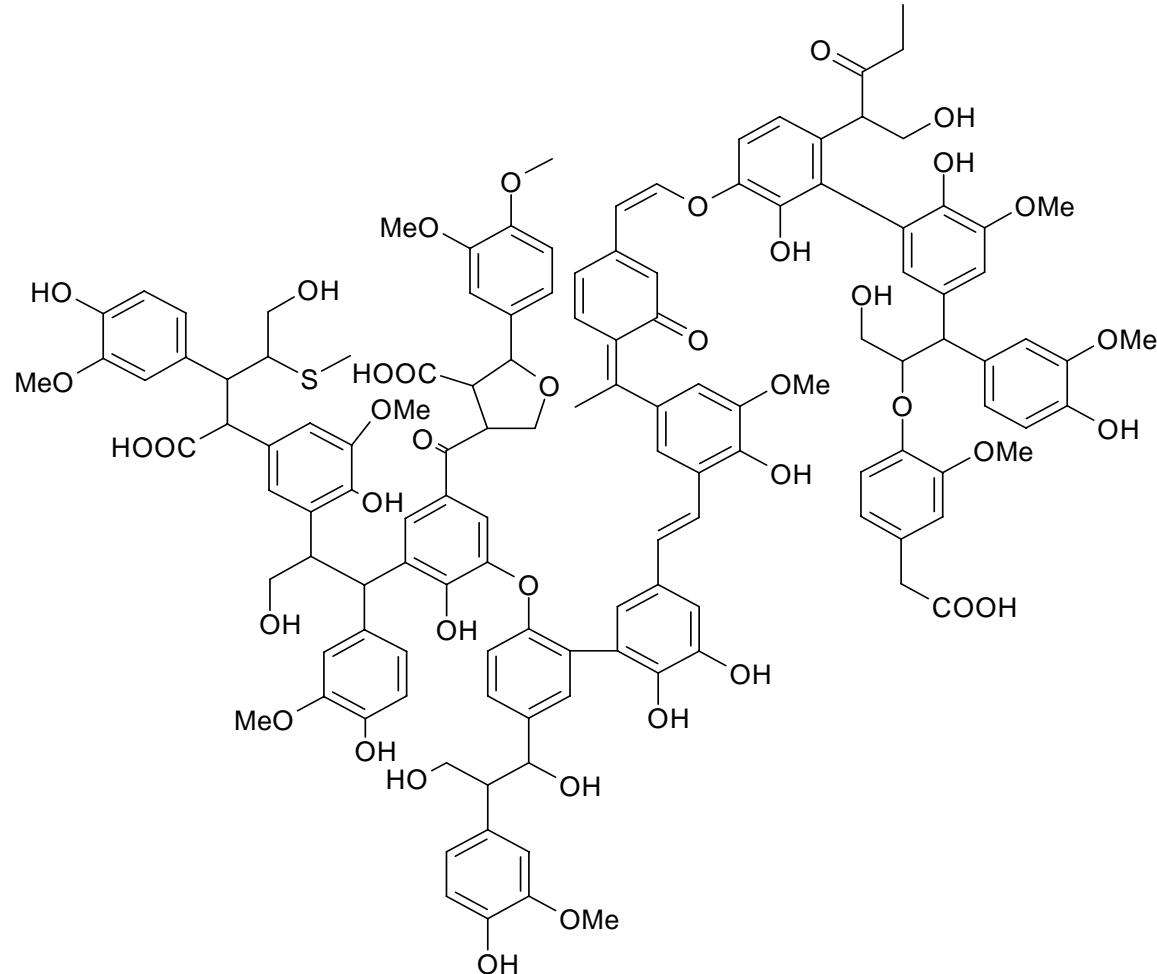


# Fracture Toughness $G_{1C} \sim V^{-1/2}$ J. Lu 2006



$$r_p = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( \frac{K_{1C}}{\sigma_y} \right)^2 = \frac{EG_{1C}}{2\pi\sigma_y^2}$$

