

Simplified Methods to Obtain Long-Term Properties of Composites in a wide range of Marine/Offshore Environments

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DNV GL led Joint Industry Project "Affordable Composites"

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Project manager Ramin Moslemian

Twelve industrial partners

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Marine Offshore Environment



DNVGL Rules for Composites

Thermosets:	DNVGL-ST-C501	First issue:
	“Composite Components”	(2003)
Thermoplastics:	DNVGL-ST-F119	
	“Thermoplastic Composite Pipes”	(2015)



STANDARD

DNVGL-ST-F119

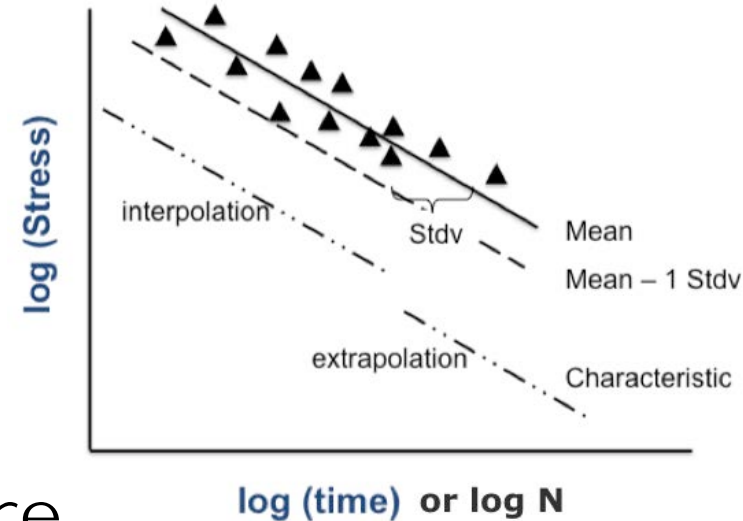
Edition August 2018

Thermoplastic composite pipes



Short and Long Term Properties in different Environments

- Obtain data for ALL critical failure mechanisms in ALL environments and ALL temperatures
- Usually extreme conditions are sufficient (high and low)
- Suitable engineering approach, but...



Experience

Many tests.

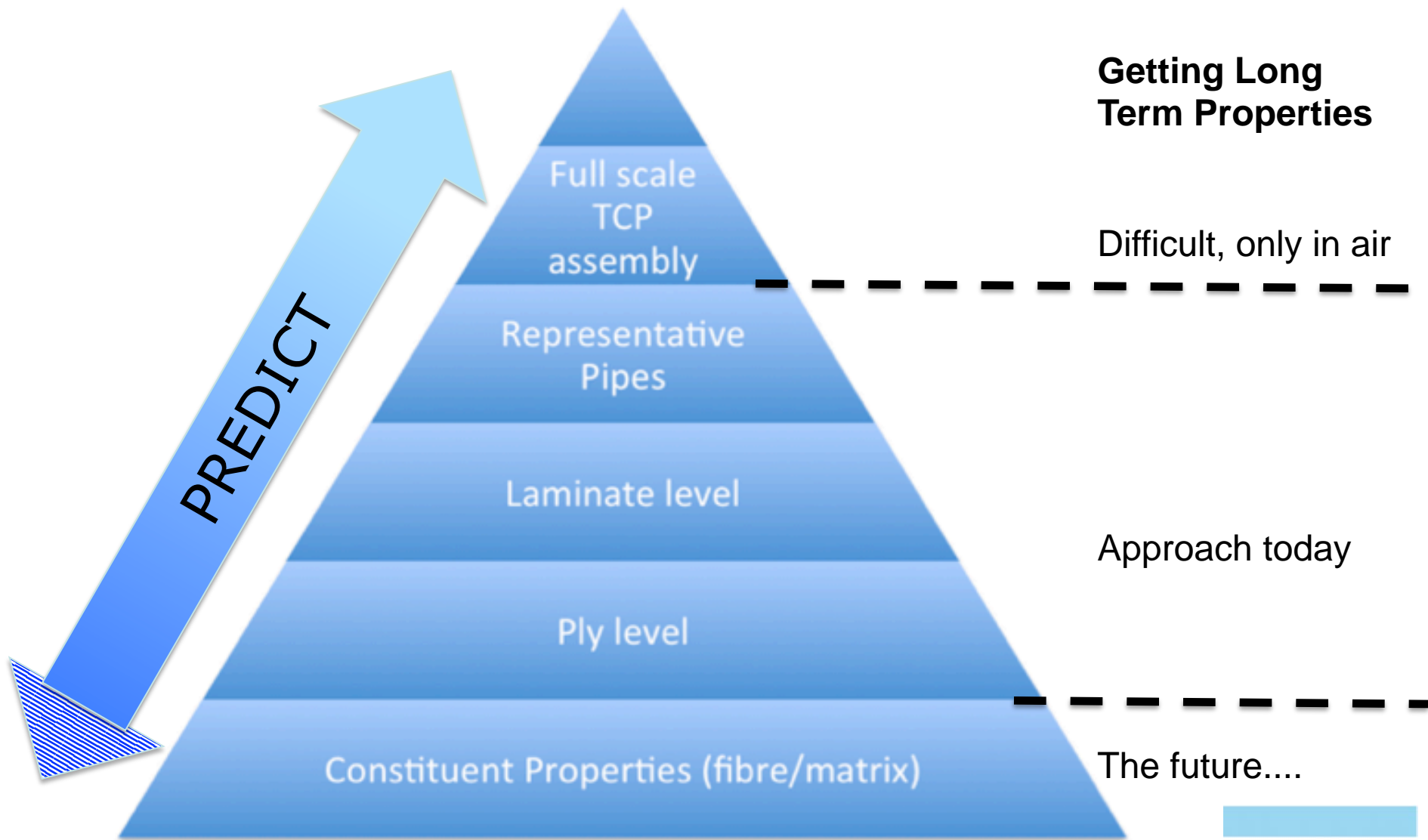
Testing in environments is difficult and time consuming.

This has stopped several good ideas or projects for composite applications.

But it has worked.



TEST PYRAMID in DNVGL-ST-F119



Materials in this presentation

Glass fibers

- 3B

Epoxy

- Hexion RIMR135 resin
- RIMH137 hardener

Exposure to water (saturation)

(other systems are currently being tested)

Long-term Properties “Degradation, Aging”

Reversible:

Swelling

Irreversible:

Chemical – break or rearrange bonds

Mechanical – break bonds (cracks, yield)

Strategy:

Check whether irreversible effects can happen
(usually avoid or effect should be small),
then look at mechanical properties

CONTENTS

Constituents:

Matrix

Fibers

Interphase / Sizing

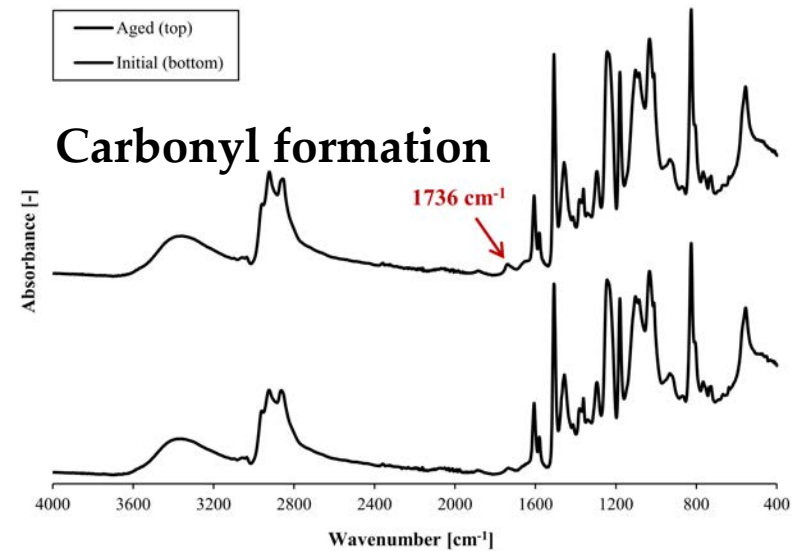
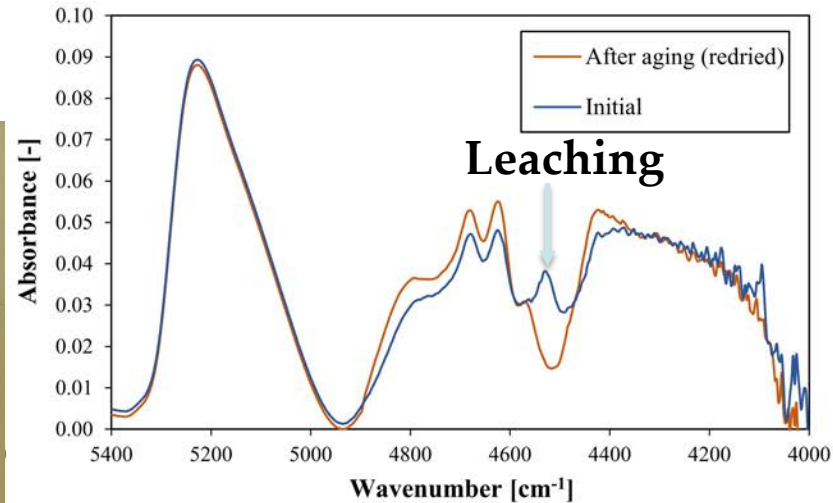
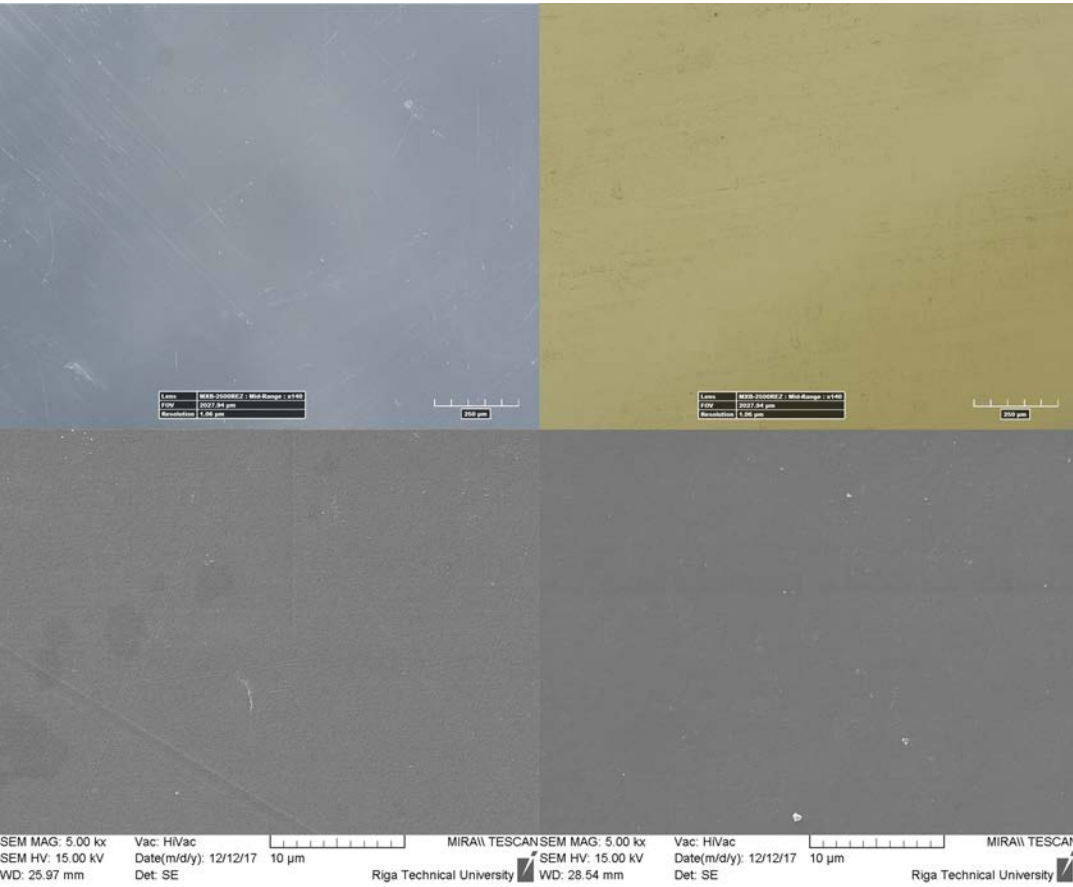
Composite Ply Properties:

Matrix dominated

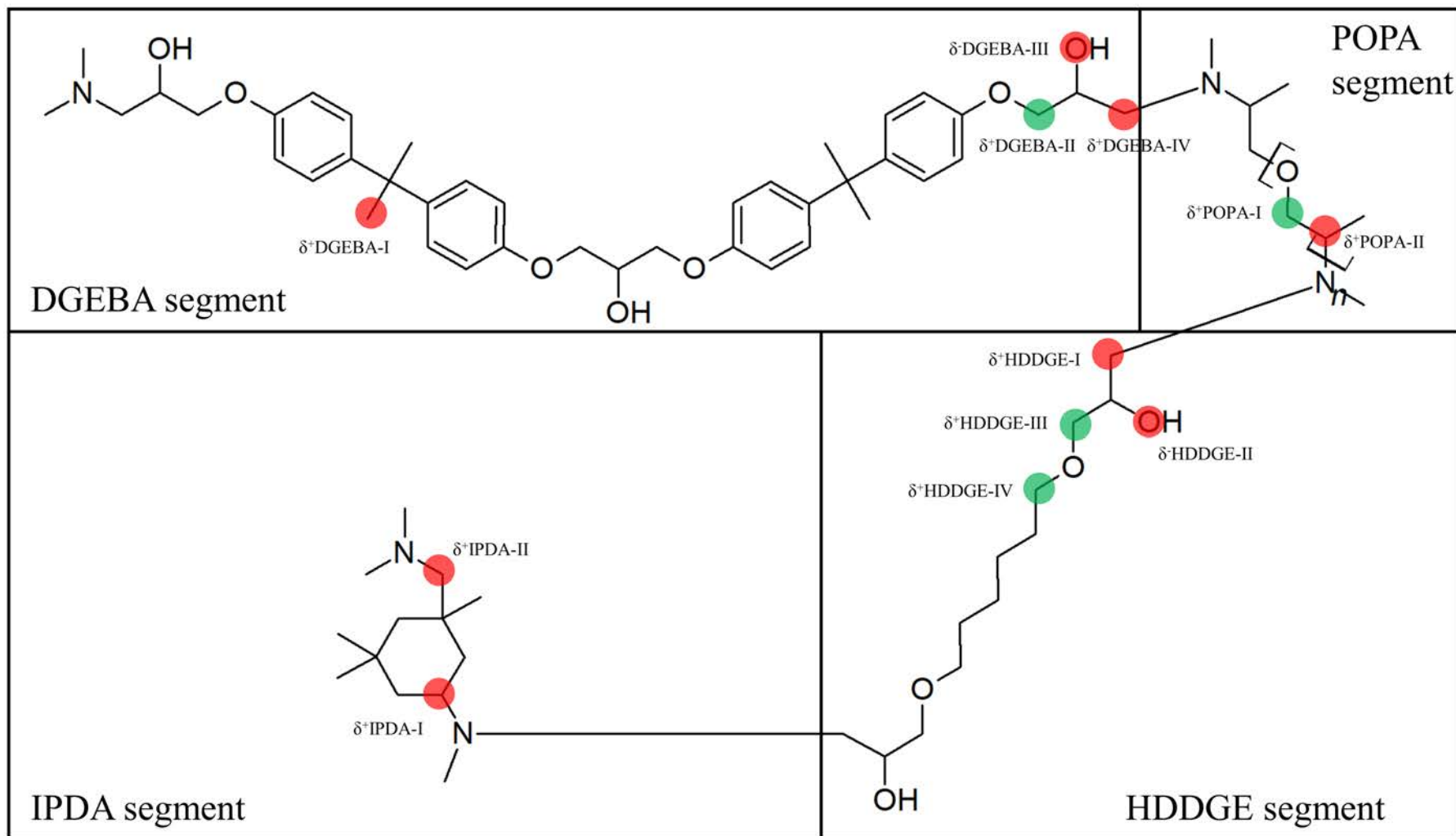
Fiber dominated

Interlaminar Shear

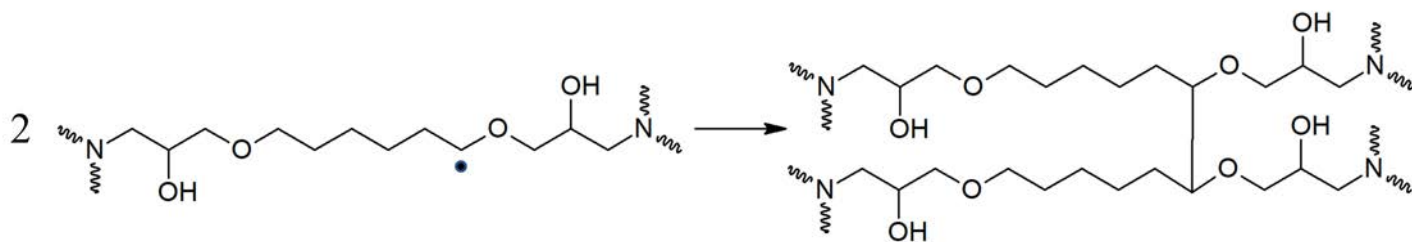
Amine Epoxy



Weak Points in the Structure

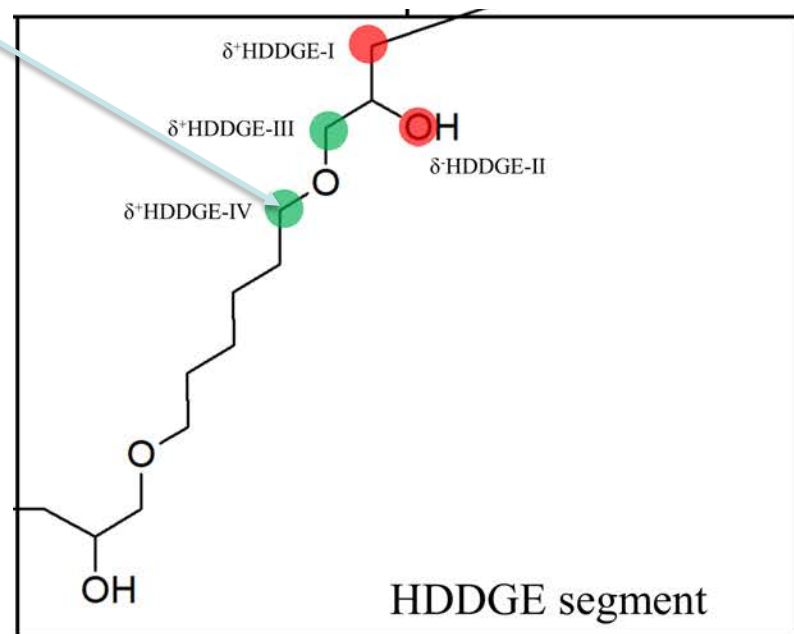


Weak Points: Crosslinking

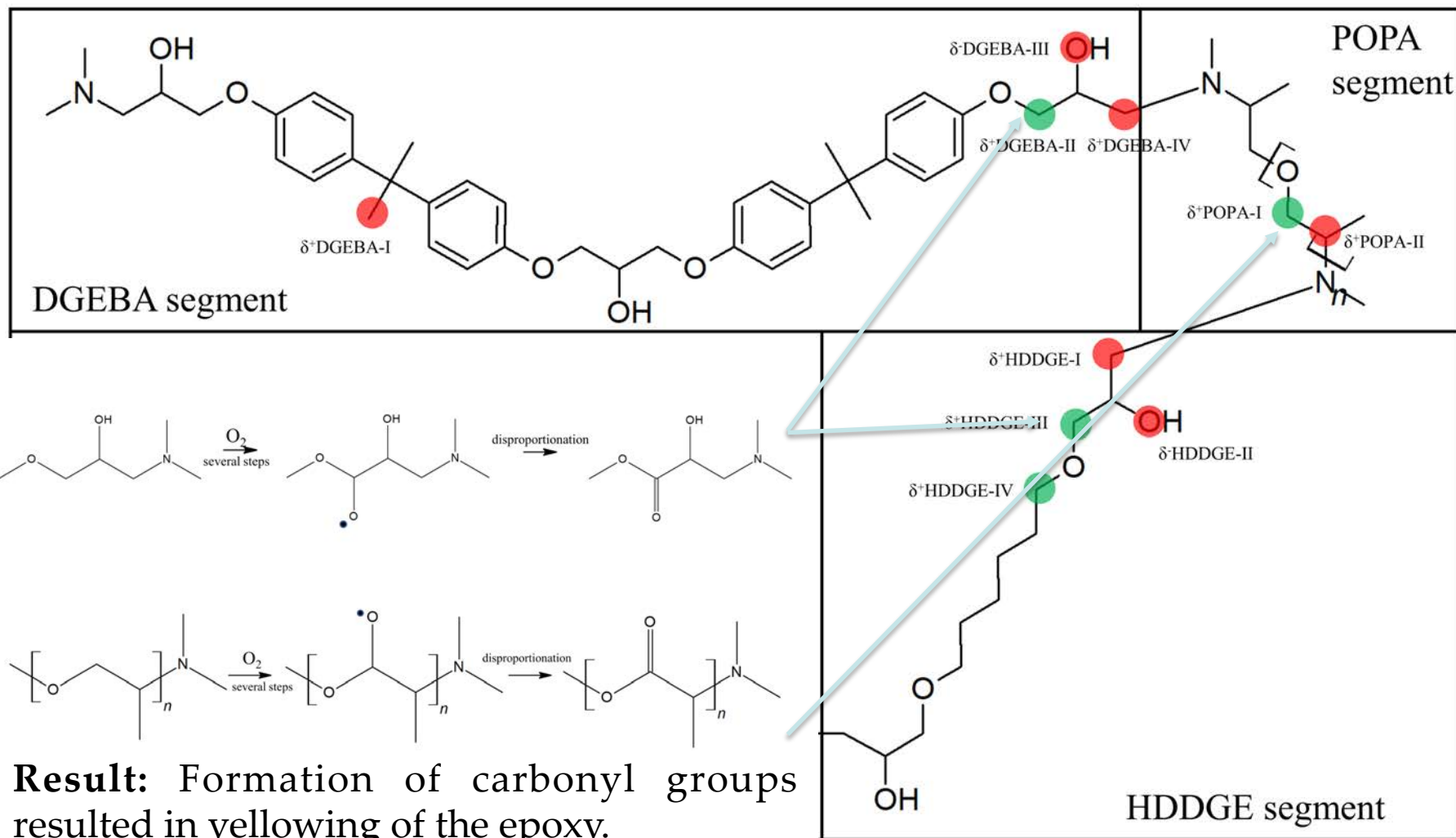


Result: Slightly increased T_g of the redried epoxy.

T_g of dry, wet and redried epoxy was 81.7, 59.1 and 84.7 °C, respectively.



Weak Points: Carbonyl Formation



Result: Formation of carbonyl groups resulted in yellowing of the epoxy.

Chemical degradation

No significant chemical degradation.

Properties should be affected by swelling

Mechanical property changes should be reversible

Static Stress-Strain Curve

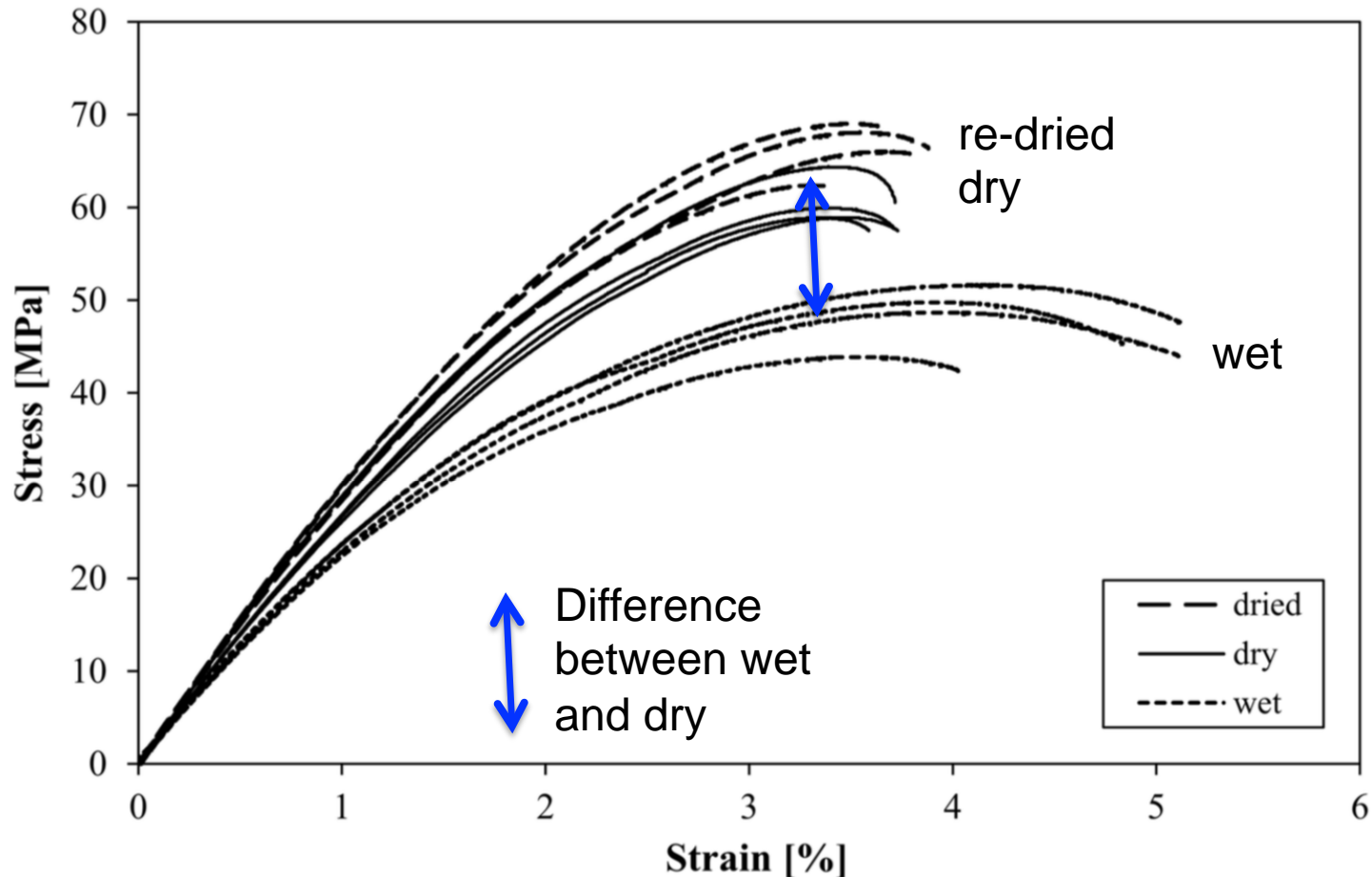
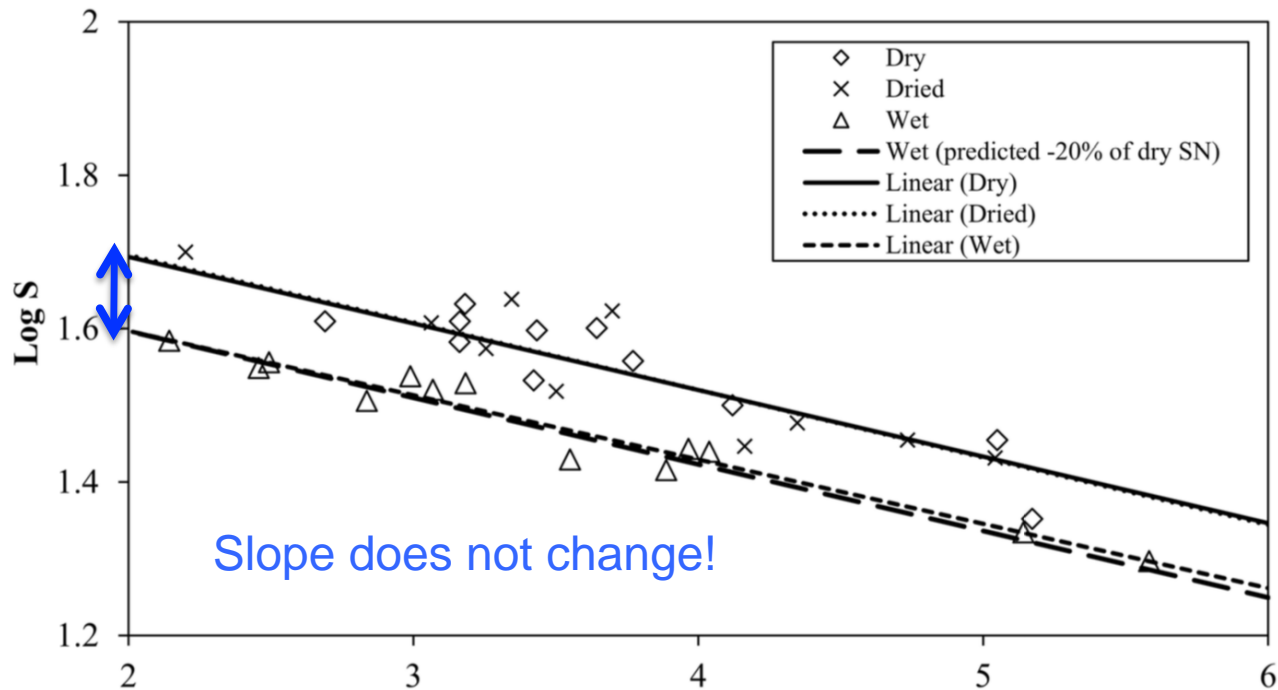


Figure 3: Stress-strain curves of dry, conditioned and dried epoxy specimens.

SN curves of the epoxy



Reversible changes. Slope remains the same.
Ideally: measure one SN curve, shift the curve based on static strength changes.

CONTENTS

Constituents:

Matrix

Fibers

Interphase

Composite:

Matrix dominated

Fiber dominated

Interlaminar Shear

Hygrothermal Aging of R glass

Experimental:

Fiber bundles in 60 ± 1 °C water bath.

Samples in closed vessels with distilled water.

High resolution inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (HR-ICP-MS) to determine dissolution kinetics.

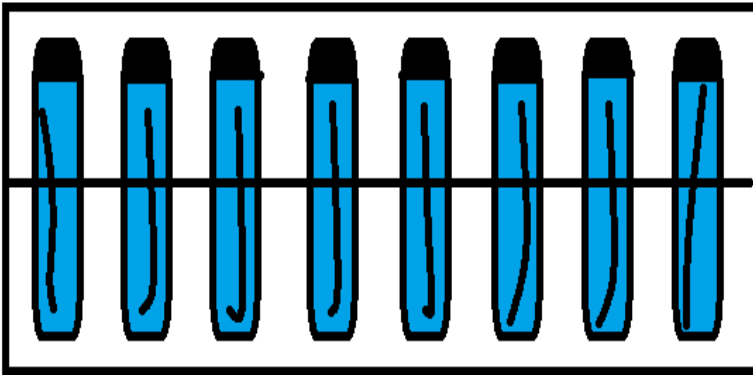
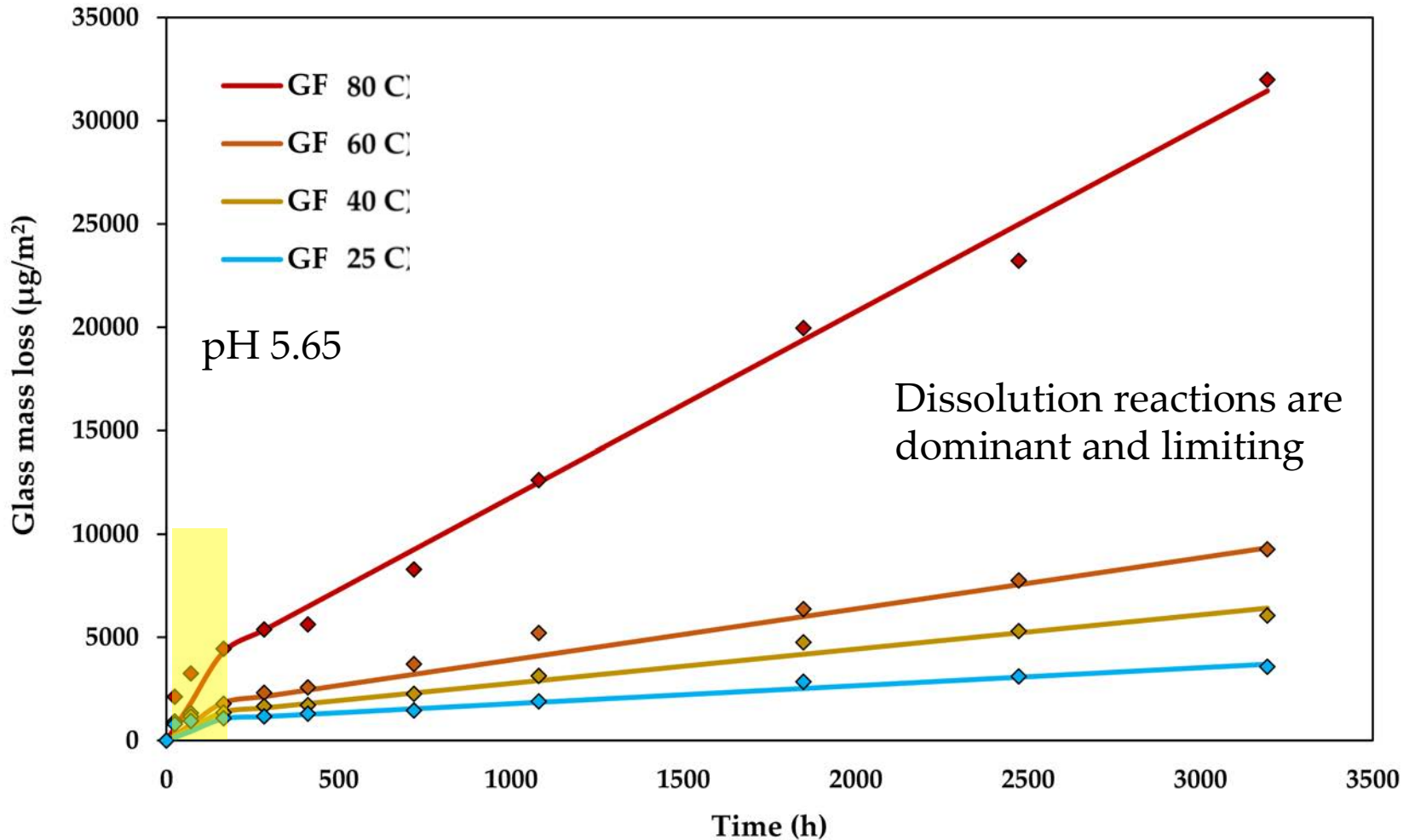


Figure: Water conditioning of glass fiber bundles and composite plates

Effect of Temperature – Arrhenius



Sized Glass Fibers in Water

Short-term non-steady state:

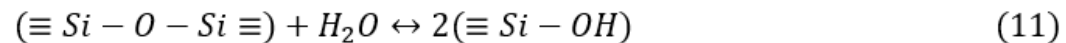
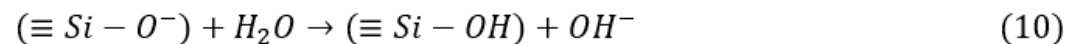
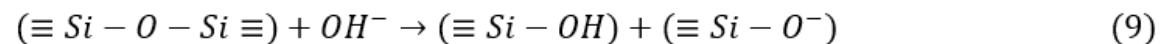
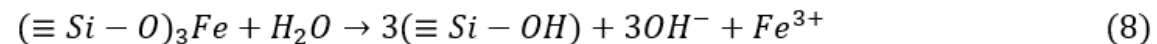
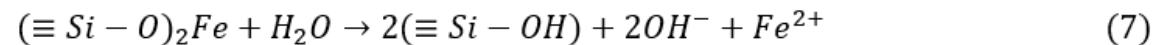
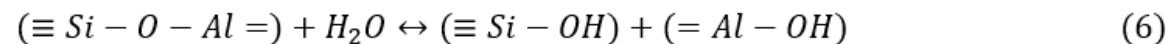
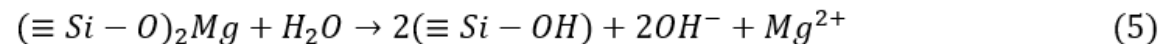
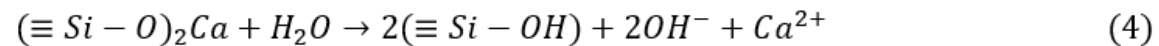
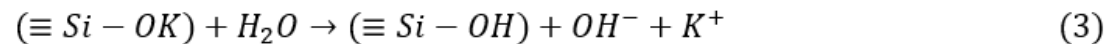
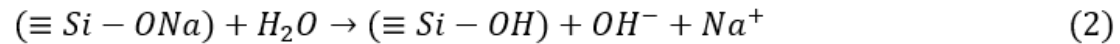
- Ion exchange reactions
- Gel formation
- Dissolution reactions
- Other mineral phase formation

Process is very complex (on the surface) and ion release is not linear with time. It is possible sizing also plays a role in this region.

