
Methoden und Modelle zur Lebensdauervorhersage von Thermoplasten

Experimental Techniques and Models for Service Life Prediction of Thermoplastic Polymers

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Vielen Dank an:

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Alexander Neumann und Marie Neumann (LBF)

Karsten Rode und Frank Malz (LBF),

Lena Marie Herkenrath und Julia Decker (LBF) ...

Bereich Kunststoffe

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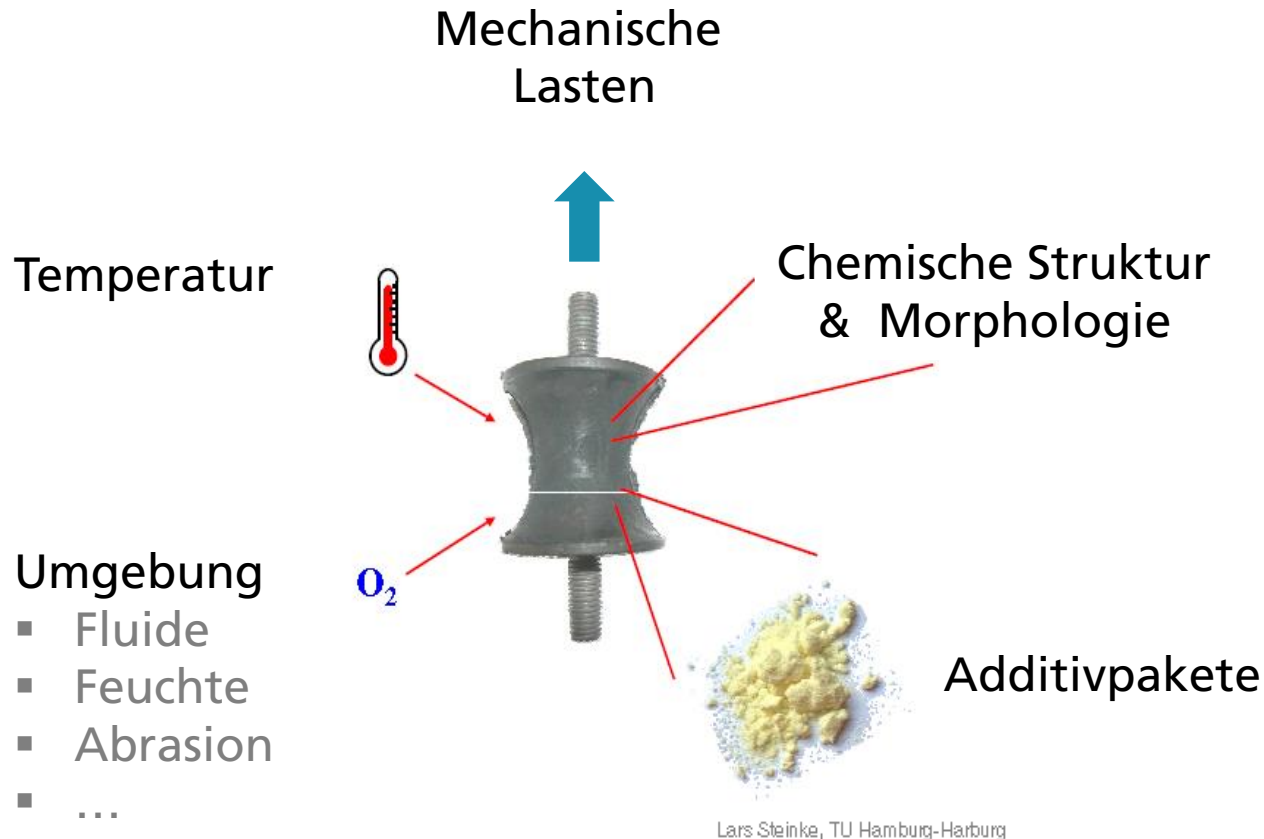
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<https://www.lbf.fraunhofer.de/en/laboratory-equipment/polymer-characterisation/Physical-methods.html>

<https://www.lbf.fraunhofer.de/en/laboratory-equipment/polymer-characterisation/weathering.html>

Was beeinflusst die Lebensdauer?



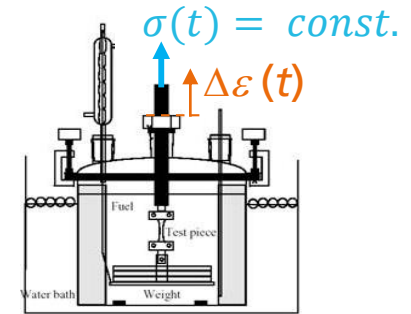
Art der Lasten

Thermisch, mechanisch, elektrisch, ... Strahlung, Quellung

■ statisch

- Isotherme Ofenlagerung ($T = const.$)
- Kriechversuche ($\sigma = const.$)
- Spannungsrelaxation ($\varepsilon = const.$)

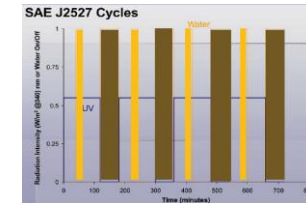
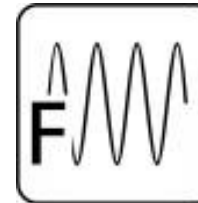
...



■ zyklisch

- harmonisch
- periodisch (nicht harmonisch)

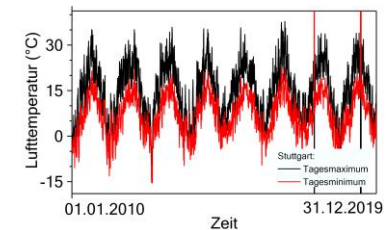
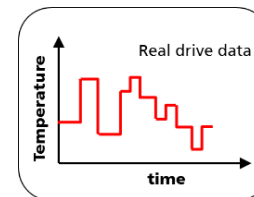
...



■ willkürlich

- Lastkollektive
- Wetter (pseudo-arbitrary)
- pseudo-random

...



Erfassung der Lebensdauer

■ Auslagerungsversuche

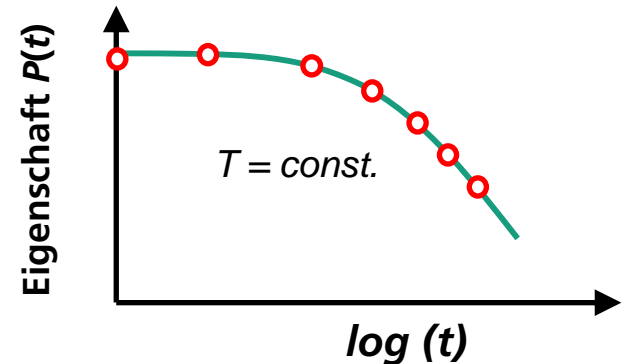
- kontinuierliches Monitoring
- diskontinuierliche Entnahmen

■ Beschleunigte Alterung

- Temperaturerhöhung (Arrhenius)
- Dosis-Steigerung (z.B. Bestrahlungstärke \uparrow)
- Zeitraffung (z.B. keine Dunkelphase \downarrow)

■ Analytik, Mess- und Prüfmethoden

- Früherkennung von Bewitterungsschäden
- ...



Arrhenius Equation

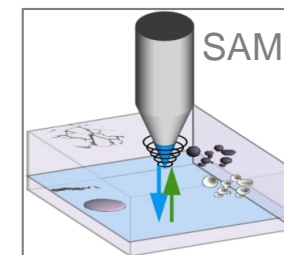
$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

$T \uparrow \rightarrow k \uparrow$

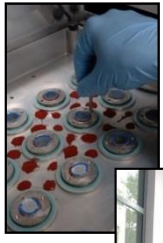
$\ln k$

Slope = $-\frac{E_a}{R}$

$$\ln\left(\frac{k_2}{k_1}\right) = -\frac{E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1}\right)$$



Service Life Prediction @ LBF

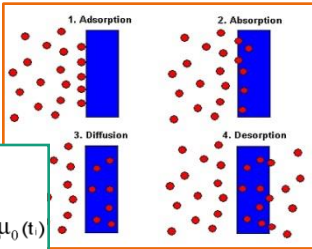


Natural and artificial weathering

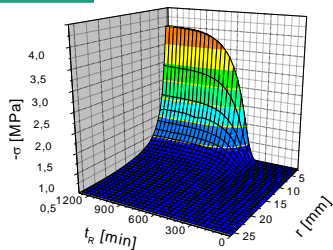
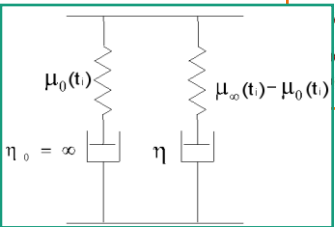


In-situ monitoring

H. Oehler



D. Lellinger
F. Dillenberger



Polymer, additives, filler

Processing / plastic part / coating

Weathering / fatigue testing
thermal, mechanical, water, chemicals...