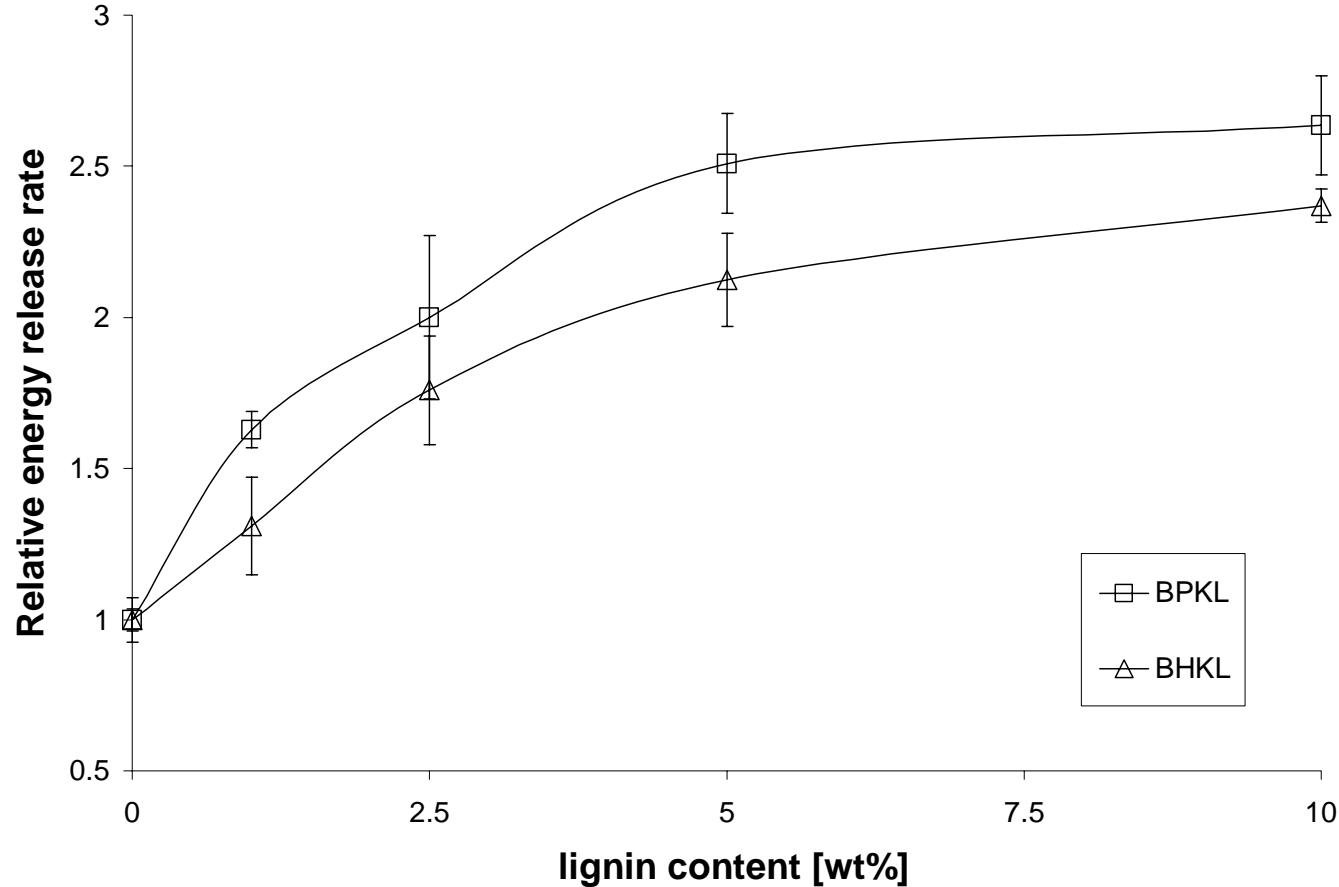
Can **Lignin** Toughen a Thermoset? Enhanced connectivity, free radical trapping, co-monomer, fiber sizing in Composites?