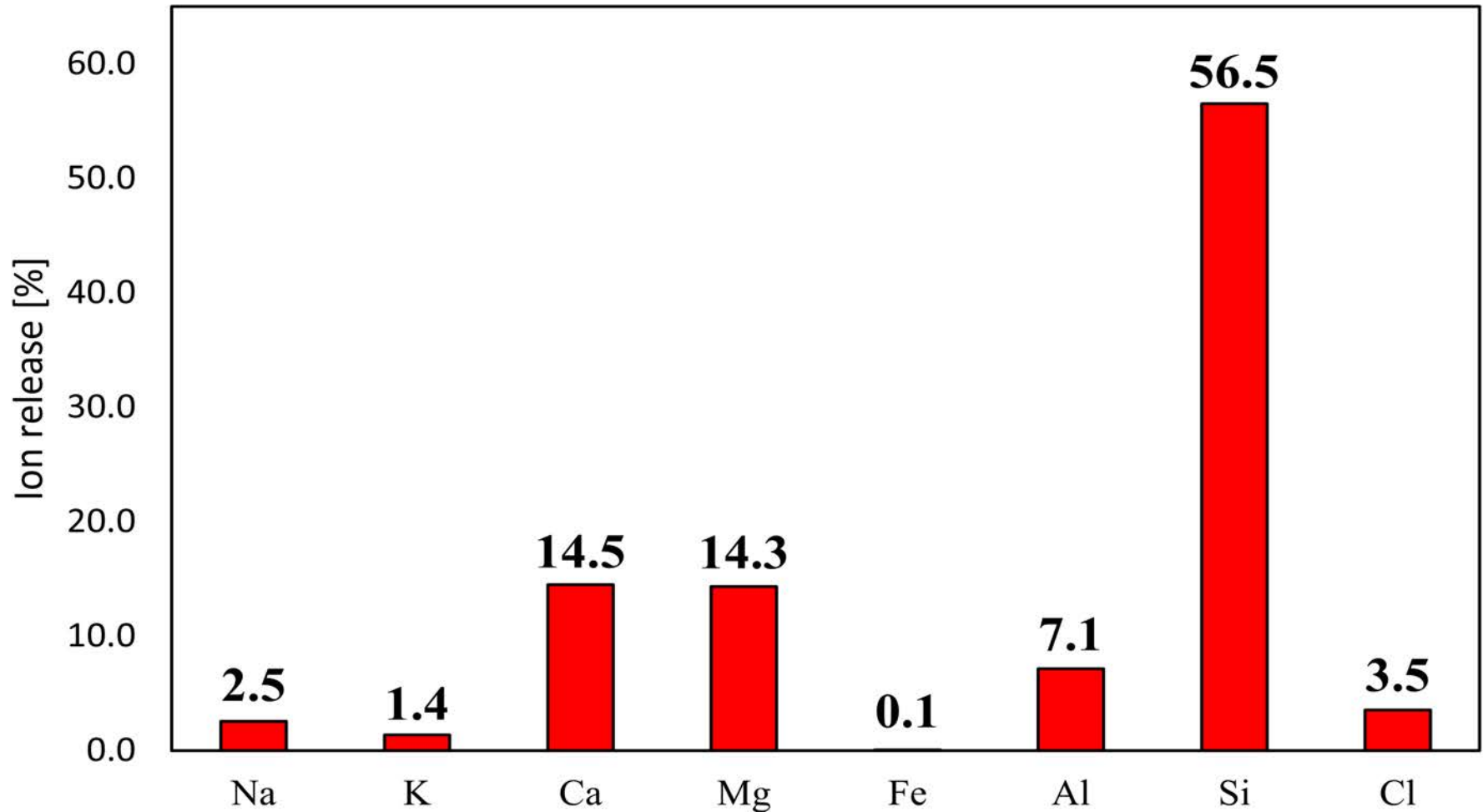
Long-term steady state:

Dissolution reactions become dominant and limiting.

Chemical Reactions for Glass



Ions identified: ion release rates



Dissolution Kinetics

First order equation $\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = K_0 S$ & consider that:

- Sizing slows down the reaction rate (add a factor), m and S are correlated by geometry

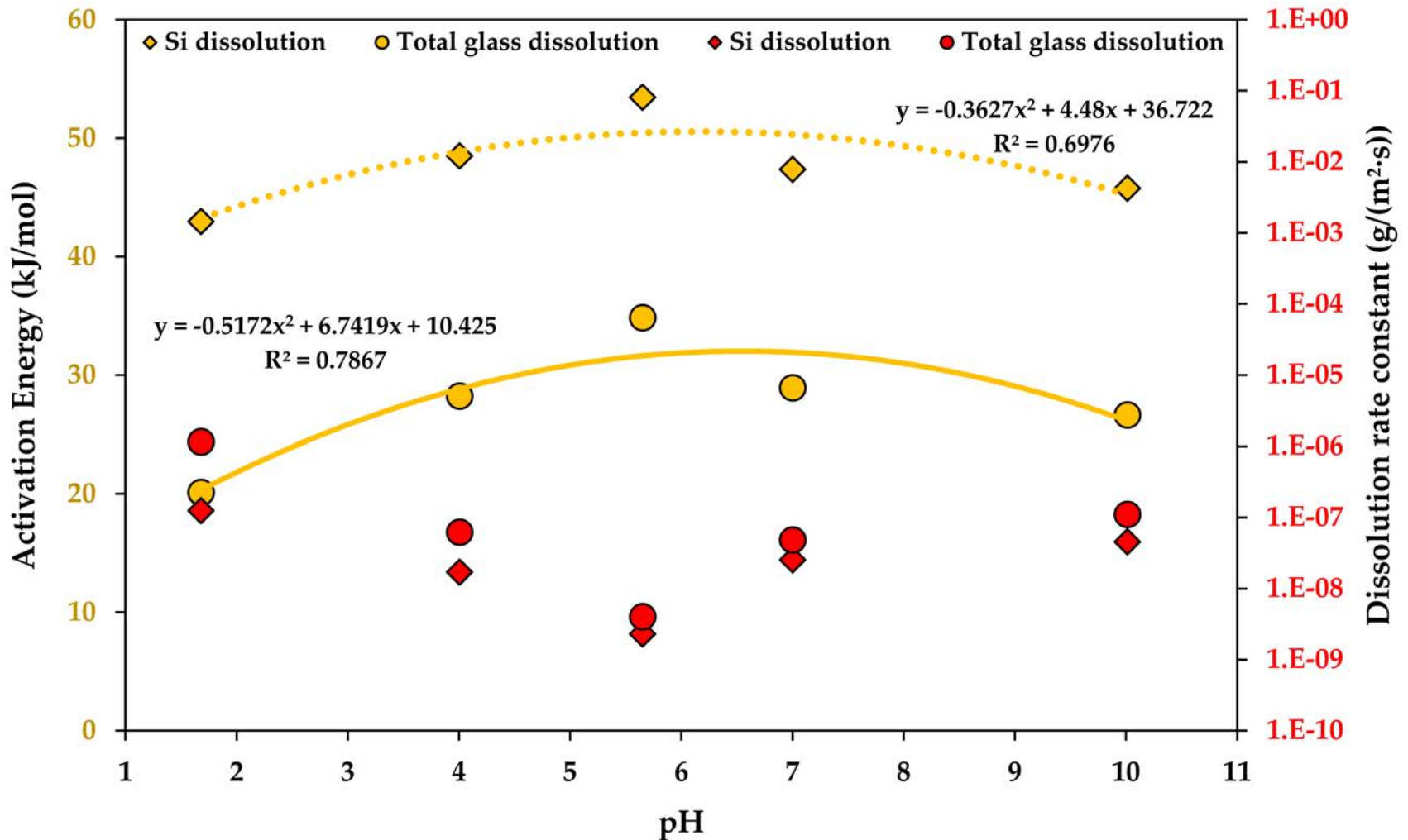
$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = 2n\pi l \left(r_0 K_0 \xi_{sizing} - \frac{K_0^2 \xi_{sizing}^2}{\rho_{glass}} t \right)$$

- pH, temperature and stress corrosion affect the dissolution rate constants: $K_0 = A e^{-\frac{E_A(pH, \sigma)}{RT}}$

Final equation:

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = 2n\pi l \left(r_0 K_0 \xi_{sizing} - \frac{(K_0 \xi_{sizing})^2}{\rho_{glass}} t \right) = 2n\pi l \left(r_0 A e^{-\frac{E_A(pH, \sigma)}{RT}} \xi_{sizing} - \frac{\left(A e^{-\frac{E_A(pH, \sigma)}{RT}} \xi_{sizing} \right)^2}{\rho_{glass}} t \right)$$

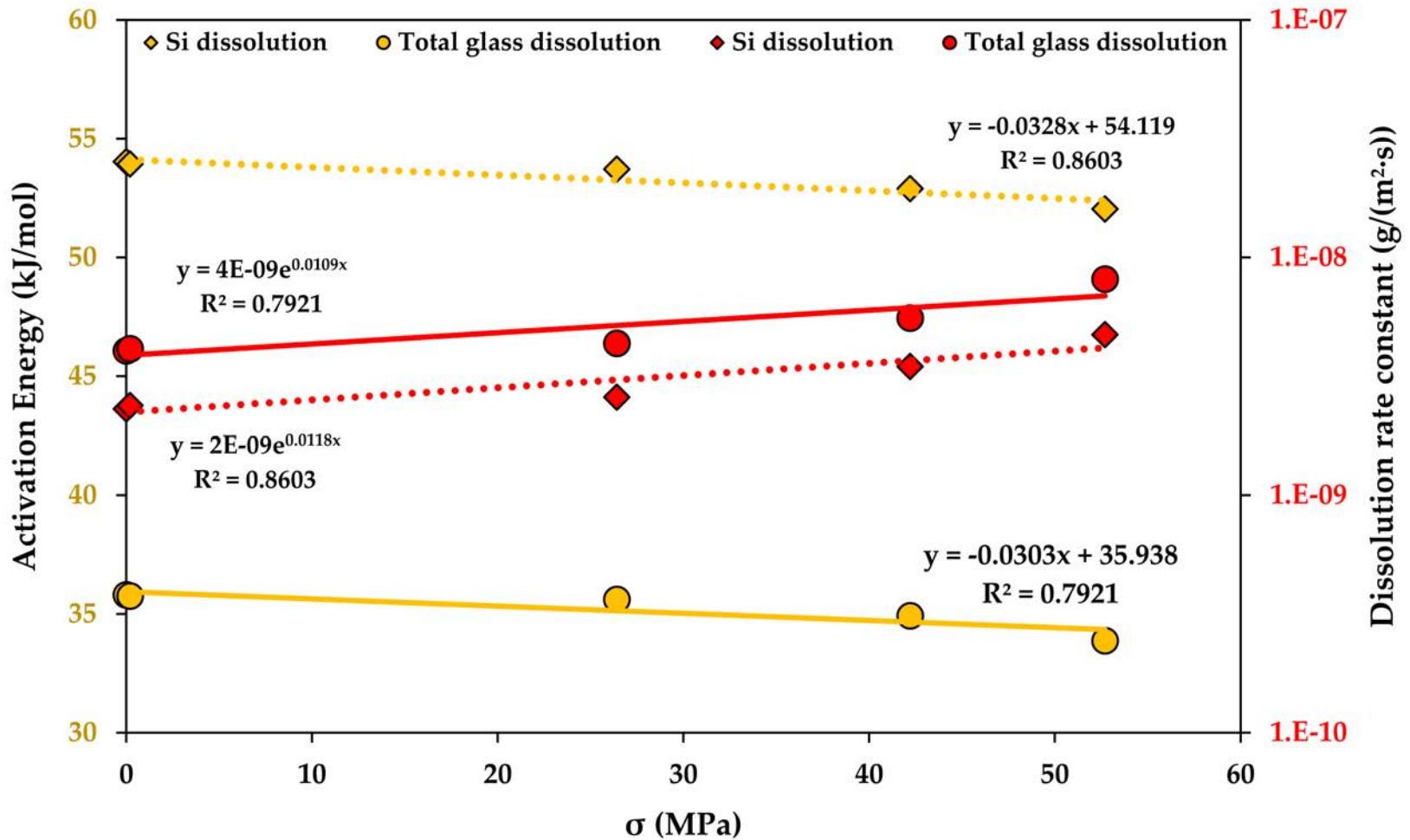
Effect of Acidity



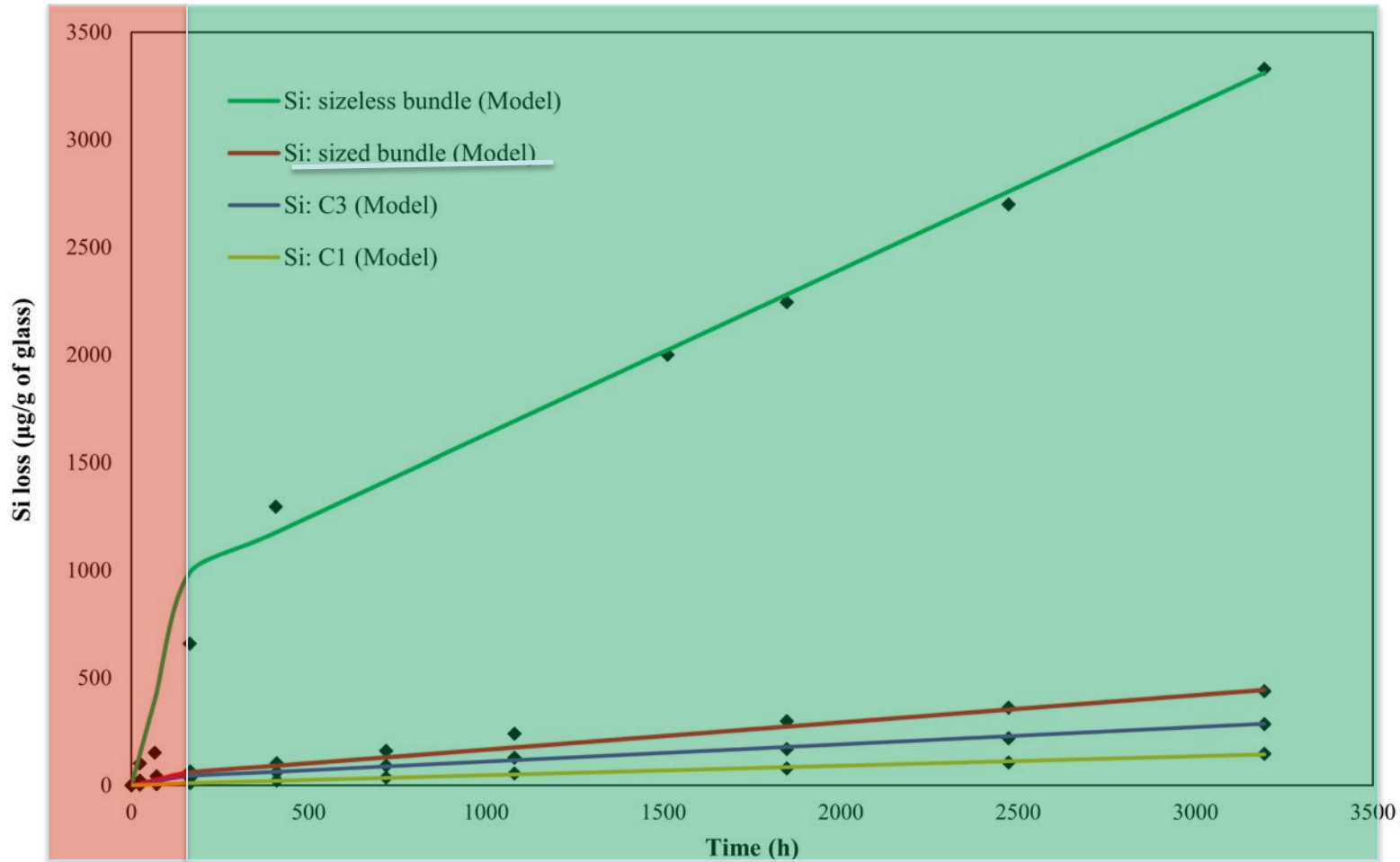
Effect of Stress



Effect of Stress



Dissolution – Sized and bare



Short-term non-steady state

Long-term steady state

Glass fiber chemical degradation

An analytical model is developed that predicts long-term dissolution of sized glass from fiber bundles at various pH, T and stress.