Testing / characterization

Understanding of aging and failure mechanisms

Model development
Coupling of transport equations, material and reaction models

Failure criteria

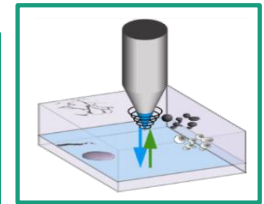
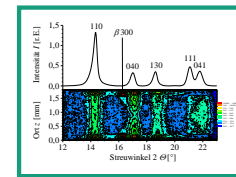
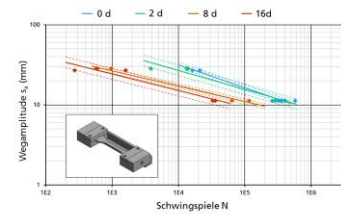
Simulation (FEM...) input data, validation



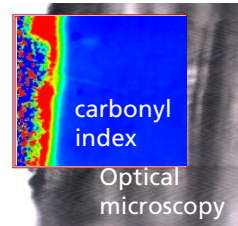
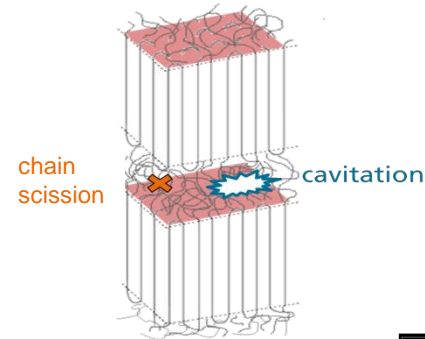
D. Lellinger



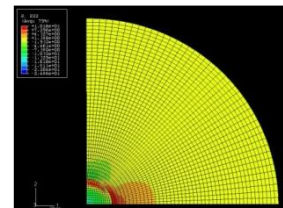
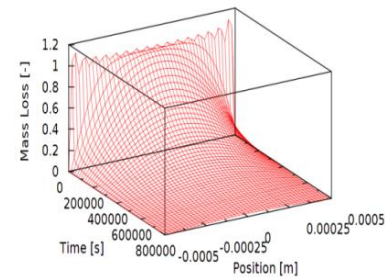
J. Decker



H. Oehler



R. Brüll, B. Barton

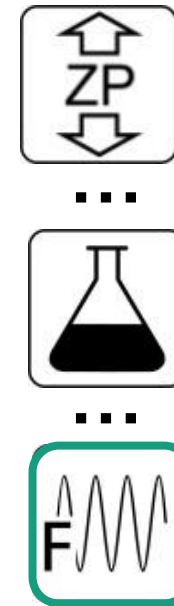
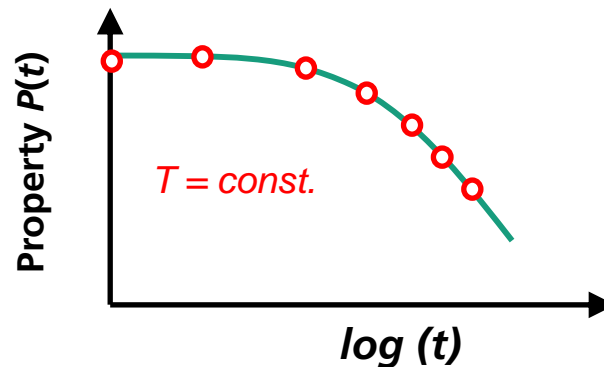
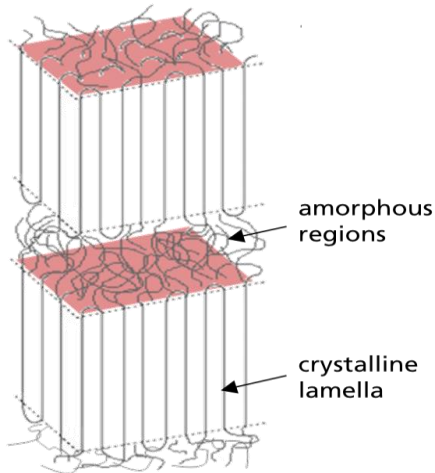


D. Lellinger
G. Geertz

Example 1

Thermal aging of semi-crystalline polymers

- Isothermal aging at different temperatures
- Properties for discrete aging times
 - including cyclic fatigue



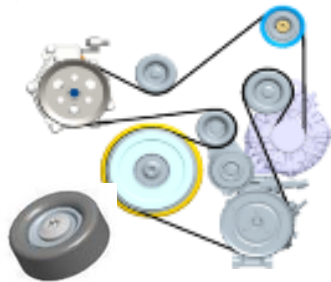
Example 1

Aging of thermoplastics in the engine compartment

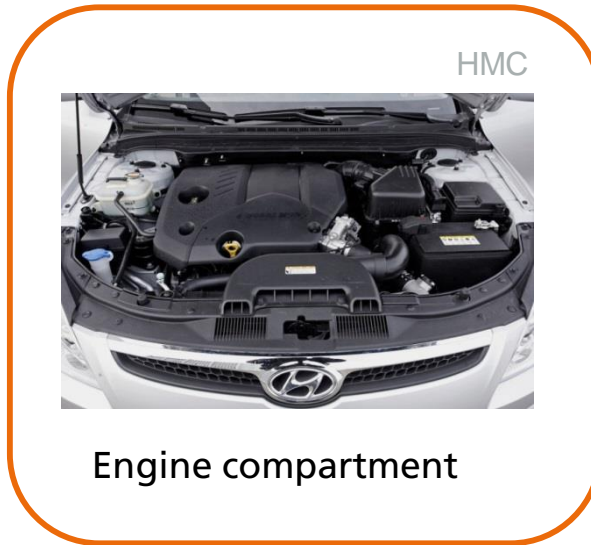
Plastic parts close to the automotive engine



Engine cover



Engine pulley



Engine compartment

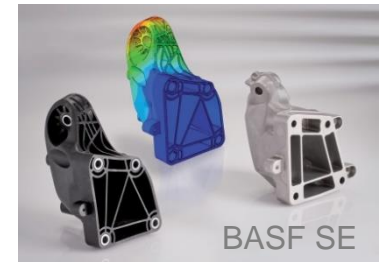
Thermal load $\Delta T(t)$

+

Outdoor exposure



Transmission cable

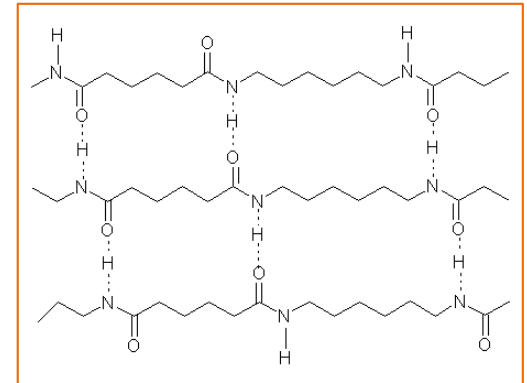


BASF SE

Engine support bracket

Material and aging conditions

- Polyamide 6.6 compounds
 - containing glass fibers (GF: 50 wt. %)
 - typically additive packages
- Isothermal aging
 - pre-dried samples
 - temperatures: 140 to 220°C
 - in dry air