Structure of Lignin

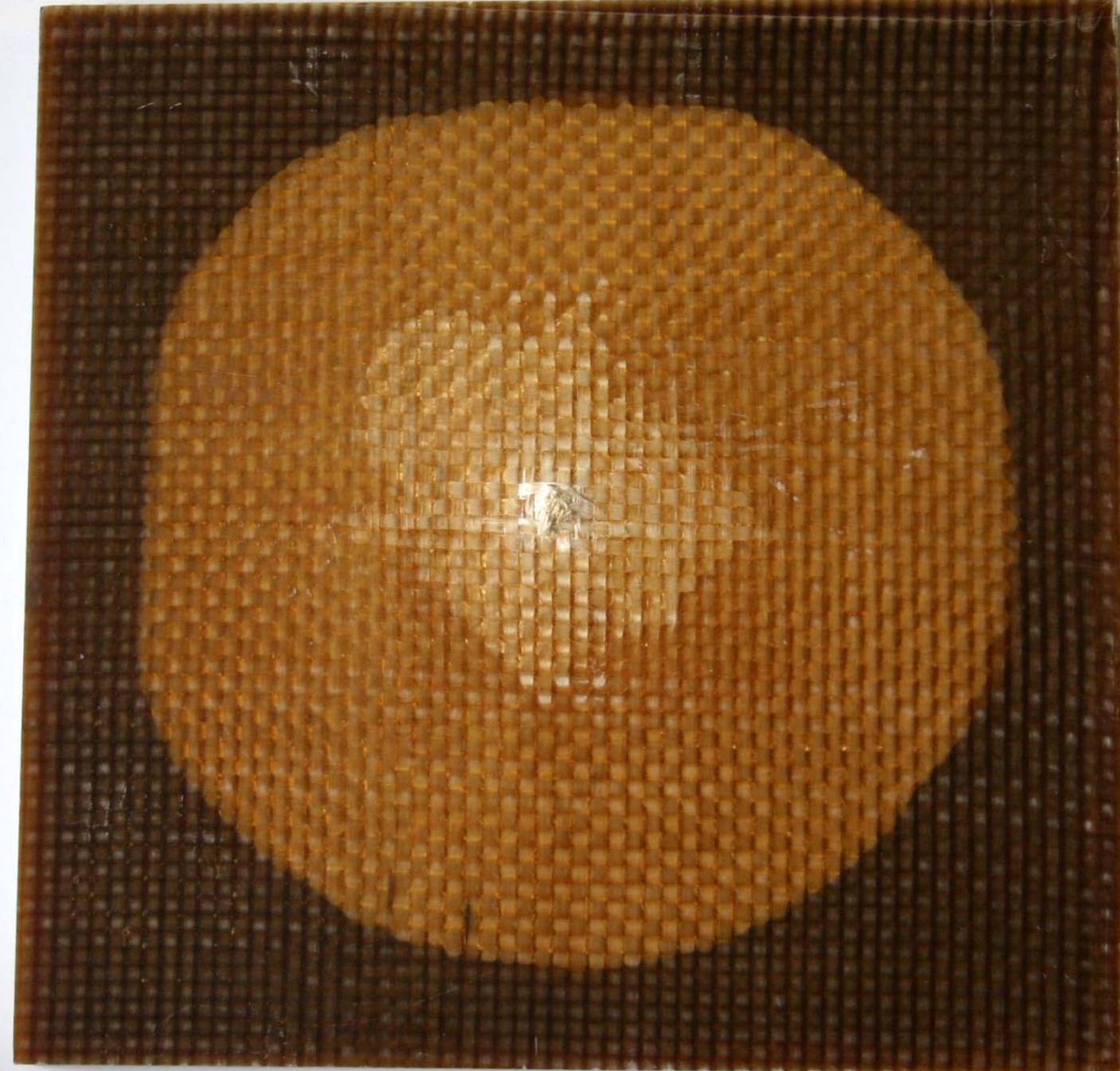
# Solubilized Butyrated Lignin Toughening of Soy Resin