The sizing protects glass fibers from dissolution by almost 6 times.

Linking mass loss to strength loss is in progress.

Effects are slowed down further inside a composite ply.

CONTENTS

Constituents:

Matrix

Fibers

Interphase

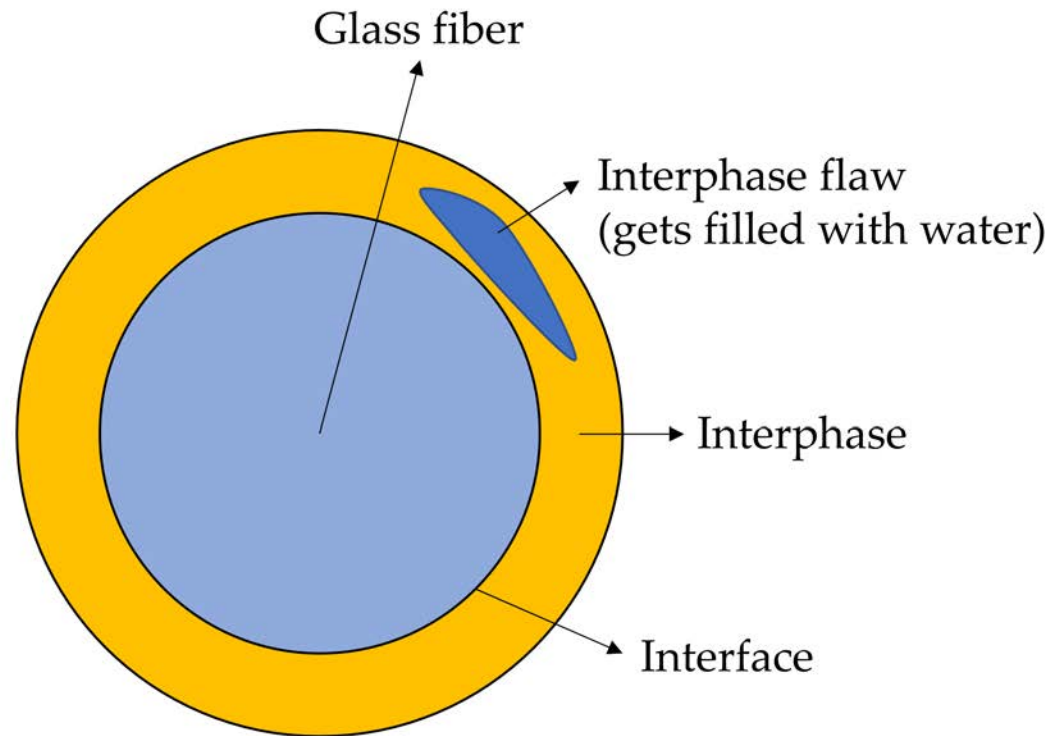
Composite:

Matrix dominated

Fiber dominated

Interlaminar Shear

Hydrolysis of the Interphase



Experimental Program for Diffusion testing

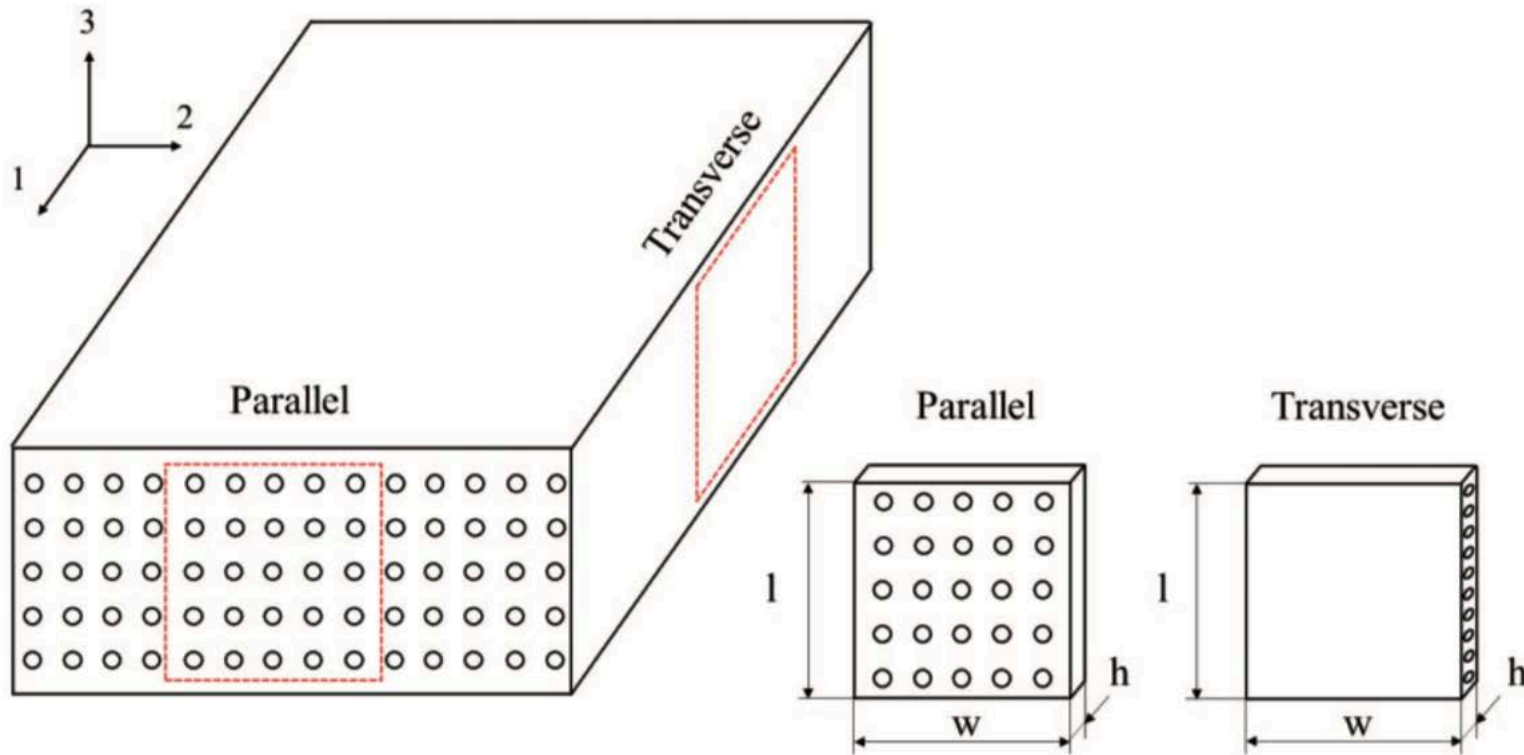
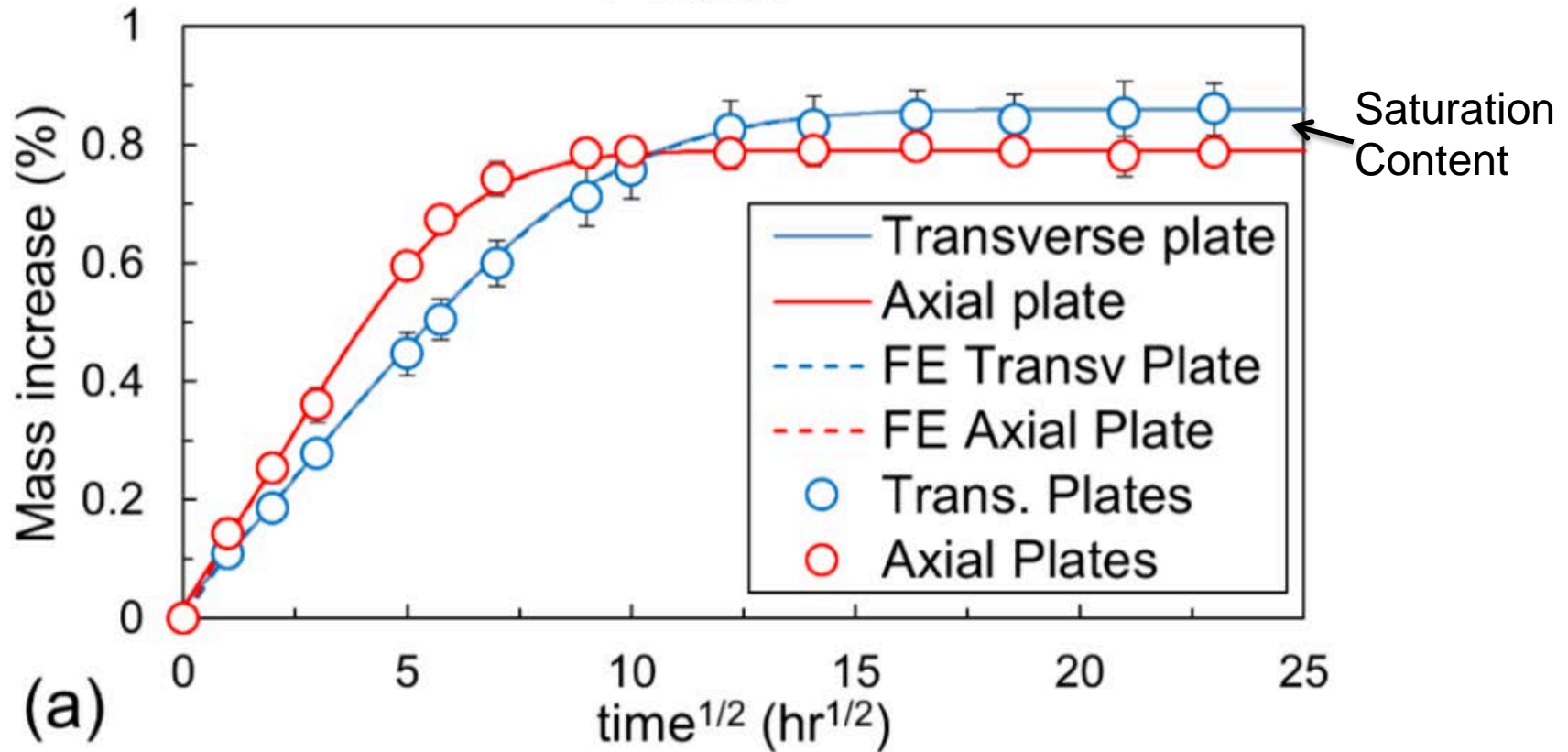


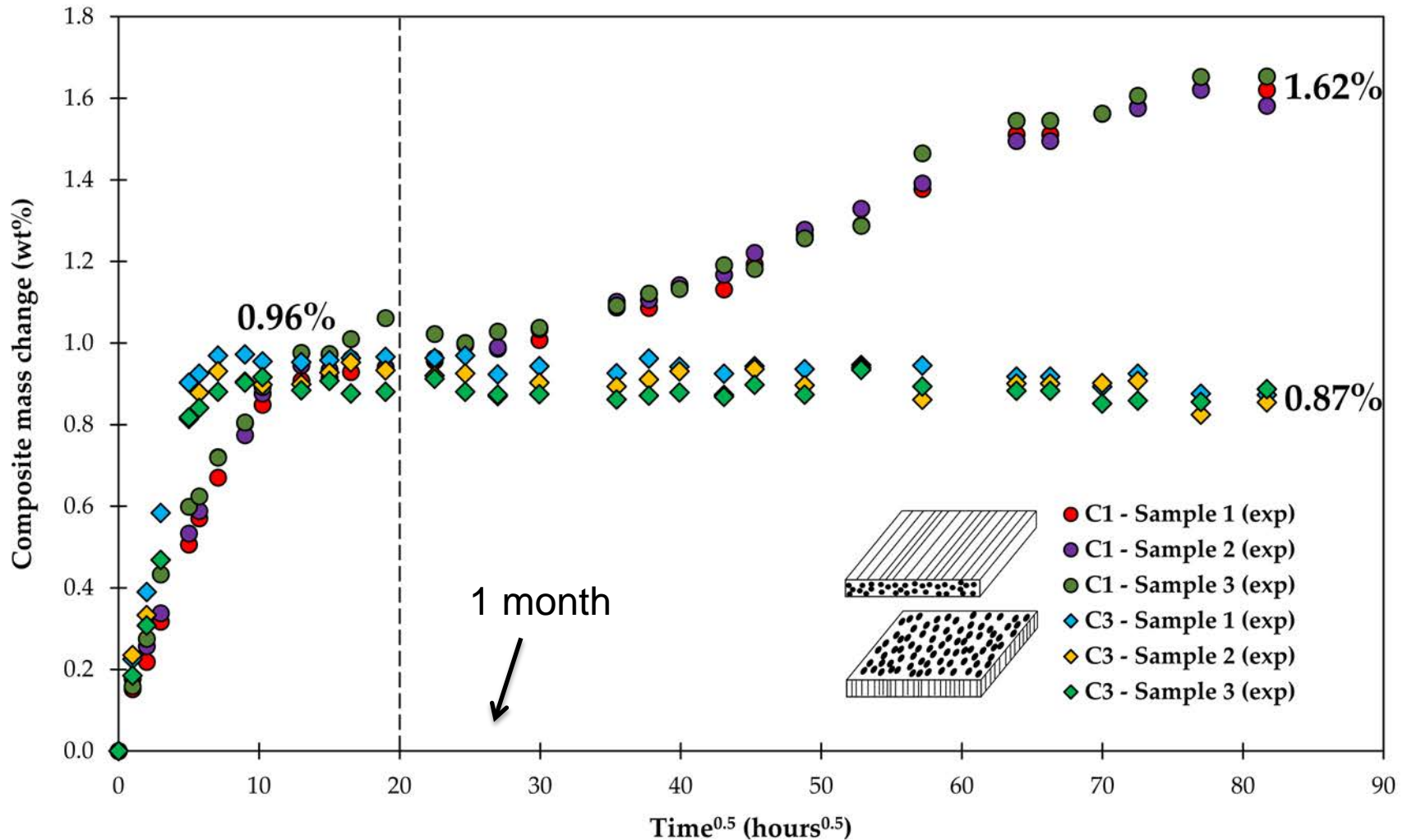
Figure 1. Composite samples configurations. Dimensions are 50 mm \times 50 mm \times 1.5 mm.