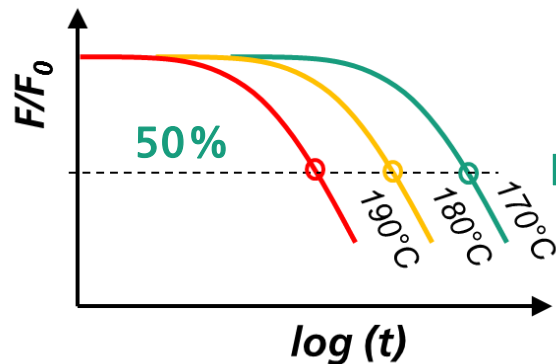


Concept

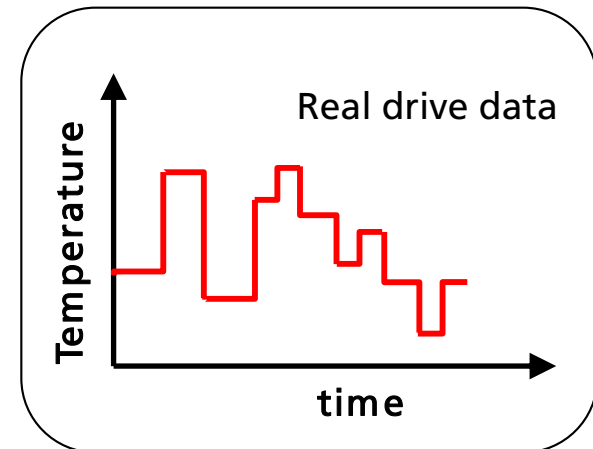
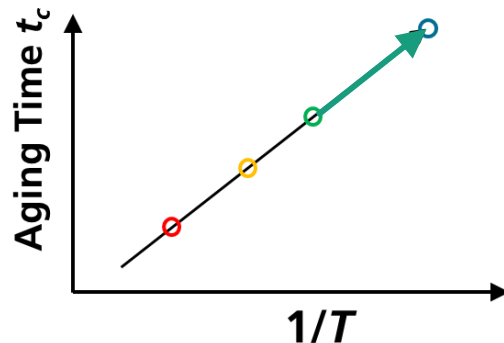
Accelerated Testing

■ Characteristic time approach

Time dependent experimental data at elevated temperatures



Arrhenius plot of characteristic times
⇒ Activation energy



Service life prediction

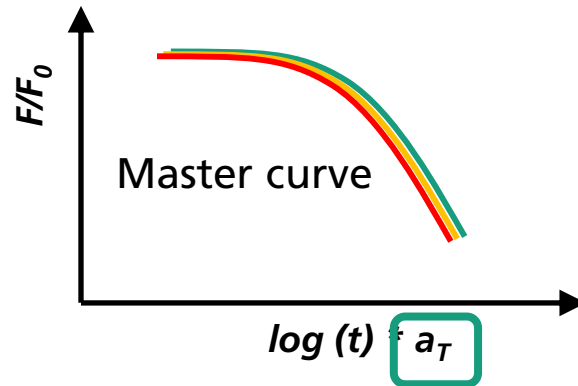
- Time to failure
- Acceleration/prolongation factors
- Equivalent aging time

Concept

Accelerated Testing

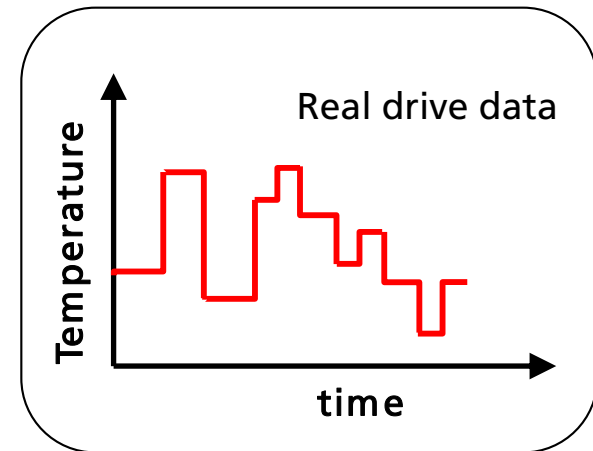
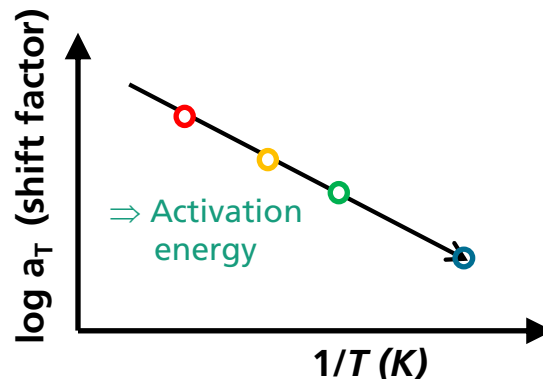
■ Master curve approach

Master curve from experimental data at elevated temperatures



Arrhenius plot for shift factors

⇒ Activation energy

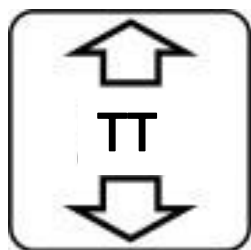


Service life prediction

- Time to failure
- Acceleration/prolongation factors
- Equivalent aging time

Methods

Physical and chemical characterization



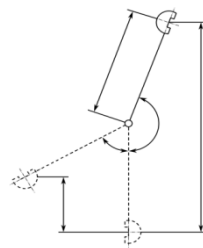
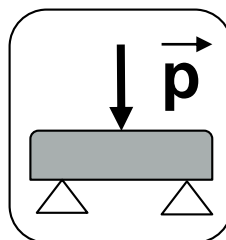
Tensile Test



Dynamic mechanical analysis



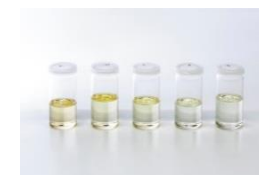
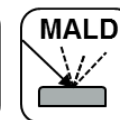
Shore hardness