Wim Thielemans and R. P. Wool



Ballistic  
Impact  
Resistant plate  
with 50 mm  
fragmentation  
round

Will provide  
Tornado  
resistance as  
well as  
hurricane  
resistance



Cara Plastics  
Manufacturing Partner

DynaChem

Georgetowne IL



# First I-Beam from Soy and Jute!



Robert McDowell



Justin Alms



Peter Yonko



Center for Composite Materials

[www.ccm.udel.edu](http://www.ccm.udel.edu)

Scientists and engineers  
and applied re-  
sistant to  
composites

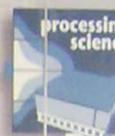
RI  
of  
e



performance



materials  
and  
synthesis



processing  
science



mechanics  
and  
design

Research  
Philosophy

DARPA Initiatives  
Infrastructure  
Intelligent  
Processing

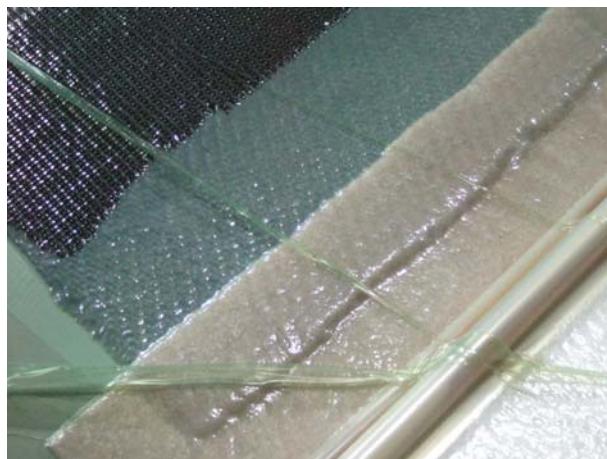
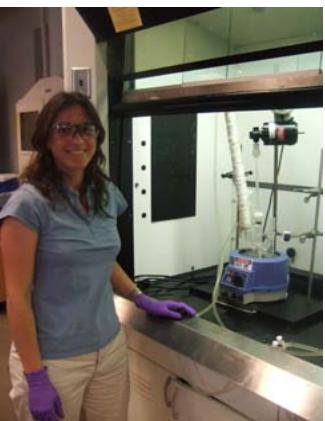
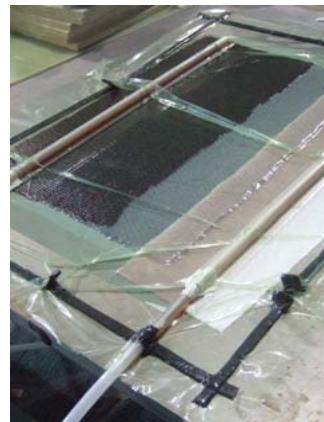
ARL  
Center of  
Excellence