Diffusivity Measurements

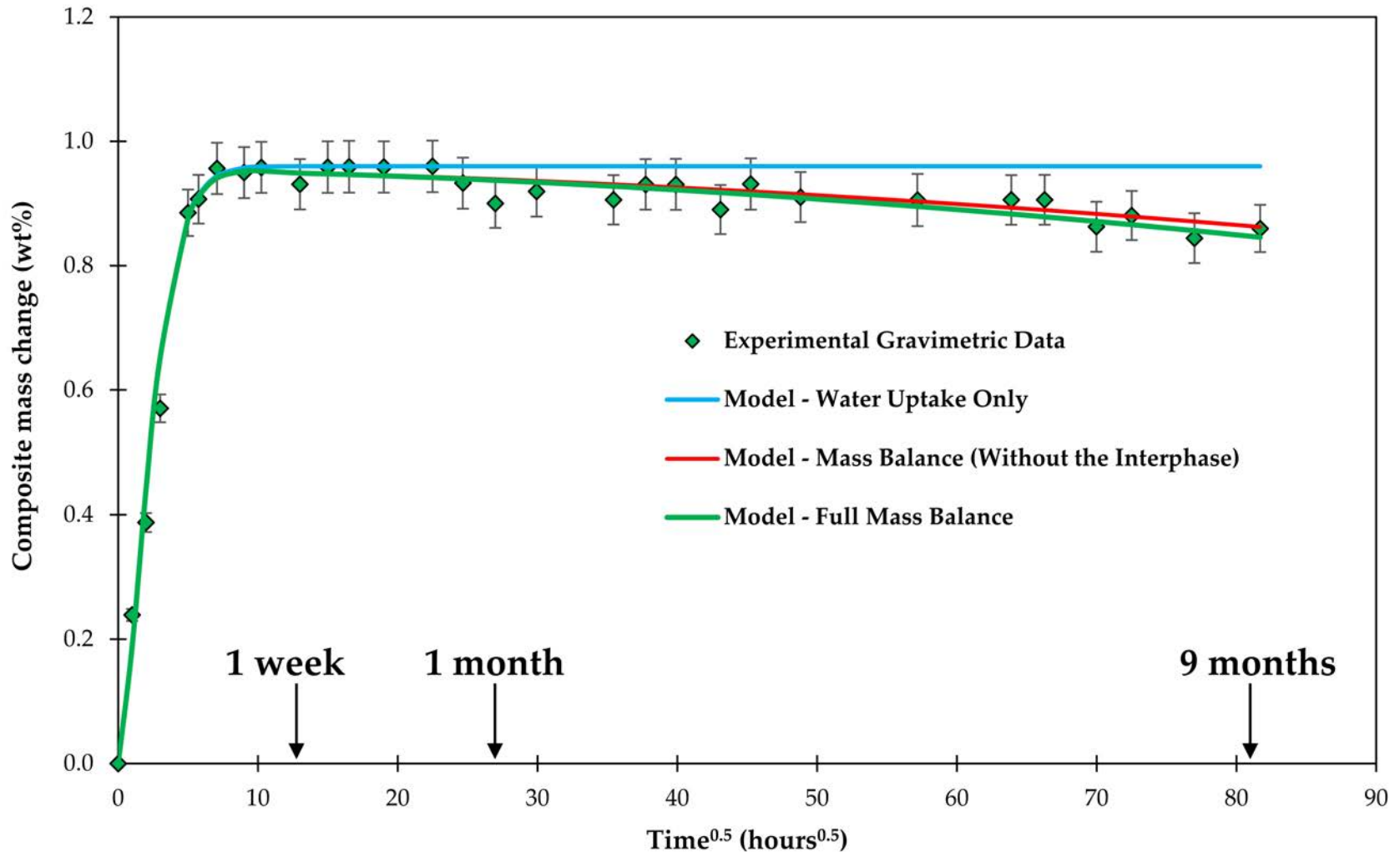


$$M(t) = M_{eq} \left[1 - \left(\frac{8}{\pi^2} \right)^3 \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2i-1)^2} e^{-(2i-1)^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{l} \right)^2 D_{\perp} t} \cdot \frac{1}{(2j-1)^2} e^{-(2j-1)^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{w} \right)^2 D_{\perp} t} \cdot \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} e^{-(2k-1)^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{h} \right)^2 D_{\parallel} t} \right] \quad (18)$$

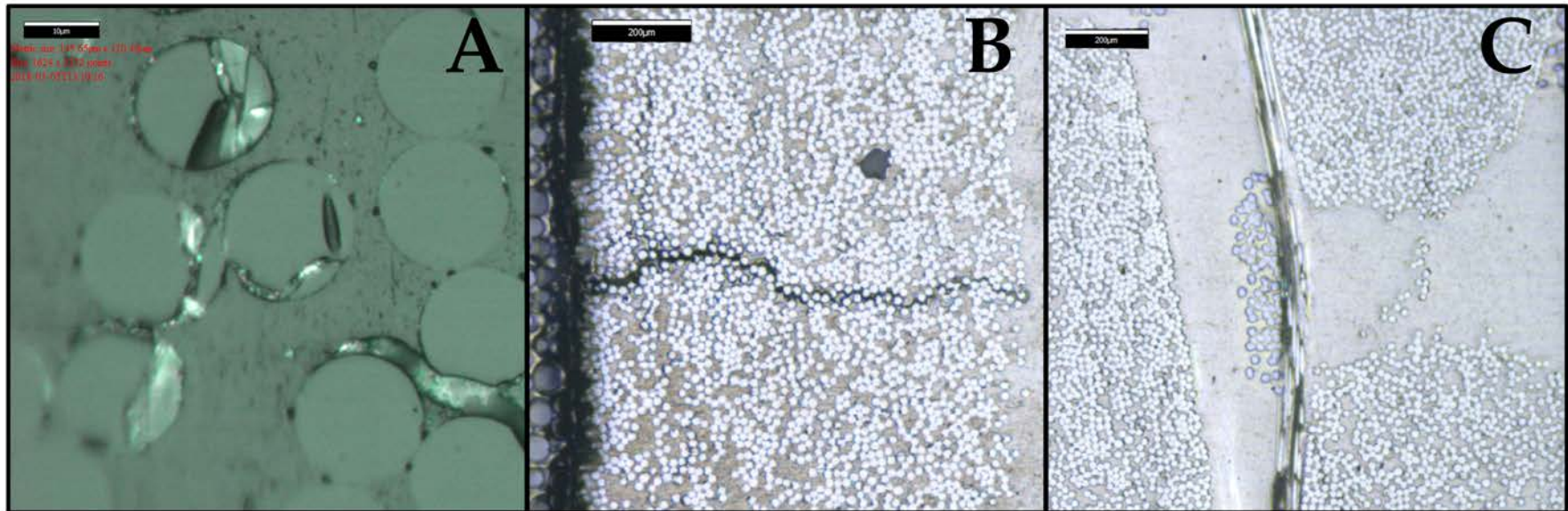
Gravimetric data and mass balance



Gravimetric data and mass balance

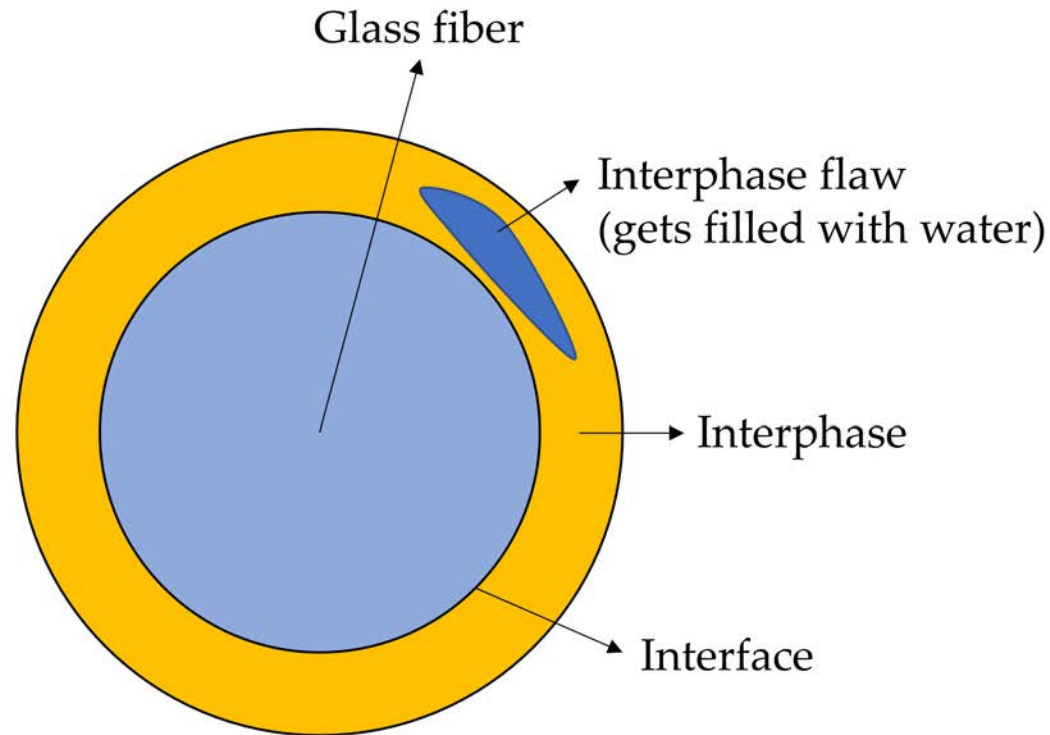


Hydrolysis of the Interphase

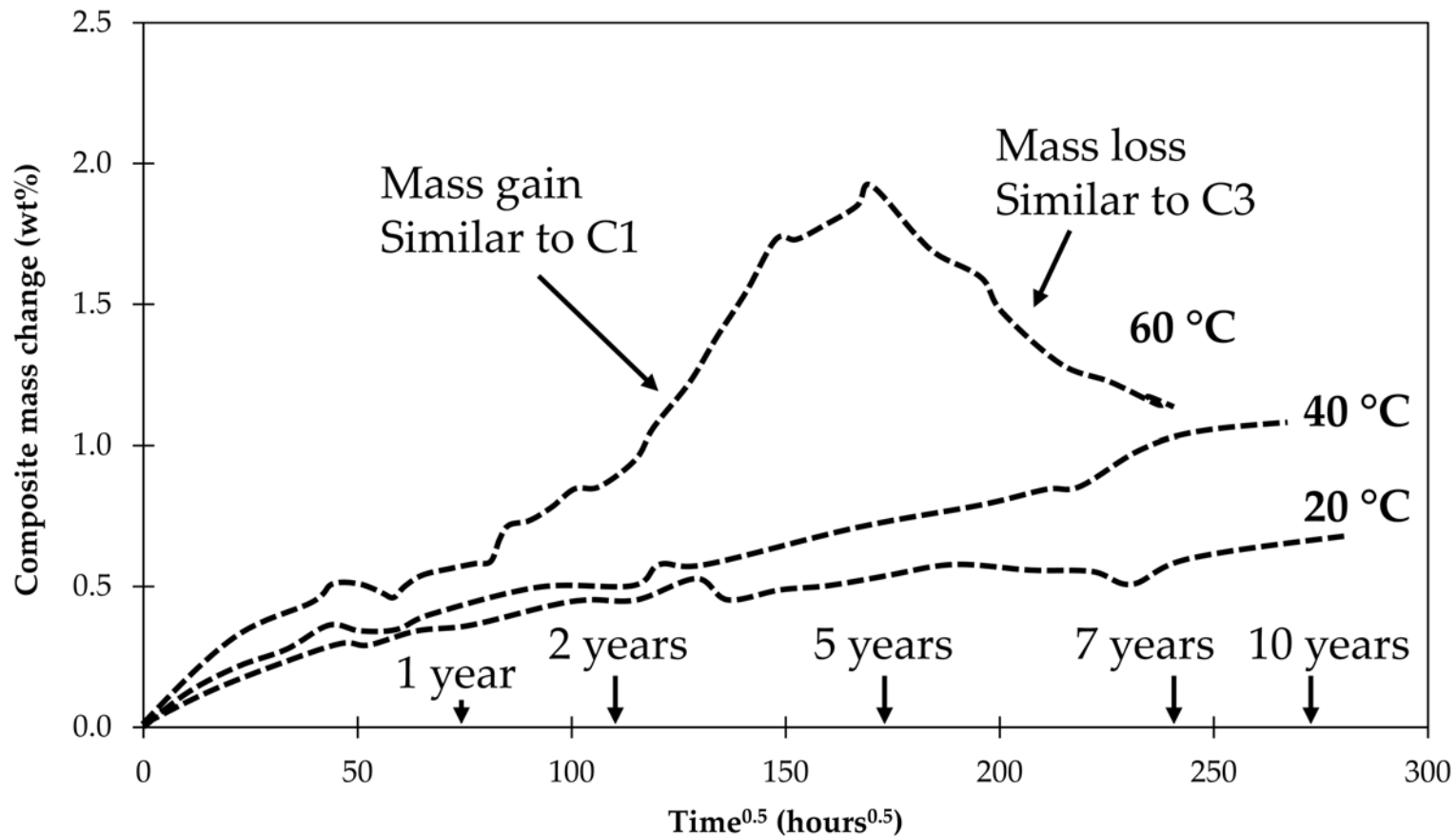


Micrograph of a composite sample exposed to water for 6673 h at 60 °C. The micrograph indicates the (A) fiber/matrix debondings; (B) matrix transverse cracks; (C) splitting along the fibers.

Hydrolysis of the Interphase



Long-Term Water Uptake



Data from Perreux, D.; Choqueuse, D.; Davies, P. Anomalies in moisture absorption of glass fibre reinforced epoxy tubes. *Compos. Part A* 2002, 33, 147–154.

Hydrolysis Kinetics of Interphase (speculative)

Table 4. Systematized scenarios of the interphase dissolution kinetics.

	$K_i^0 S_i^0$ (g/h)	Sizing coverage (%)	δ_i (nm)	S_i^0 (m ²)	K_i^0 (g/(m ² ·h))	Time to total dissolution (years)
Scenario 1	$1.80 \cdot 10^{-7}$	100	65	$4.43 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$4.06 \cdot 10^{-3}$	22.7
Scenario 2	$1.80 \cdot 10^{-7}$	100	65	1.01	$1.78 \cdot 10^{-7}$	30.5
Scenario 3	$1.80 \cdot 10^{-7}$	90, after [39]	72	0.91	$1.98 \cdot 10^{-7}$	30.5

Interphase Results

Fiber-matrix interphase degradation was observed after the matrix was fully saturated with water and typical water absorption tests according to ASTM D5229 were stopped.

Thus, ASTM D5229 should involve longer water uptake times.

Due to water-induced dissolution or swelling stresses, fiber-matrix interphase flaws were formed, which then lead to increased water uptake.

When a interpenetrated network of flaws is formed, a mass loss occurs.

Speculatively, for the SMALL composite laminate samples studied here with a saturated epoxy matrix, the fiber matrix interphase is predicted to be fully degraded after 22 to 30 years.

CONTENTS

Constituents:

Matrix

Fibers

Interphase

Composite Ply Properties:

Matrix dominated

Fiber dominated

Interlaminar Shear

Matrix dominated ply properties

Matrix dominated properties (Matrix cracking) was not investigated in this project, since most composites used offshore for pipes and pressure vessels have liners and matrix cracking is “acceptable”.

For other applications matrix cracking may be critical.

Fiber dominated ply properties

Sized fiber bundles loose mass 6 times slower than bare fiber bundles.

Fiber's mass loss inside a composite was inconclusive so far, but slower. Bundle loss could be taken as a conservative value.

Relative changes might remain the same?

We are working on a link between mass loss and strength loss allowing use of the kinetic models developed for mass loss.

CONTENTS

Constituents:

Matrix

Fibers

Interphase

Composite Ply Properties:

Matrix dominated

Fiber dominated

[Interlaminar Shear](#)

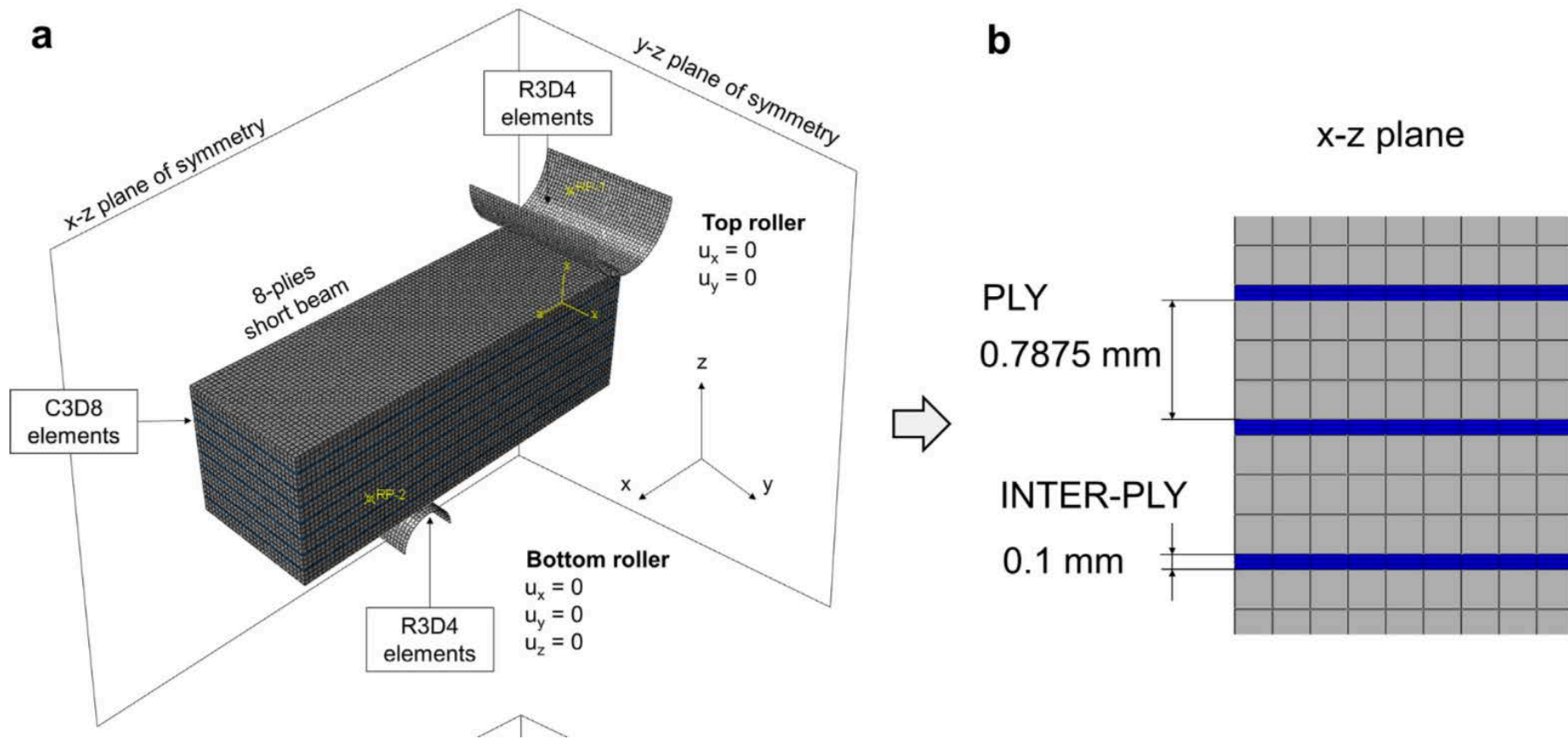
Interlaminar shear

Can this through thickness property be predicted by matrix properties?