Impact strength



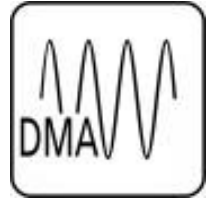
Thermal analysis
DSC, TGA
TGA-DSC



Chemical analytics
GPC, MALDI-TOF, NMR

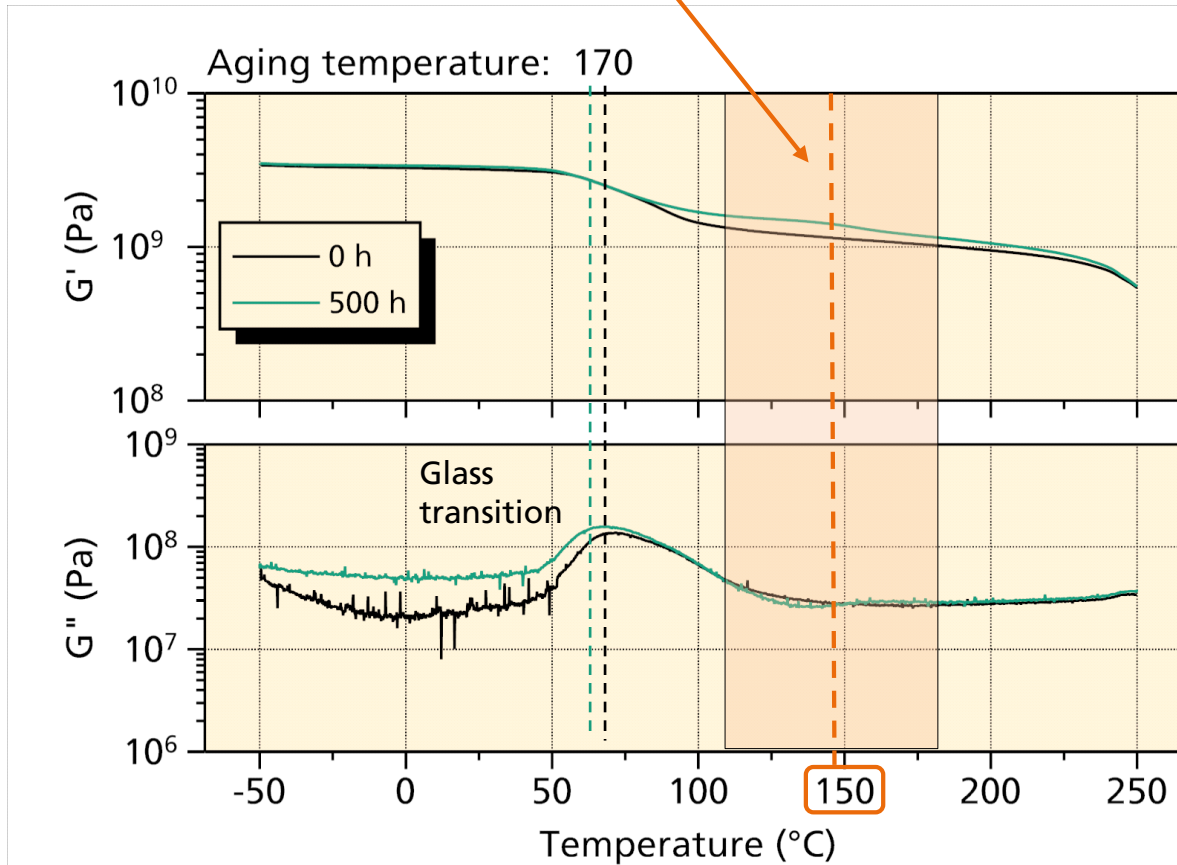
Dynamic Mechanical Analysis

Dynamic shear modulus: $G^* = G' + iG''$



170
[°C]

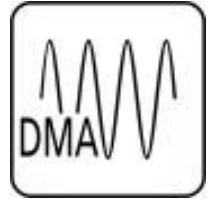
Temperature region of engine operation



Polyamide 6.6 + GF

Dynamic Mechanical Analysis

Dynamic shear modulus: $G^* = G' + iG''$



- Thermal aging at different temperatures

$$E_A = 68 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

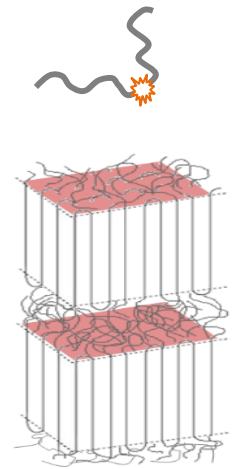
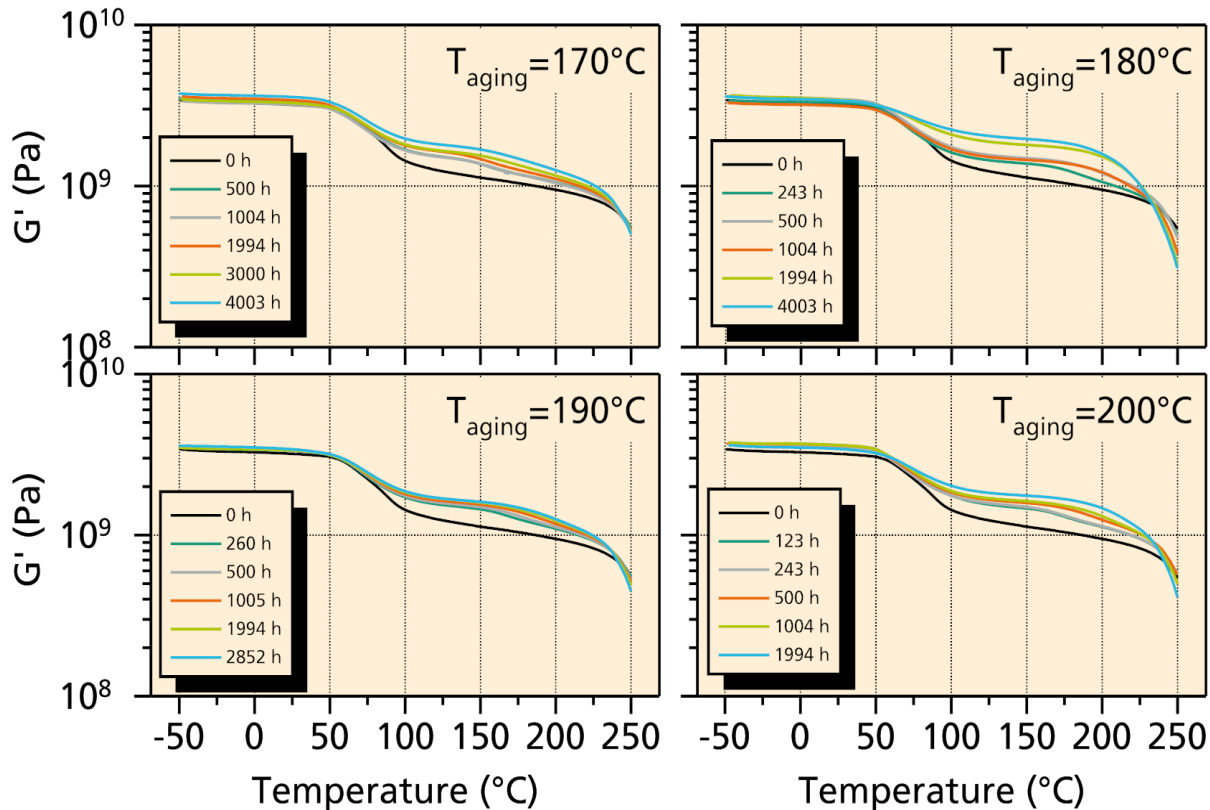


170
[°C]

180
[°C]

190
[°C]

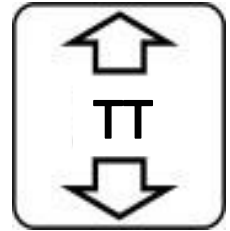
200
[°C]



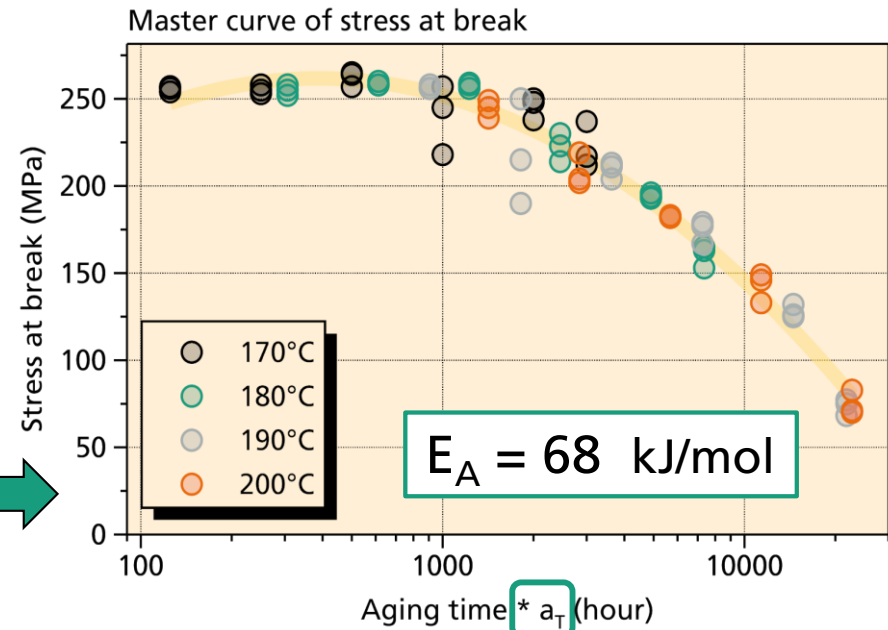
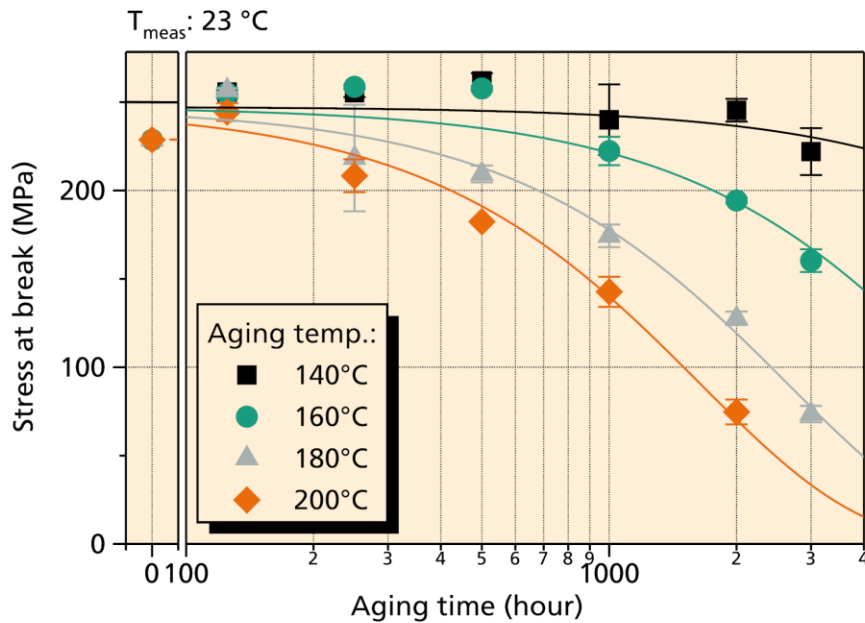
Chemo-crystallization?