Composites Science &  
Innovation - Innovation

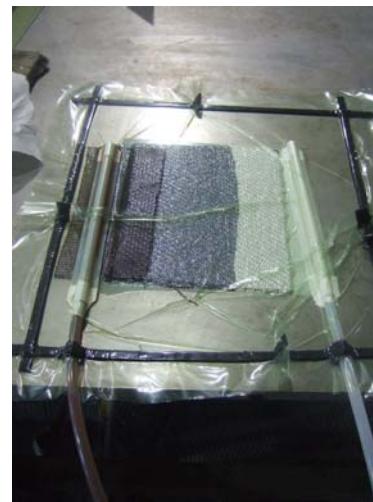
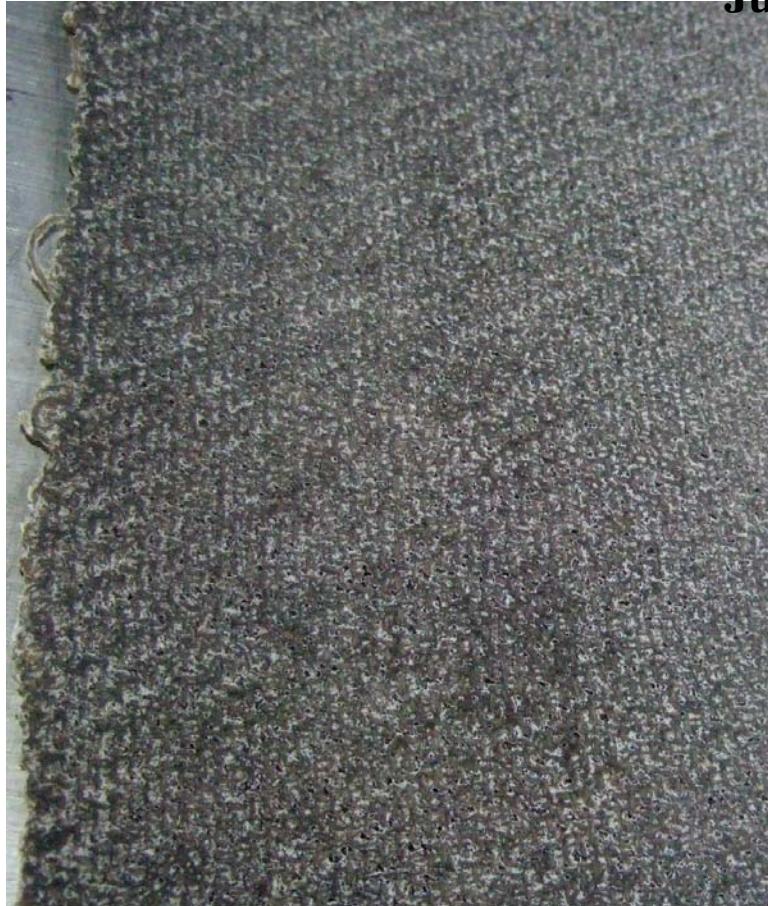
Industry  
Multidisciplinary  
Affordable Composites

'96

**Dr Julie Soden, UOU Belfast  
& Prof Richard Wool & Researchers, CCM Delaware  
July 2008**