From a practical point of view it is not sufficient, because the interface's properties between plies is somewhat dependent on the production process, especially for thermoplastics.

Interlaminar Shear Strength

New method to analyze SBS test

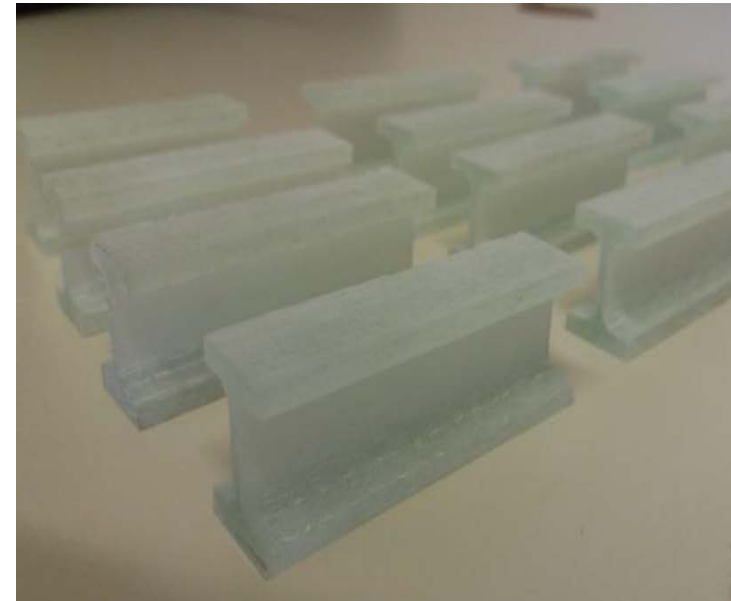
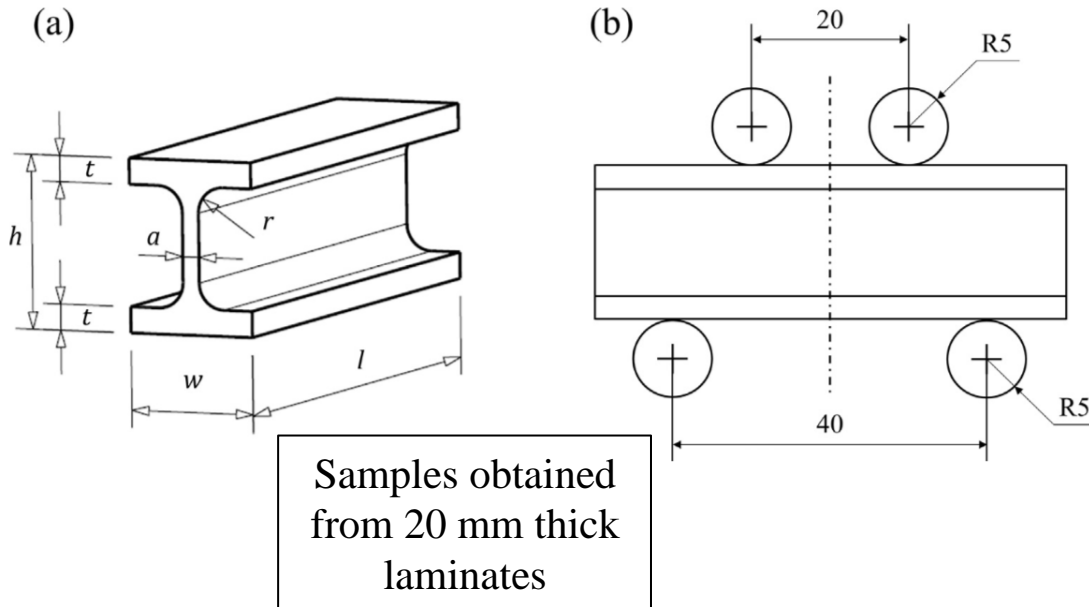


Test composite with I-beam

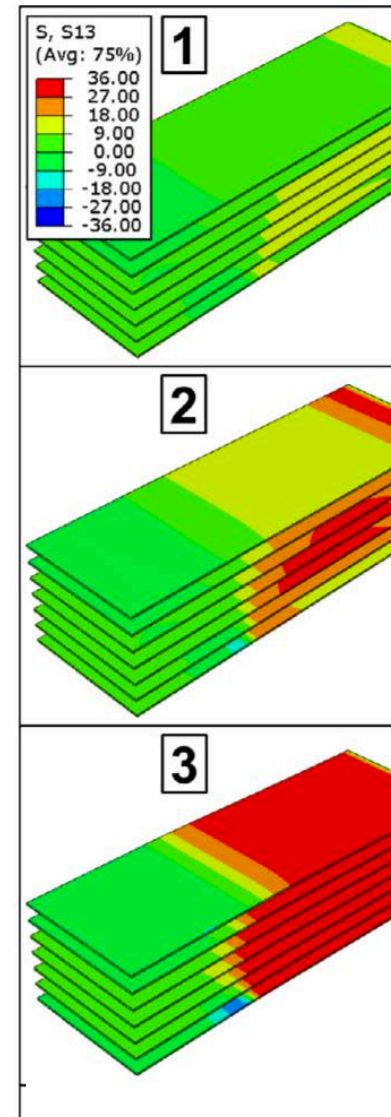
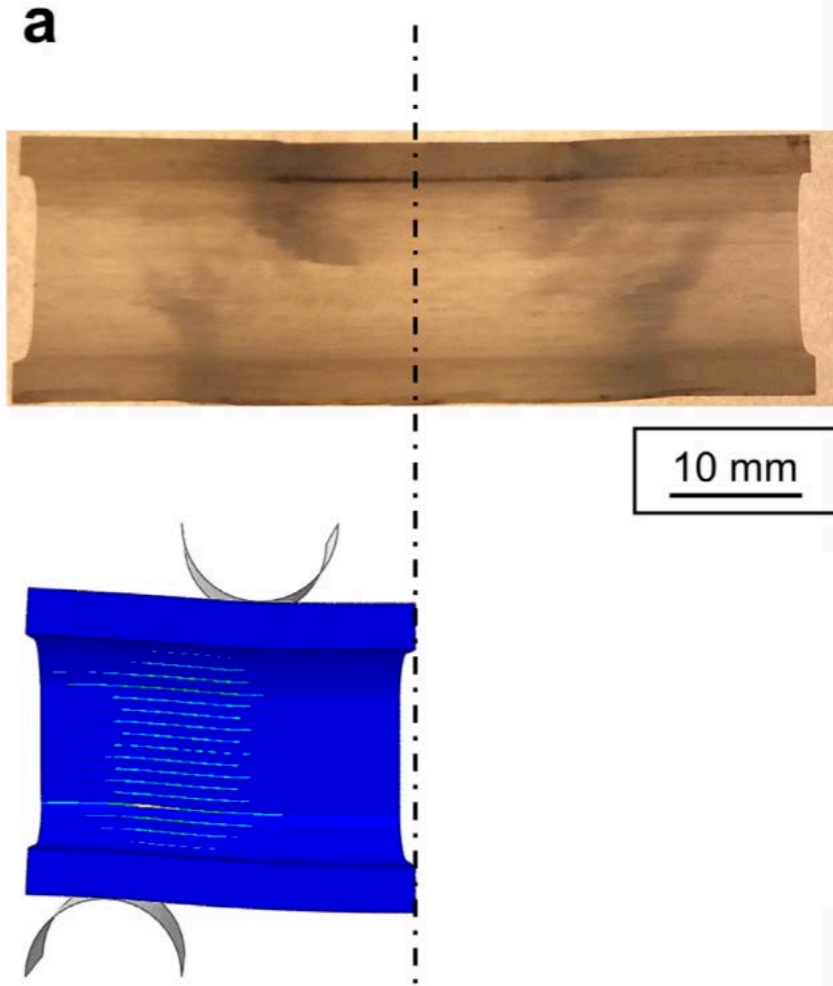
Replace SBS Test with I beam

Conditioning time reduced from 8 to 2 months

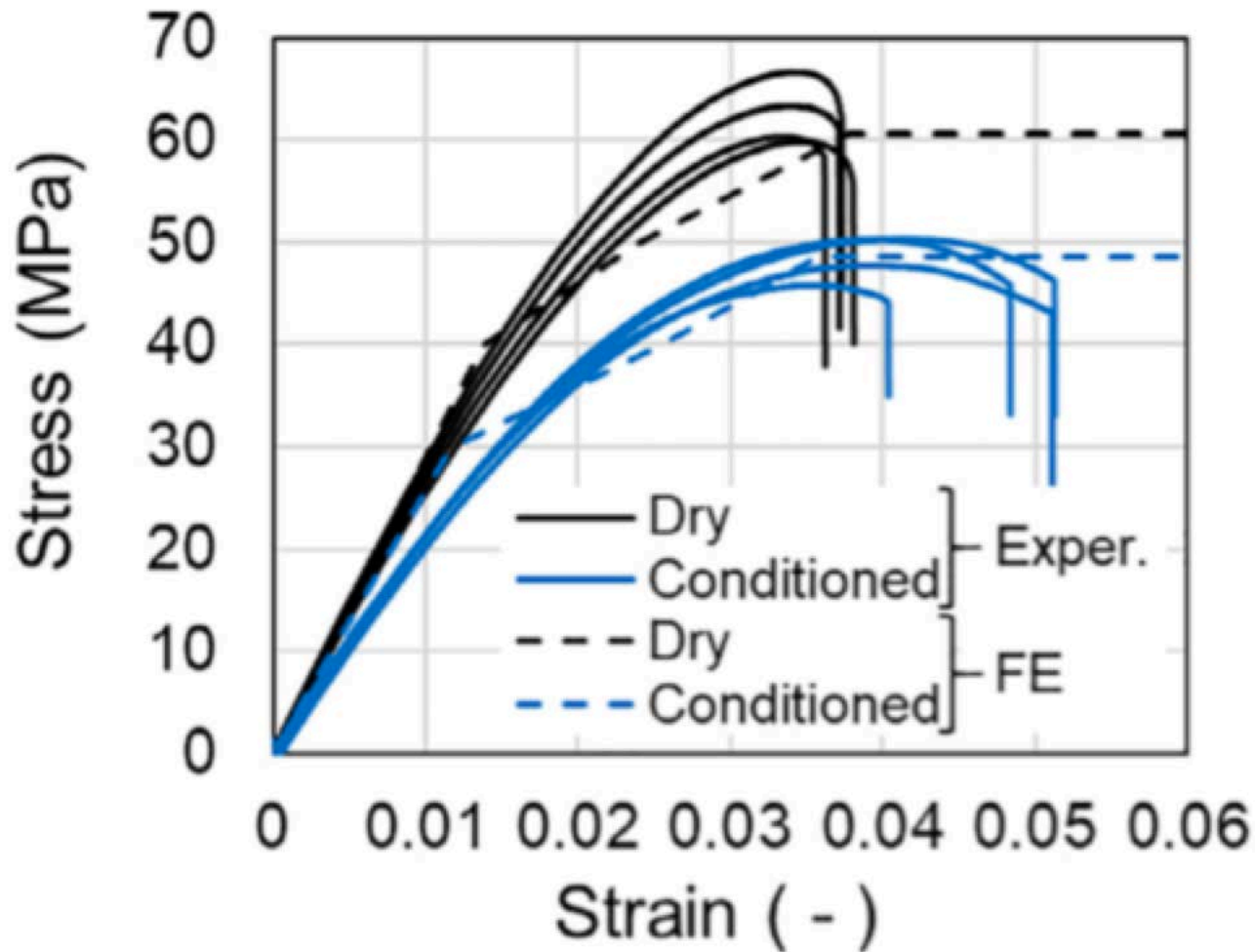
Still possible to observe shear failure



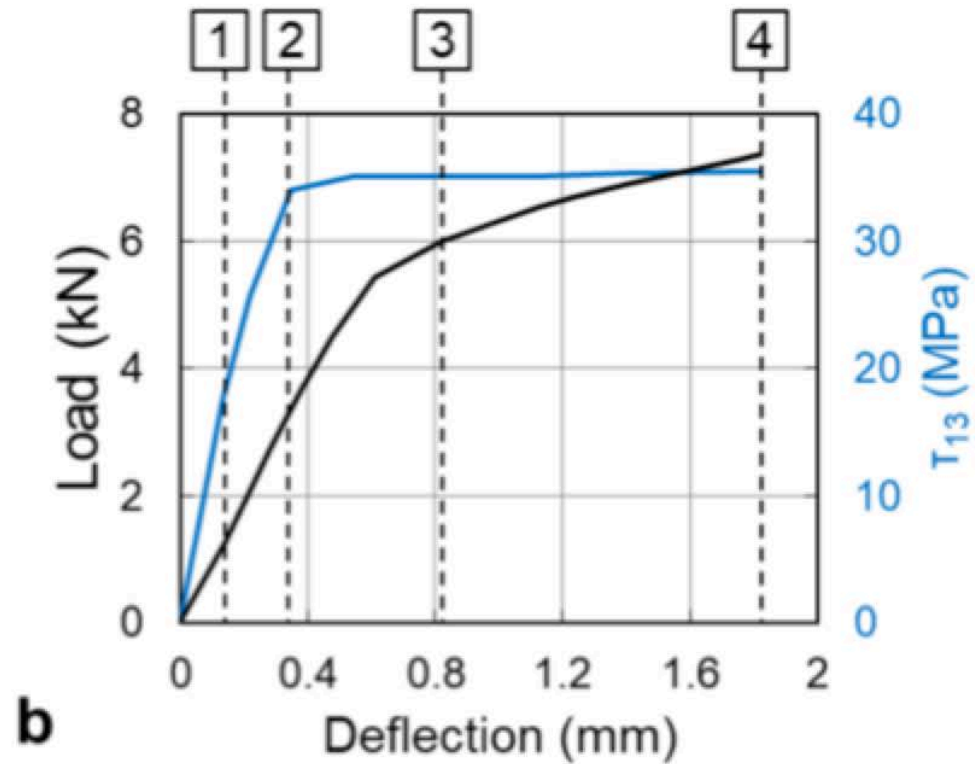
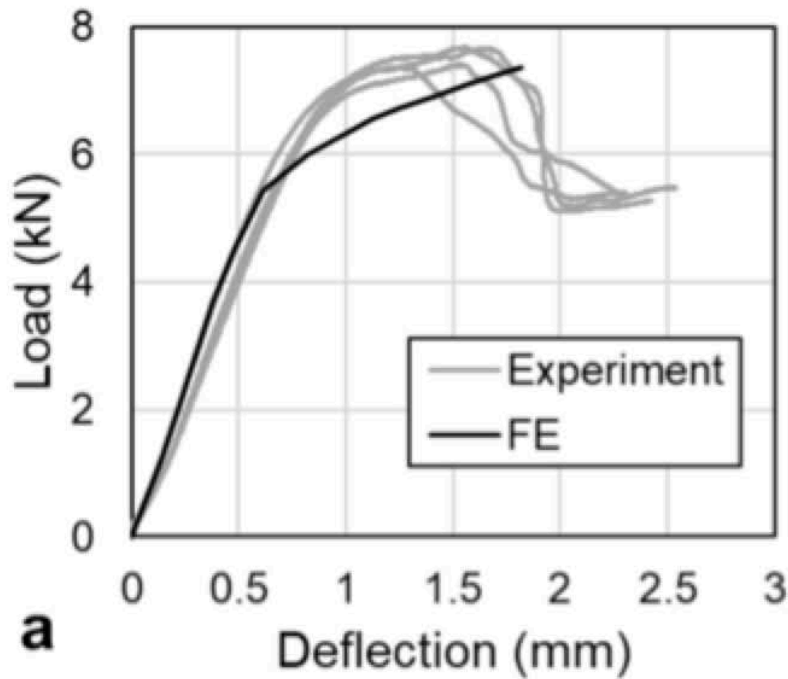
Damage development



Epoxy Material Data



SBS test interpretation

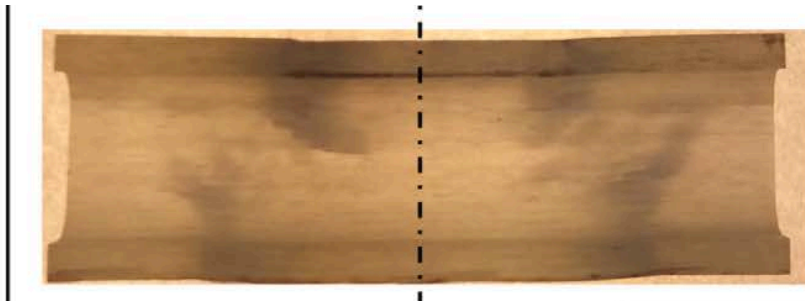


This analysis method gives the same shear properties for ILSS and matrix alone

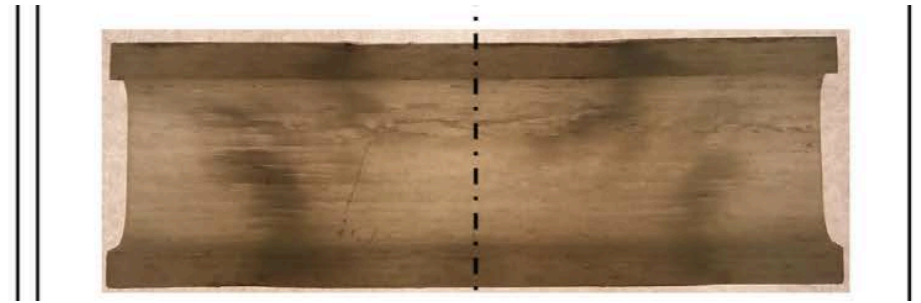
This is the “ideal” cases for the theory development.