Tensile test

Stress at break



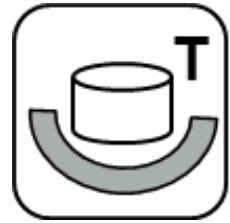
- Fit with stretched exponential functions $y = y_0 \exp(-(t/\tau)^\beta)$



Thermal Analysis

DSC

■ Melting



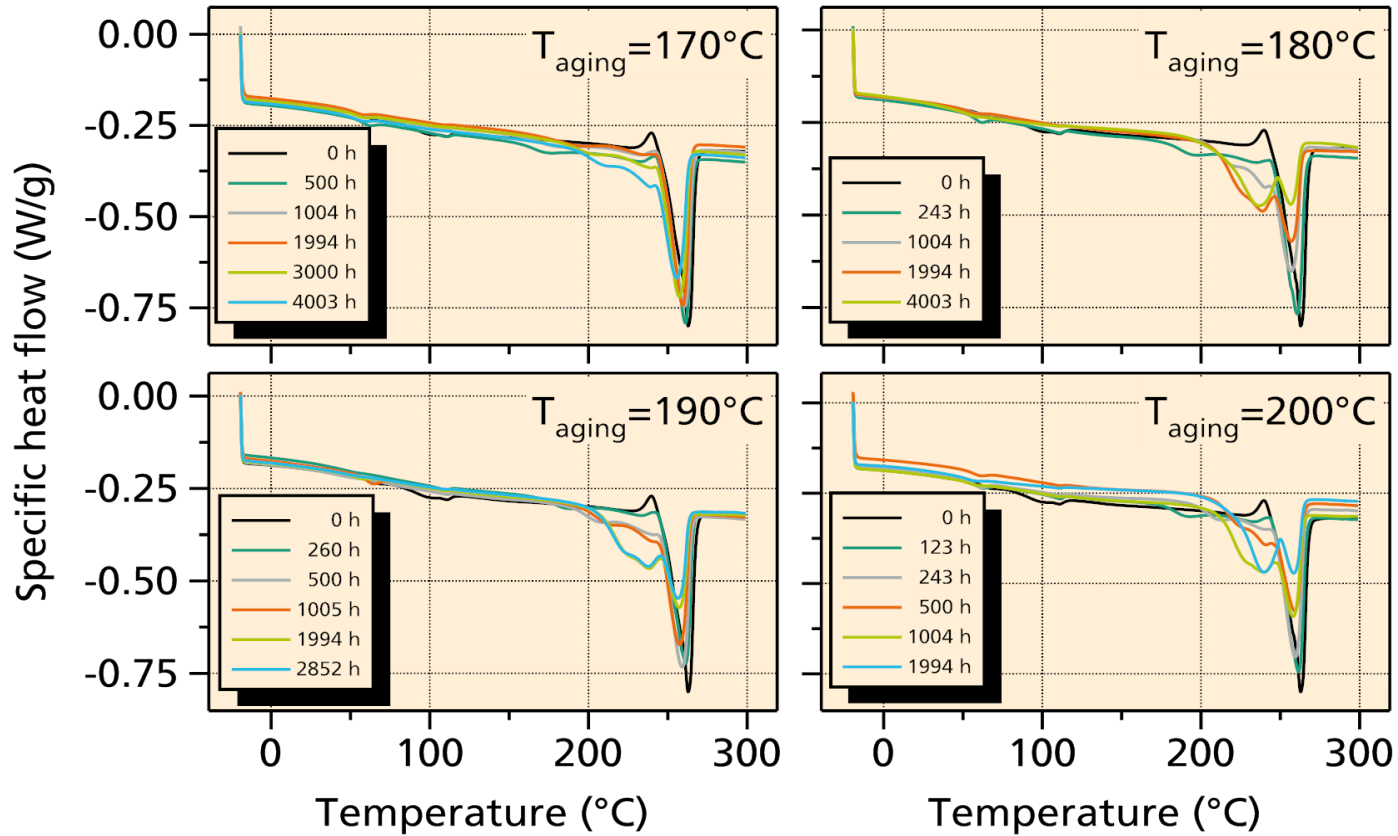
170 [°C]

180 [°C]

190 [°C]

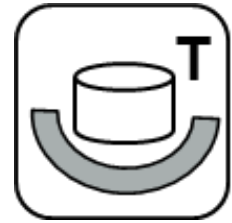
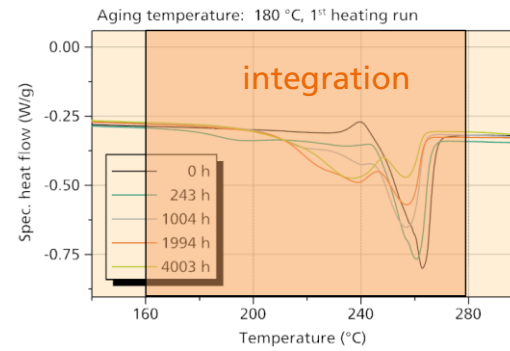
200 [°C]

Specific heat flow, 1st heating run



Thermal Analysis

DSC



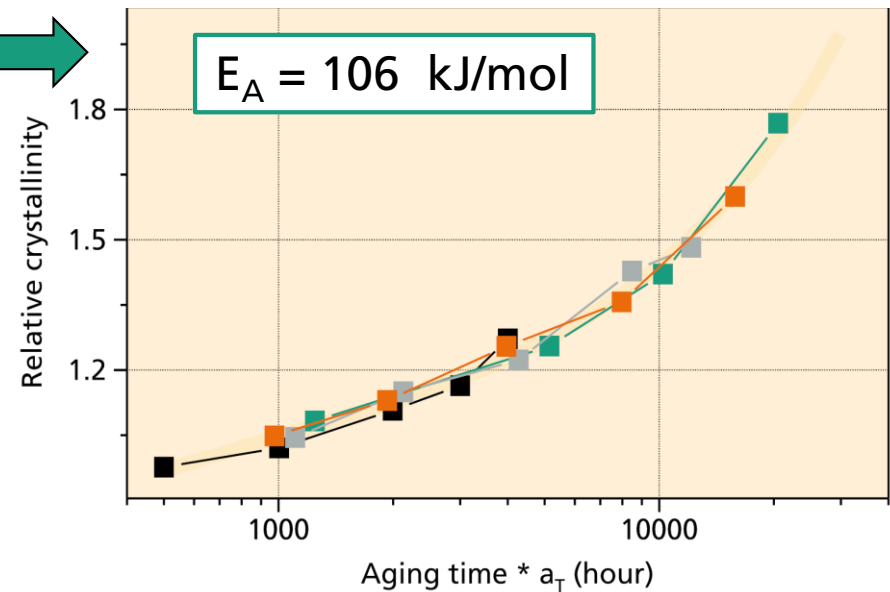
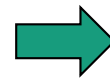
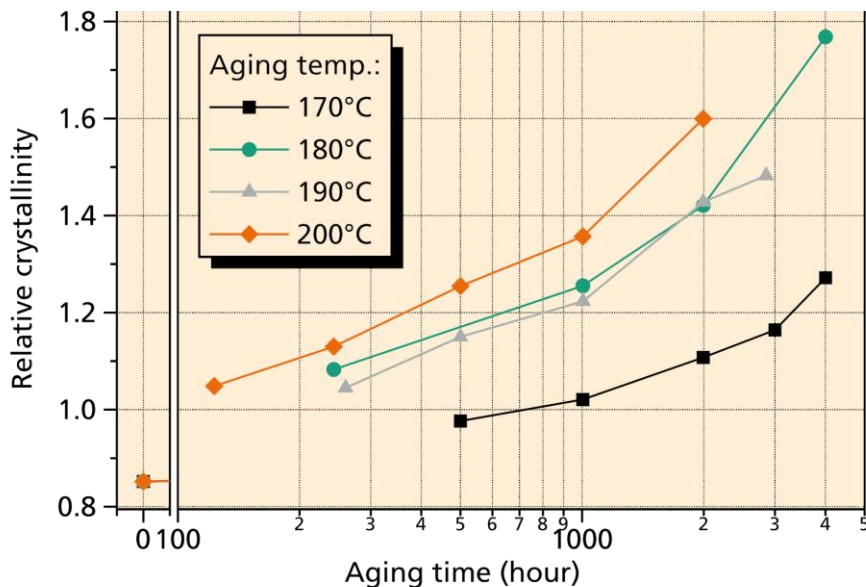
170
[°C]