**Dr Julie Soden, UOU Belfast  
& Prof Richard Wool & Researchers, CCM Delaware**  
**July 2008**



**3D Woven Flax Mats**



Katrina  
was here

## The Problem

# The Solution-Monolithic Roof

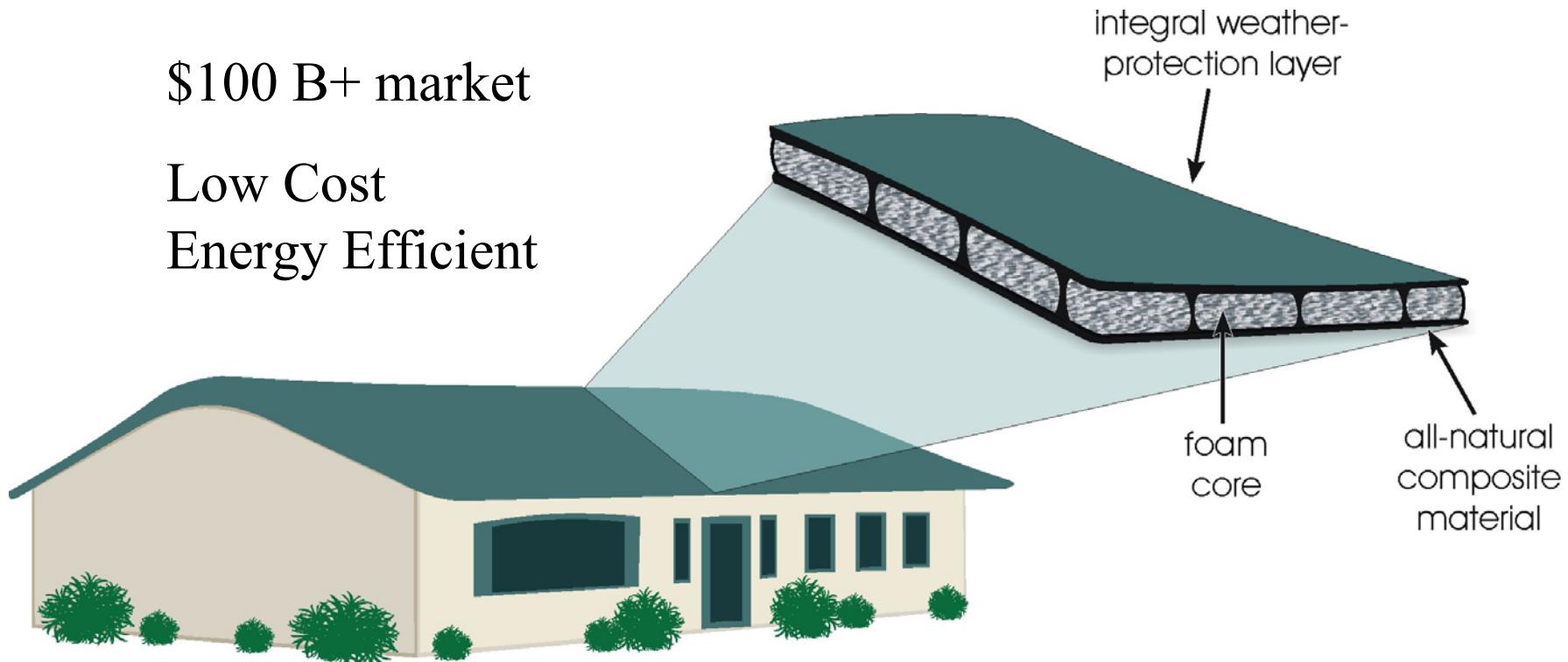
Newsweek Oct 27 2003, T. Shenton, M. Dweib and R. P. Wool