For qualification we need to test ILSS to catch production related changes in through thickness properties + possible damage from swelling/chemicals

Damage dry - wet

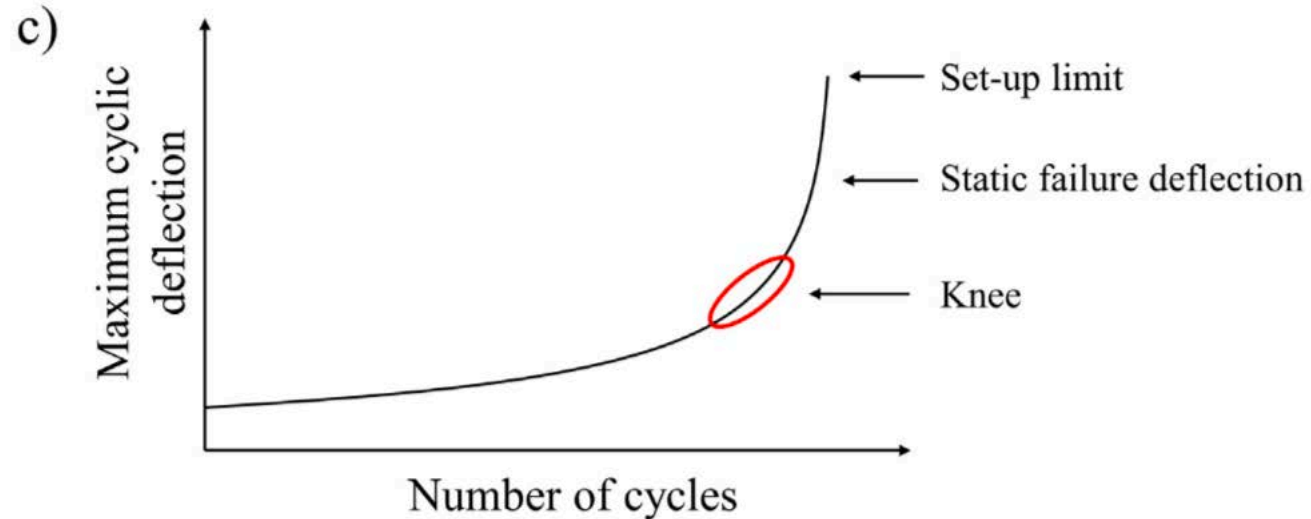
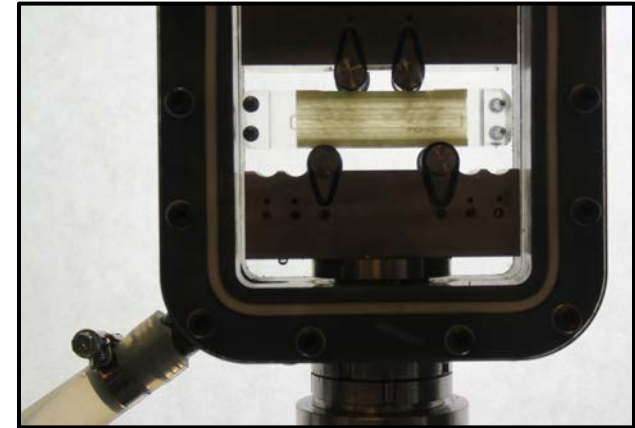
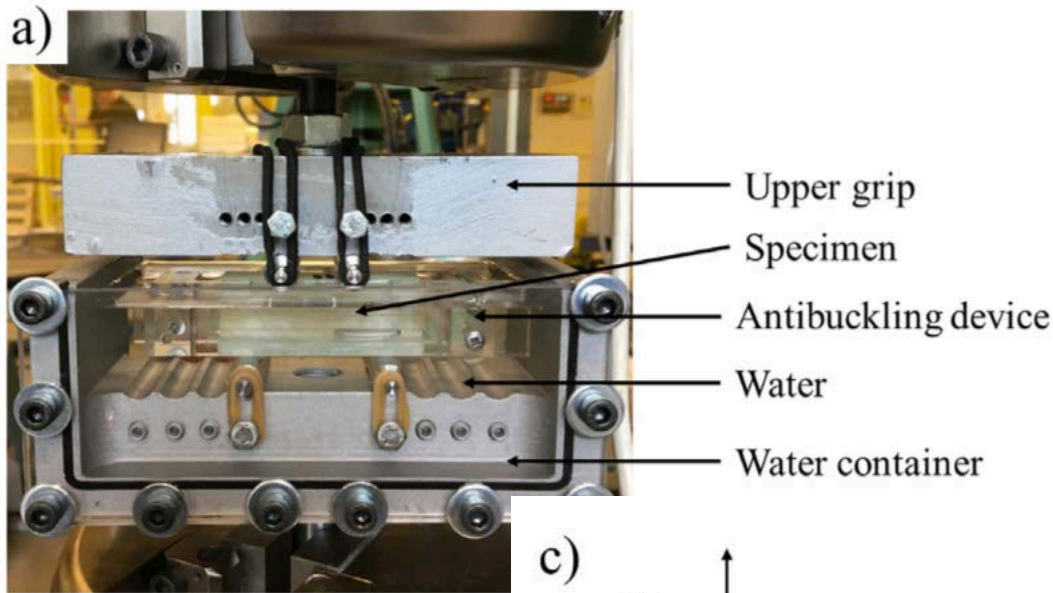


Dry I beam

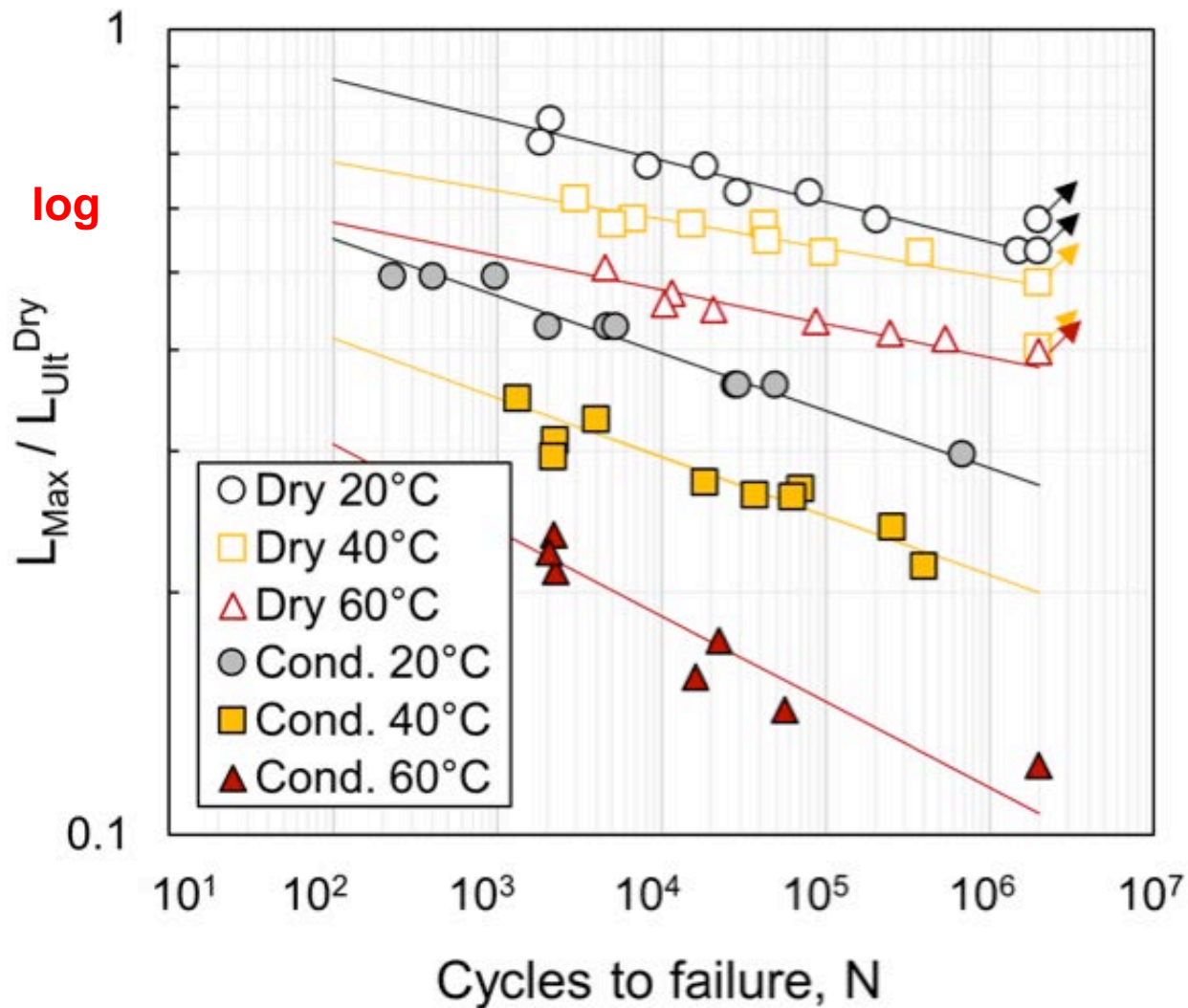


Wet I beam

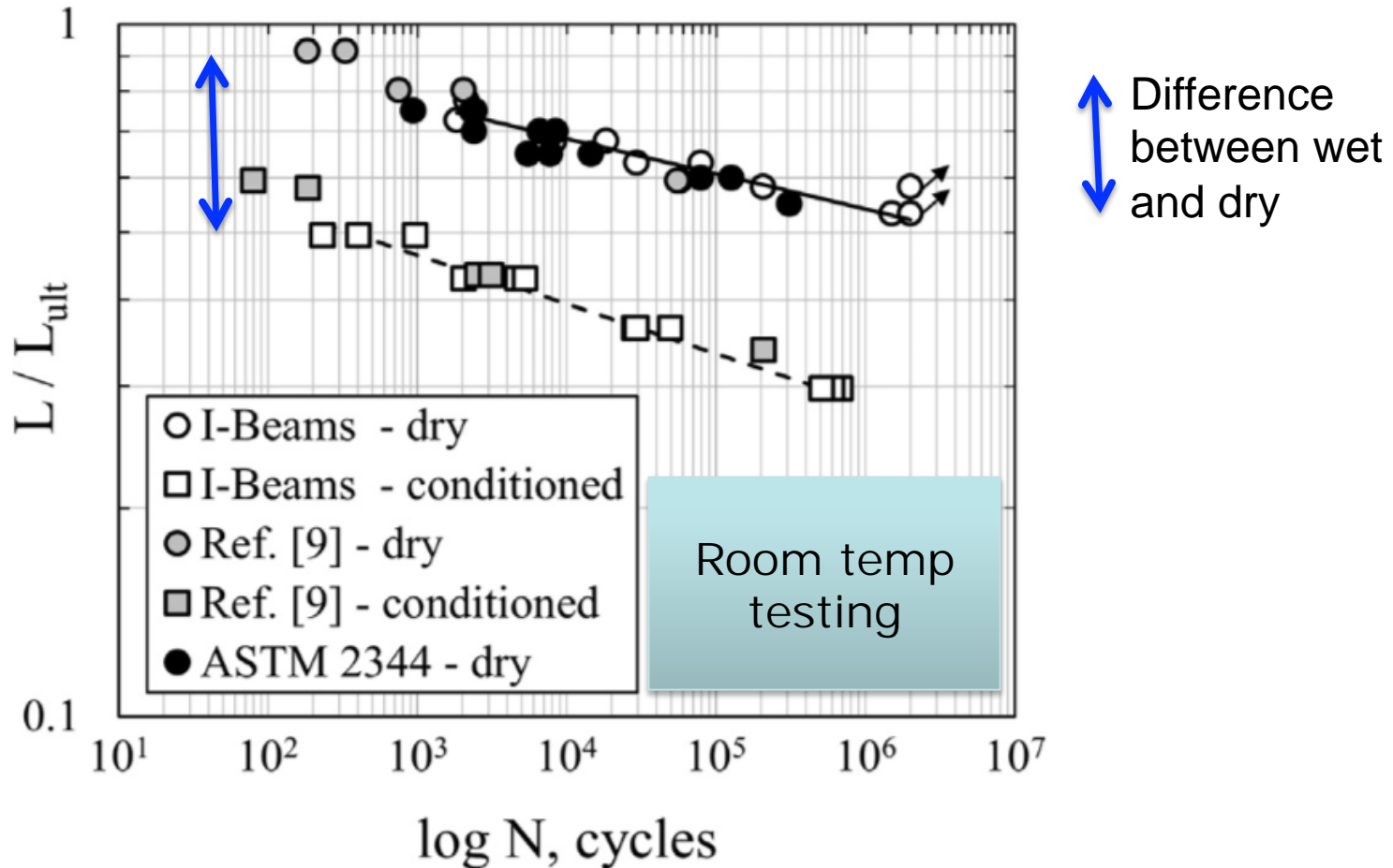
Fatigue – Failure Point



Dry-Wet SN curves



Compare with standard SBS

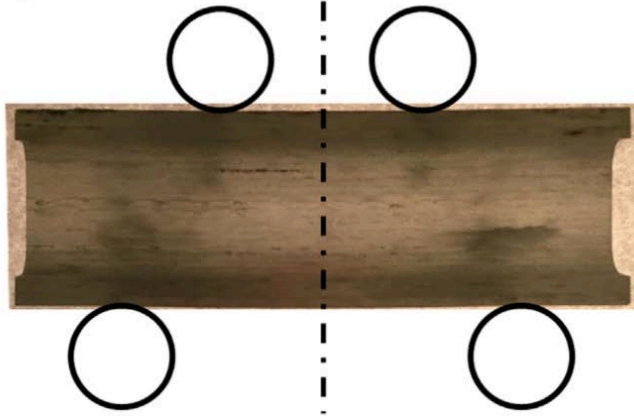


Gagani, Abedin; Mialon, Emeric; Echtermeyer, Andreas. (2019) Immersed interlaminar fatigue of glass fiber epoxy composites using the I-beam method. *International Journal of Fatigue*. vol. 119.

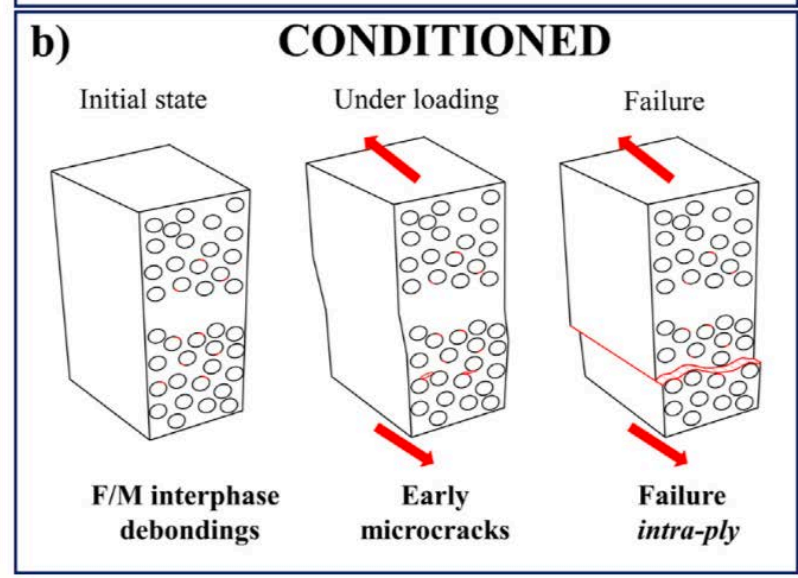
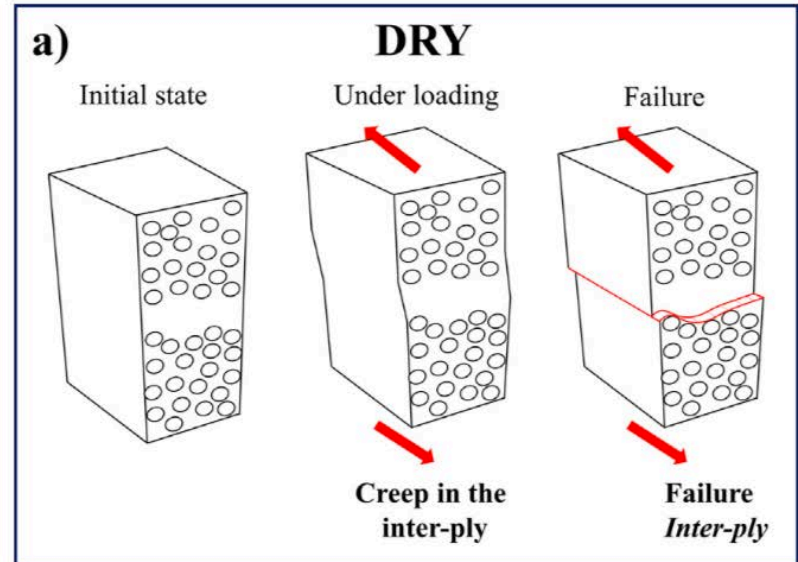
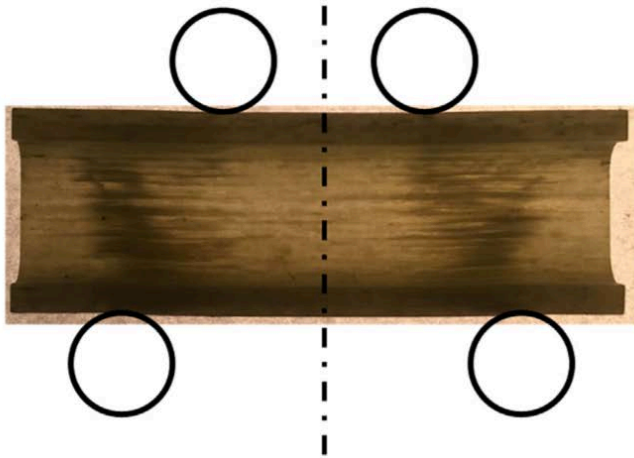
I.B.C.M. Rocha, S. Raijmaekers, R.P.L. Nijssen, F.P. van der Meer, L.J. Sluys, Hygrothermal ageing behavior of a glass/epoxy composite used in wind turbine blades, *Composite Structures*, Volume 174, 2017, Pages 110-122, ISSN 0263-8223, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compstruct.2017.04.028>.