180
[°C]

190
[°C]

200
[°C]

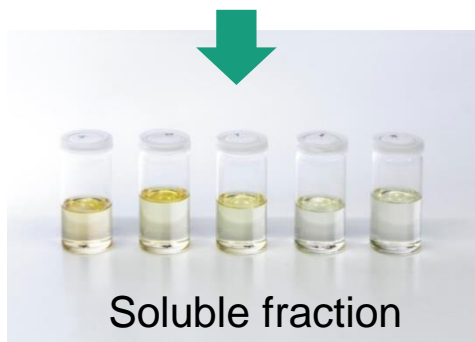
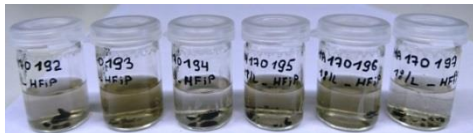
- Relative crystallinity:
Quotient of melting enthalpies of first and second heating



Methods

Chemical Analysis

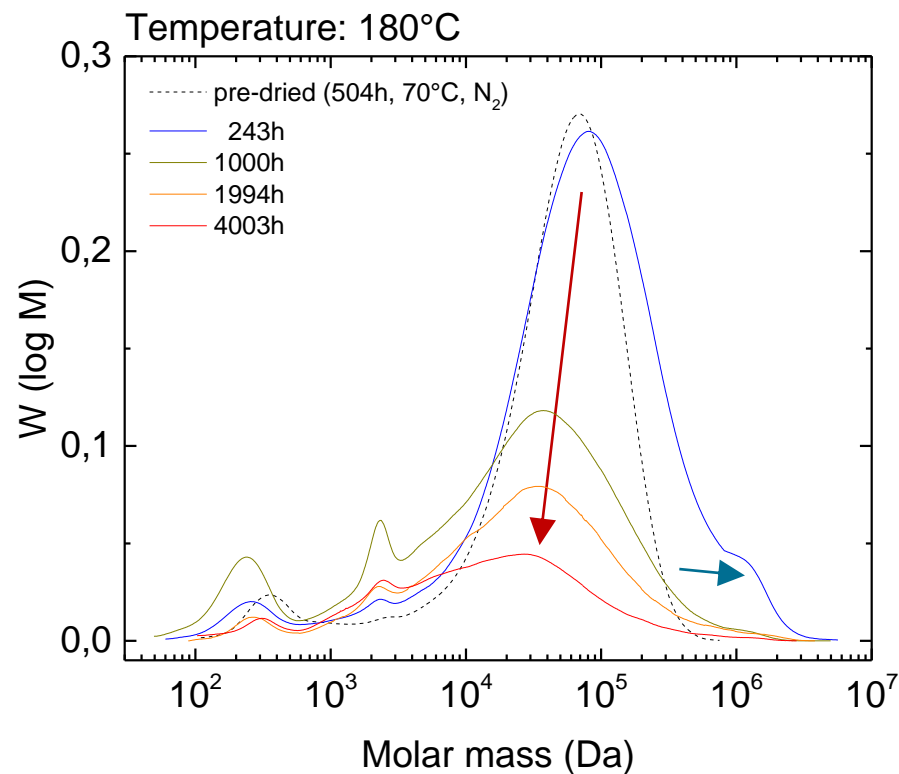
- GPC
- TGA
- MALDI-ToF-MS
- NMR
- FTIR



Gel permeation chromatography



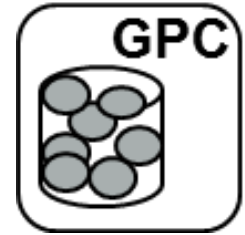
180
[°C]



Interplay of **branching** and **chain scission**

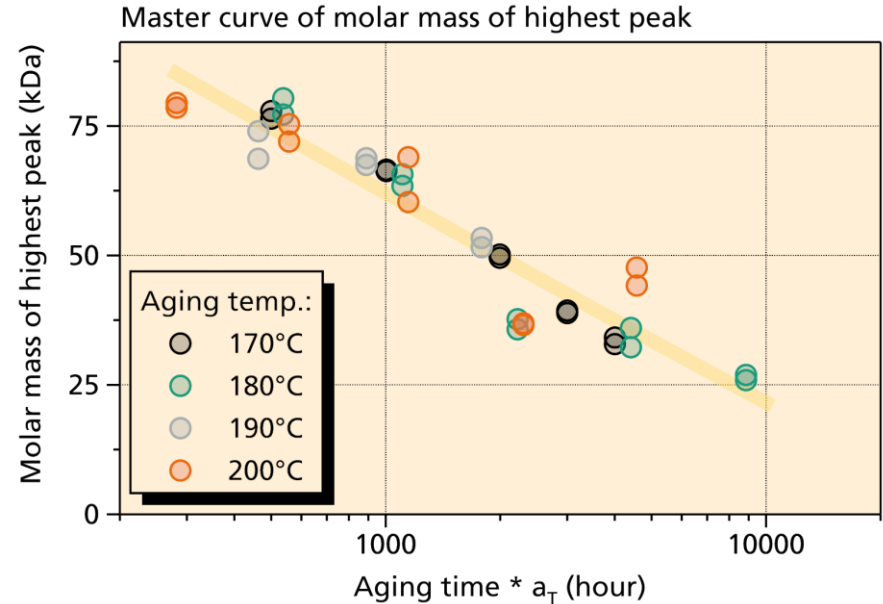
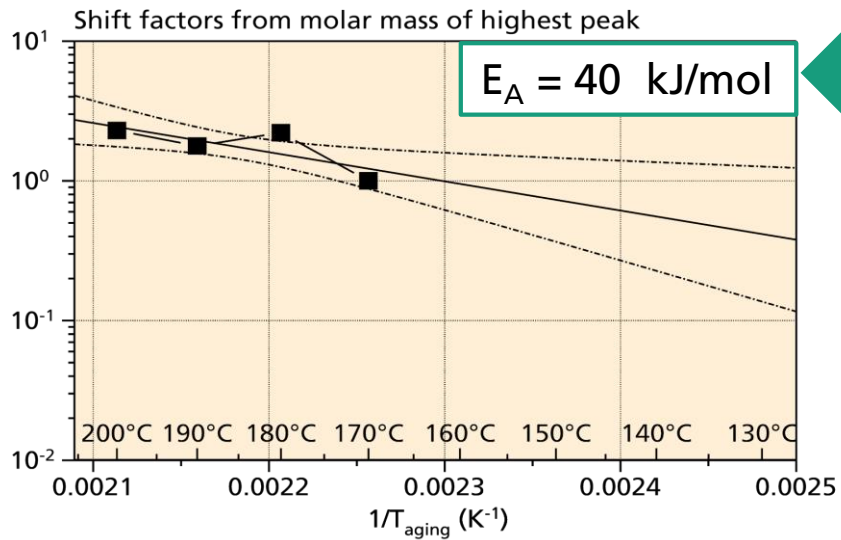
GPC Results