Architectural Record Nov 2003, Royal Institute British Architects, 2004

R.P. Wool et al (2006-Patent pending)

\$100 B+ market

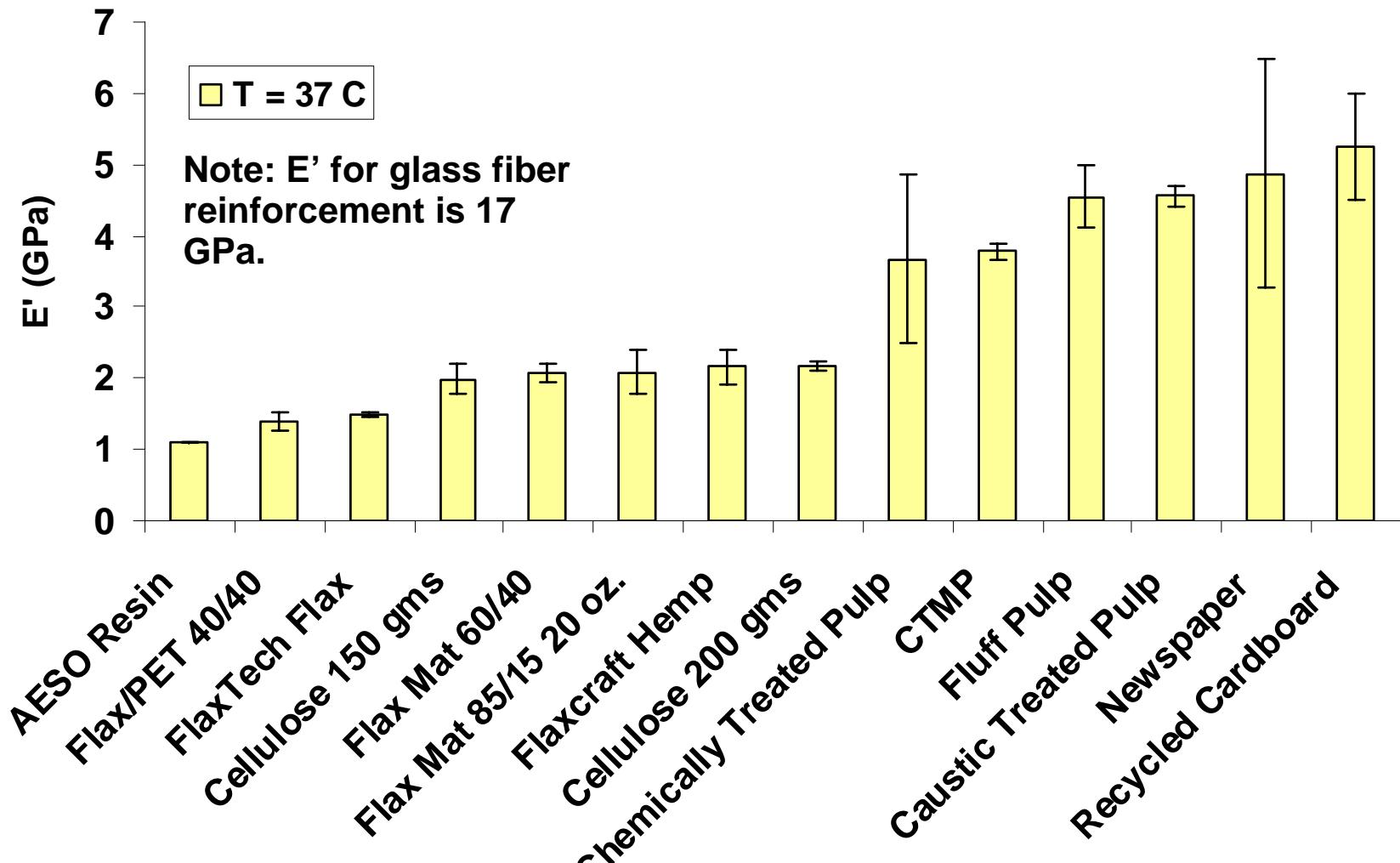
Low Cost  
Energy Efficient



Optimal Solution: Solar Panels + Hurricane Resistance-in progress  
Benefit ~ 30 Quads/yr