Change in Failure Mechanism

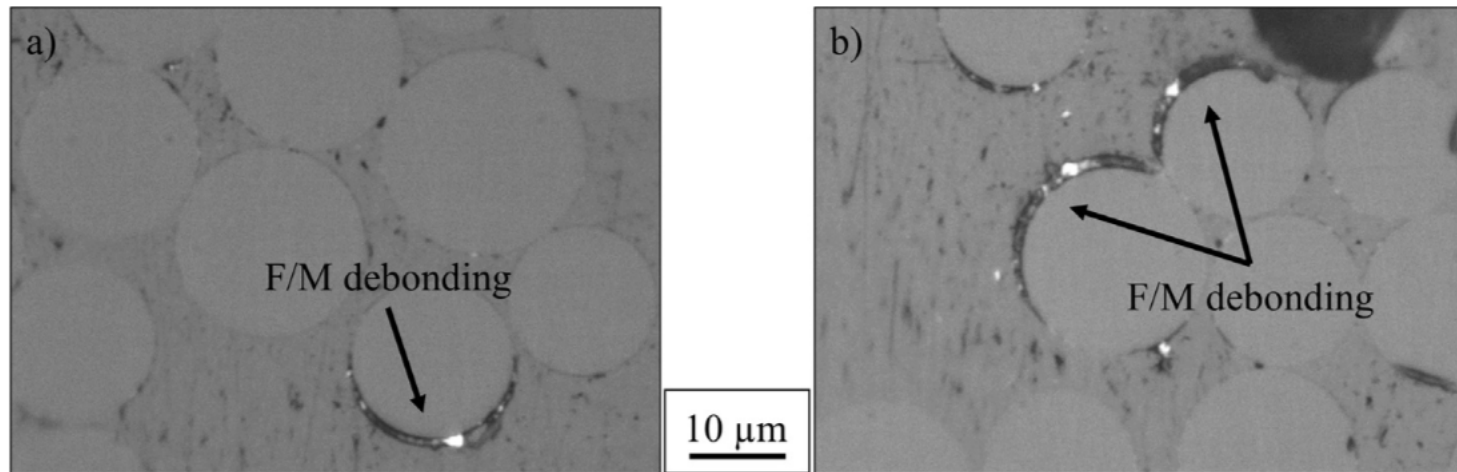
a) DRY



b) CONDITIONED

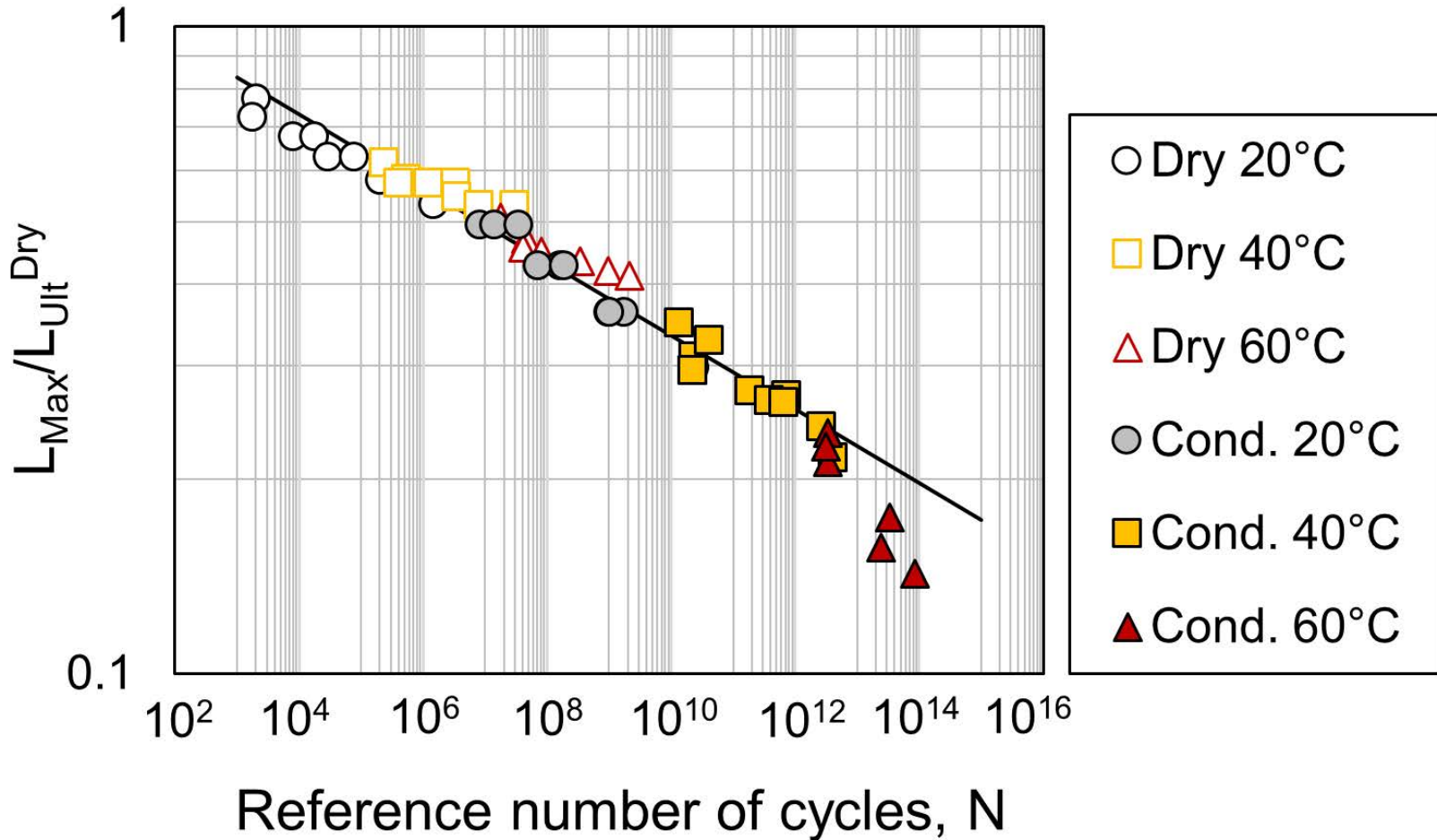


Fiber-Matrix debonding for wet conditioned specimens



Debonding was observed after conditioning before mechanical testing

Fatigue Master Curve



Arrhenius Approach

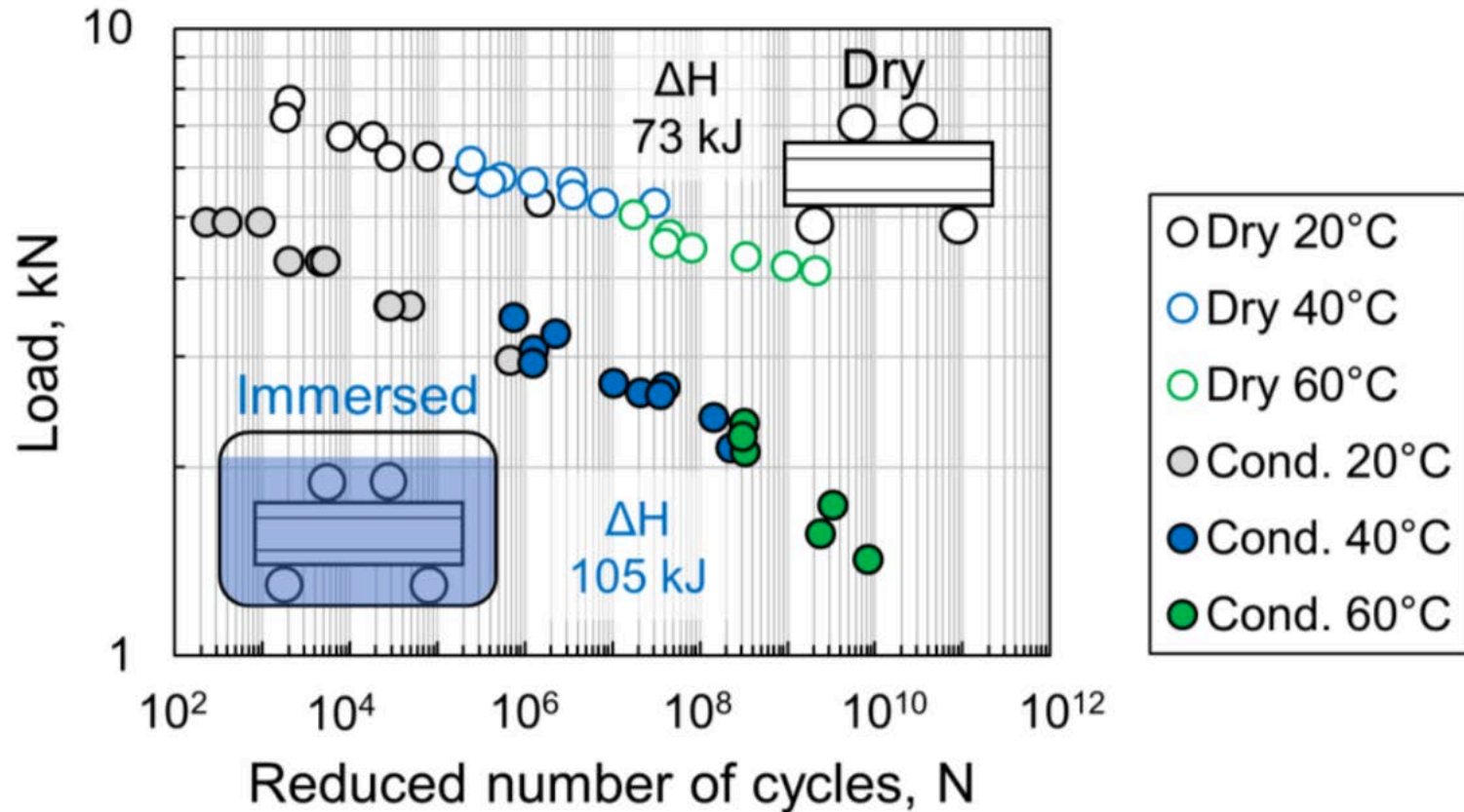
$$\log a_T = \log \left(\frac{t_0}{t_1} \right) = \log t_0 - \log t_1 = \frac{-\Delta H}{2.3R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_0} \right)$$

$$\log a_N = \log \left(\frac{N_0}{N_1} \right) = \log N_0 - \log N_1 = \frac{-\Delta H}{2.3R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_0} \right)$$

Zhurkov, S.N. and Korsukov, V.E. *Atomic mechanism of fracture of solid polymers*. Journal of Polymer Science, 1974. 12: p. 385-398.

Nakada, M. and Y. Miyano, Accelerated testing for long-term fatigue strength of various FRP laminates for marine use. Composites Science and Technology, 2009. 69(6): p. 805-813.

Master Curves for Dry and Wet

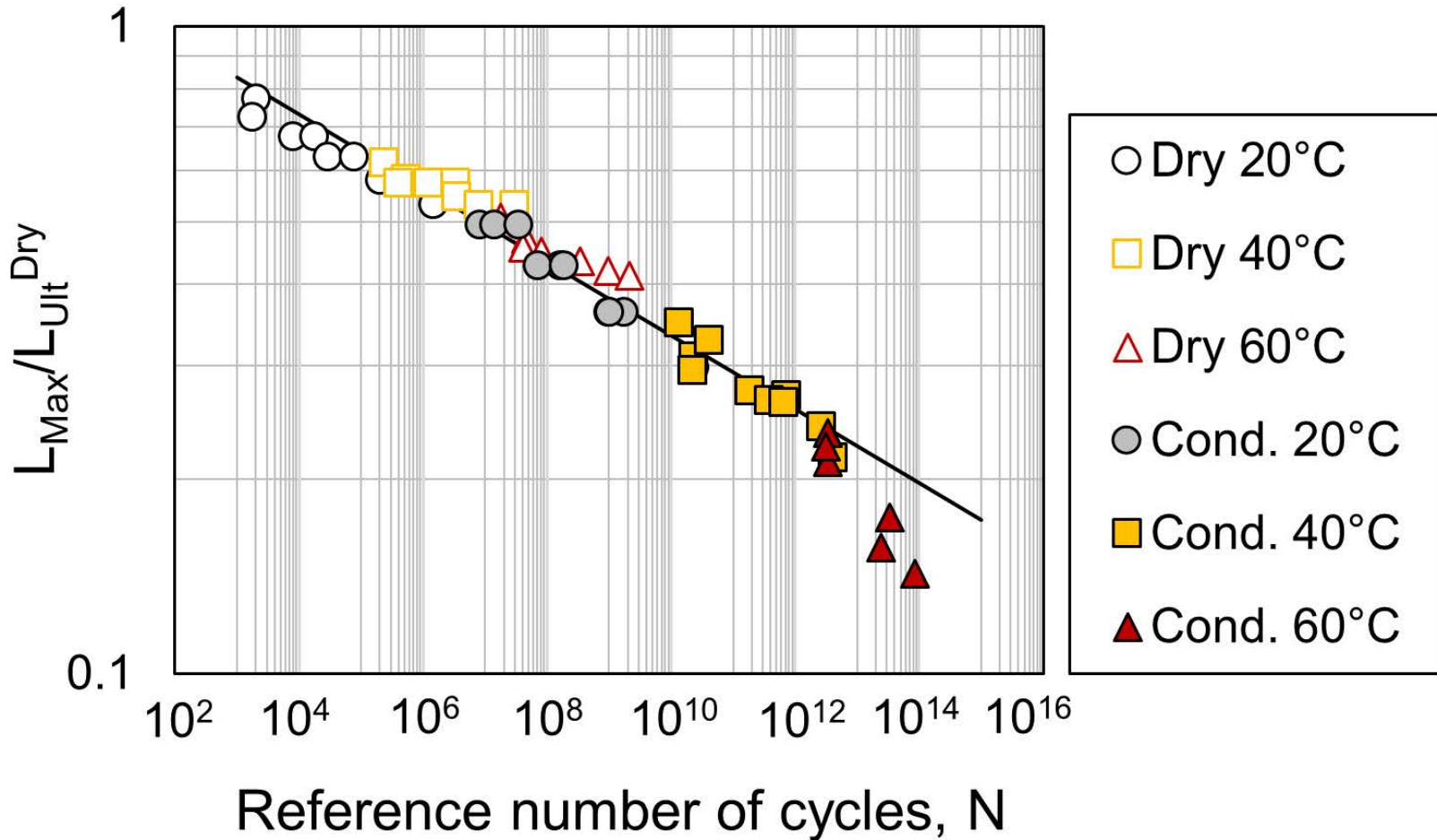


Equivalent Temperature

$$T^* = T \frac{T_g^{\text{dry}}}{T_g^{\text{cond}}}$$

$$\log N - \log N_R = \frac{-\Delta H}{2.303R} \left(\frac{1}{T_R} - \frac{1}{T^*} \right)$$

Fatigue Master Curve



Interlaminar Shear

Time Temp Superposition works for Interlaminar Shear Fatigue, if we do not cross T_g

(seems to work for thermoplastics too)

A change of failure mechanism gives a new slope of the SN curve → new activation enthalpy.

Dry and Wet data can be superimposed by an equivalent temperature related to T_g

Summary

Simplifications Matrix (Idealistic)

Fatigue of Matrix exposed to water can be described by one static dry SN curve and shift of static strength. No need to measure many SN curves. (The same seems to apply to temperature changes).

Simplifications Glass Fibers (Idealistic)

Sized Glass Fiber mass loss can be described by Arrhenius with an activation energy dependent on pH and stress. This gives the advantages of measuring a few cases and calculating the rest.

The link of mass loss to strength change is in progress.

Composite fiber dominated tensile ply strength can “probably” be scaled in the same way.

Interlaminar Shear (Idealistic)

No fiber matrix debonding when wet:

Measure SN curve at two temperatures, get activation enthalpy.

Measure only T_g on saturated sample.

Calculate all other properties

If fiber matrix debonding, measure SN curve at two temperatures, to get “saturated” activation enthalpy

Calculate all other properties

Simplification (realistic)

Double check until we gain more confidence

Getting Long Term Properties

Difficult, only in air

Full scale TCP assembly

Representative Pipes

Laminate level

Ply level

Constituent Properties (fibre/matrix)

Approach today

The future..**NOW**..

PREDICT

CONCLUSIONS

Long term degradation is critical and current test methods are sufficient but costly.

This program has increased the understanding of long term degradation

Substantial savings in testing are possible, especially for interpolations.

Following the approach taken here more simplifications can be established.

Acceptance and full utilization will take time, but a framework for achieving this exists now.