Molar mass (M_{\max})



- 170 [°C]
- 180 [°C]
- 190 [°C]
- 200 [°C]

■ Mainly chain scission



Methods

Thermogravimetry (TGA)



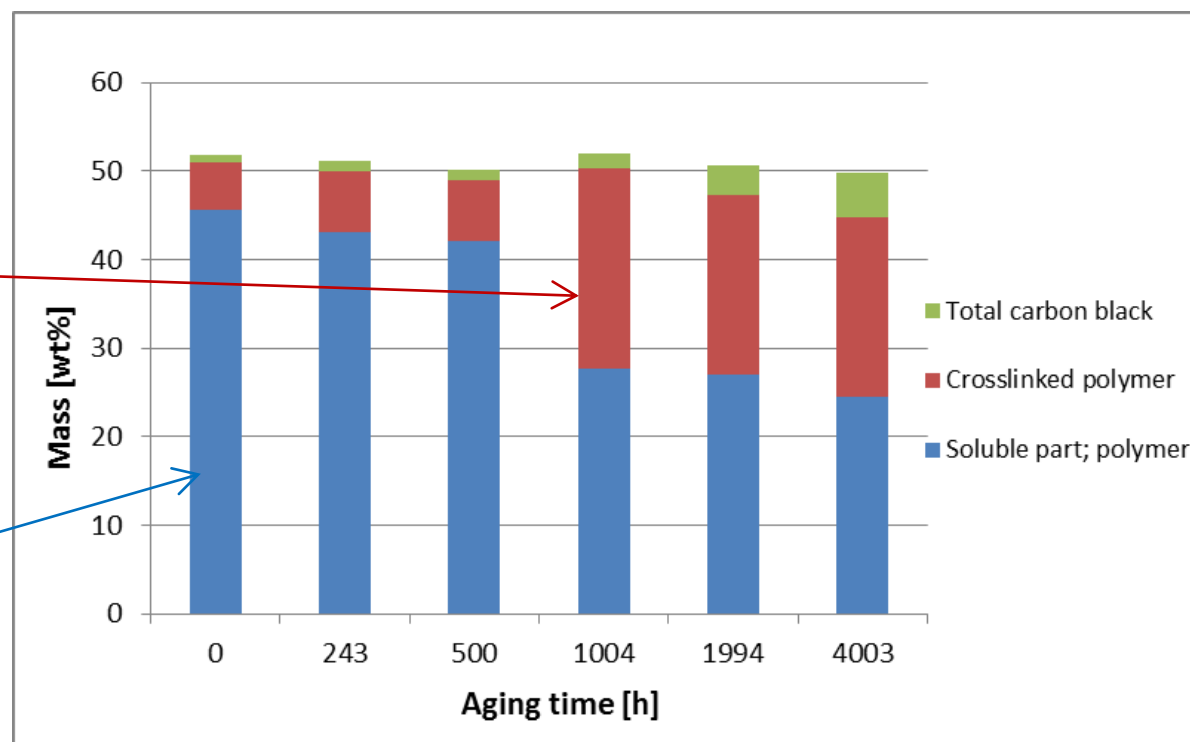
180
[°C]

- GPC
- TGA
- MALDI-ToF-MS
- NMR
- FTIR

Indication of crosslinking

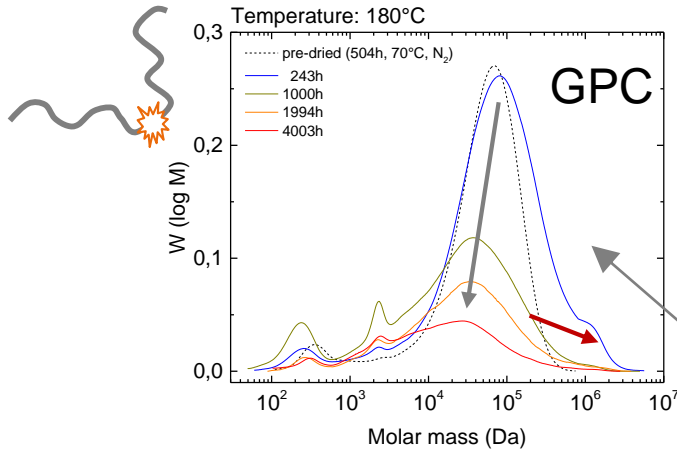
Crosslinked

Soluble

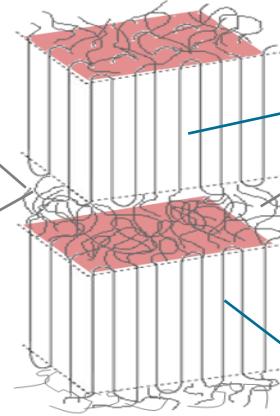


Aging mechanisms and suitable test methods

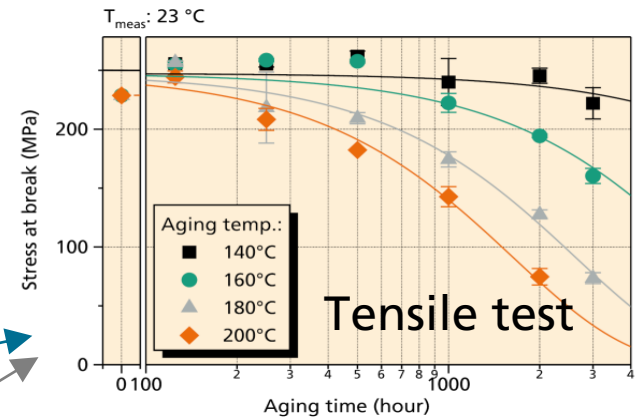
Chemical structure



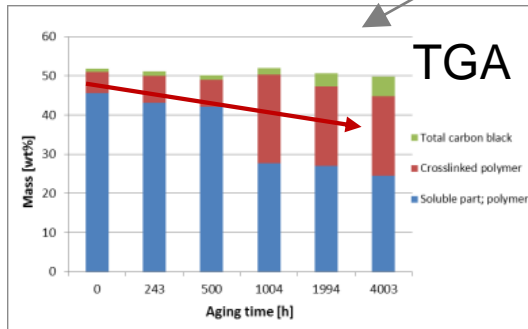
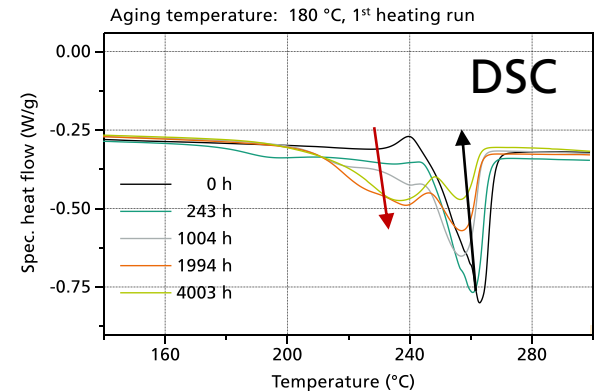
Thermal aging



Mechanical properties

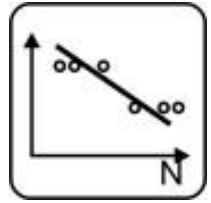


Crystalline structure

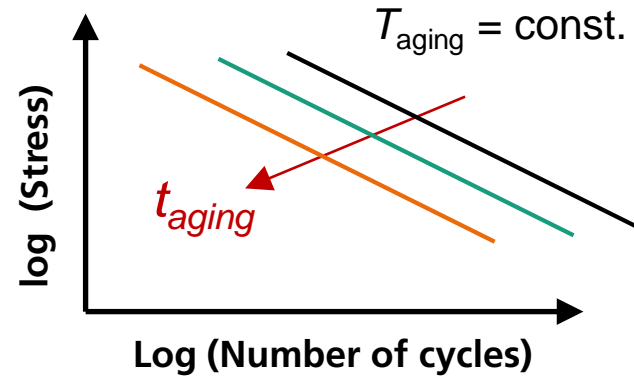
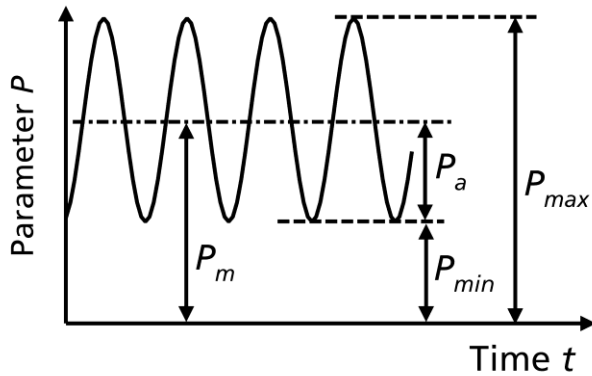