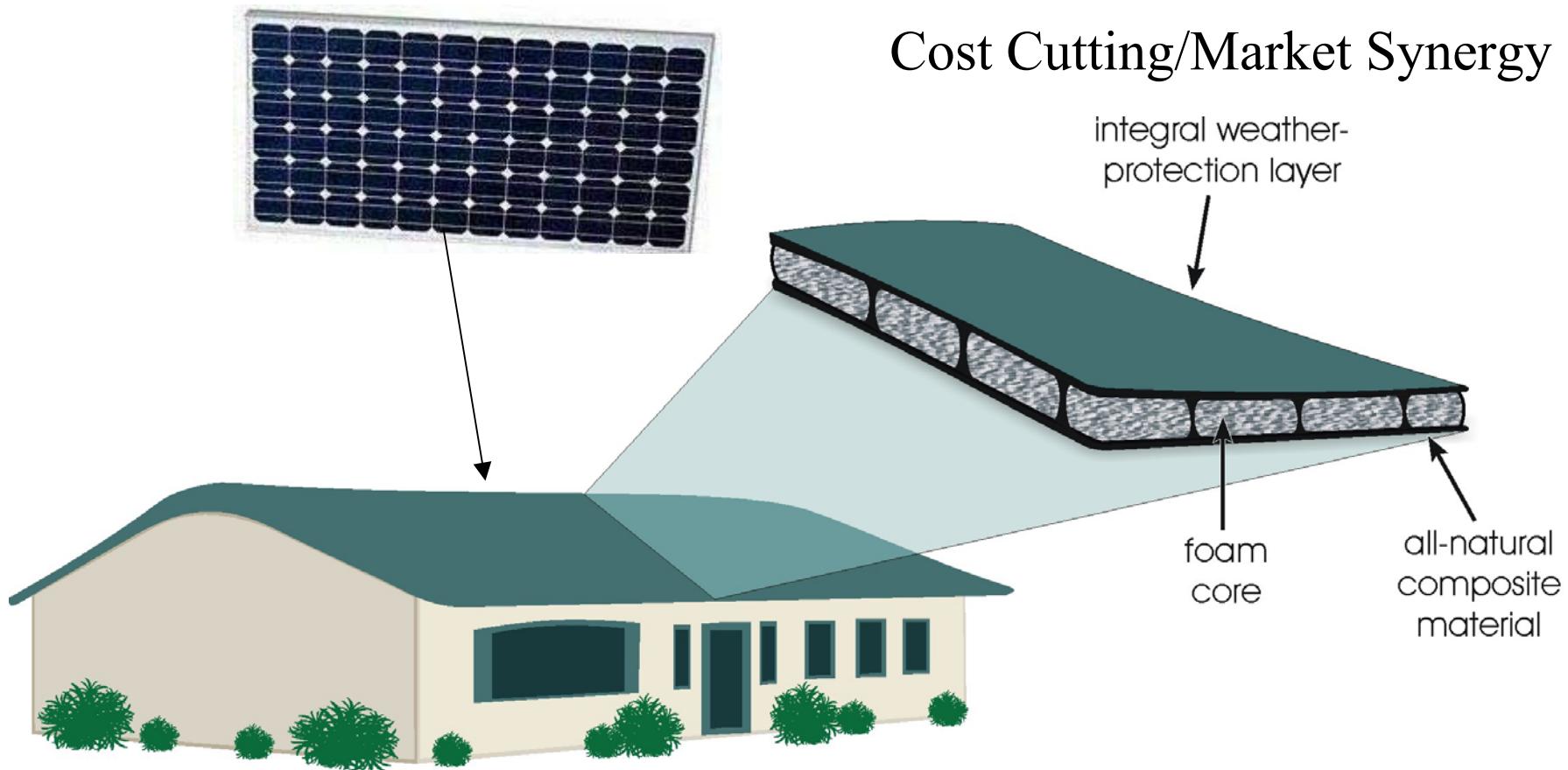
# Very Low Cost Composites for Housing

## PROPERTIES: DMA 3-Point Bending Test



Solution for USA Energy needs: Need 92 million for energy independence and offset Global Warming

US has 124 million roofs; 1.3 million new per year



Nominated for the Richard Branson Virgin Global Warming Solutions Award

Bio-Based Content = 83%. Recycled Content = 50%

The sky is  
the limit!

Soy based  
Solid  
Rocket  
Propellants

National  
Security

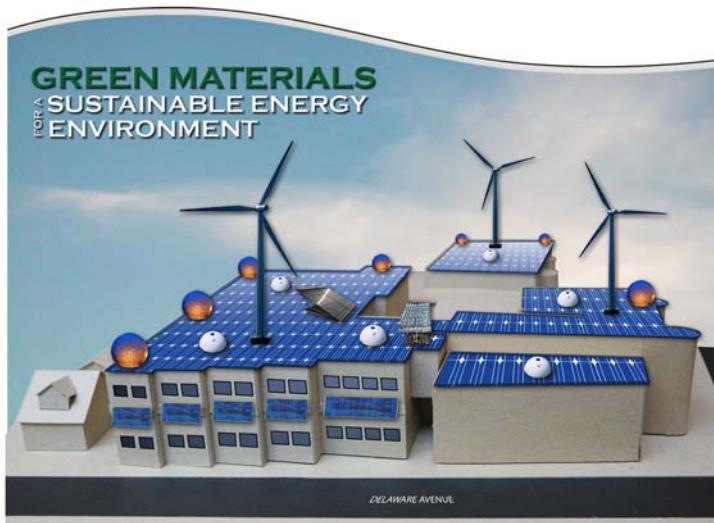
ICBMs and  
Rogue  
Missile  
Interceptors



## Next Step? GEM Center:

# Green Materials for a Sustainable Energy Environment

The focus of GEM is the development of advanced bio-based materials in support of renewable energy (Solar, Wind, Hydrogen)



## DREAM TEAM

UD, Yale, KSU, BU, Ulster, U Manitoba, DynaChem, Dow, DuPont, Boeing, CIRO S. Africa, Istanbul, CCM, Risoe, Vestas, Siemens, Bluewater, Pickens: Institute for Solar Energy, Environmental Policy-, NREL, NASA