Methods

Cyclic fatigue testing



Stress-number (S/N) curves



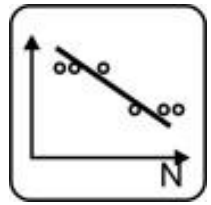
R-ratio: $R = P_{\min} / P_{\max}$; $R_F \approx 0$

→ Numbers of cycles to failure

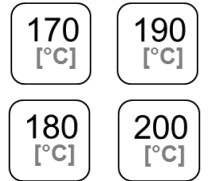
Stress amplitude: 20 – 42 MPa

Cyclic Fatigue

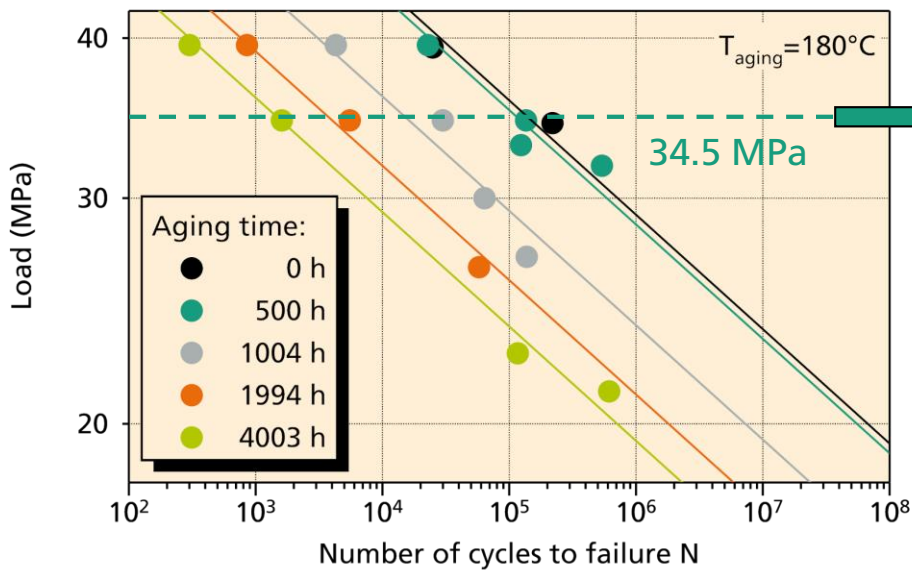
S-N Curves for different aging times



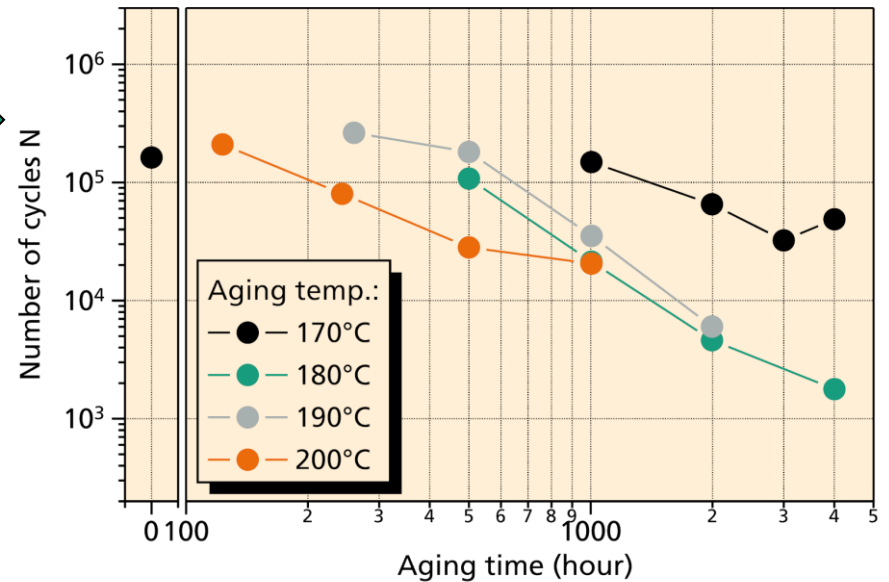
- Number of cycles to failure
- Analysis for constant load (34.5 MPa)



Different aging times



Different aging temperatures

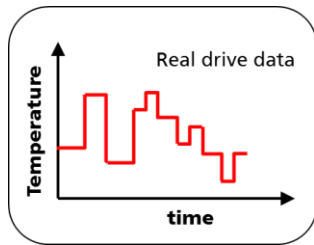


Different apparent activation energies for different experimental quantities

	Method	Quantity	Ea (kJ/mol)
Mechanical properties	Shore hardness	Shore D	55 - 80 kJ/mol
	Impact test	Impact energy	
	Tensile test	Strain at break	
		Stress at break	
	DMA	Shear modulus @150°C	
Fatigue	Cyclic fatigue	No of cycles @ 34.5 MPa	≈100 kJ/mol
Crystalline structure	DSC	Relative crystallinity	≈105 kJ/mol
Chemical structure	GPC	Mw	≈50 kJ/mol

Equivalent aging times for isothermal aging experiments (oven temperature 170 °C) for different properties

- Real drive data

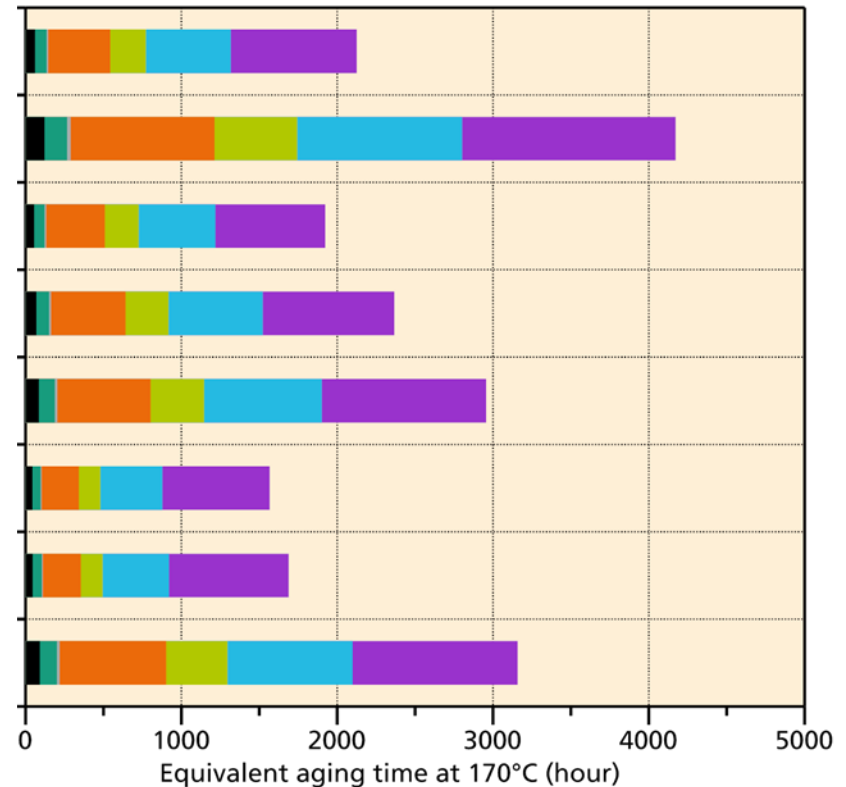


- Apparent activation energies for the different methods

$$a_T = a_{T,0} \exp\left(\frac{-E_a}{RT}\right)$$

Properties

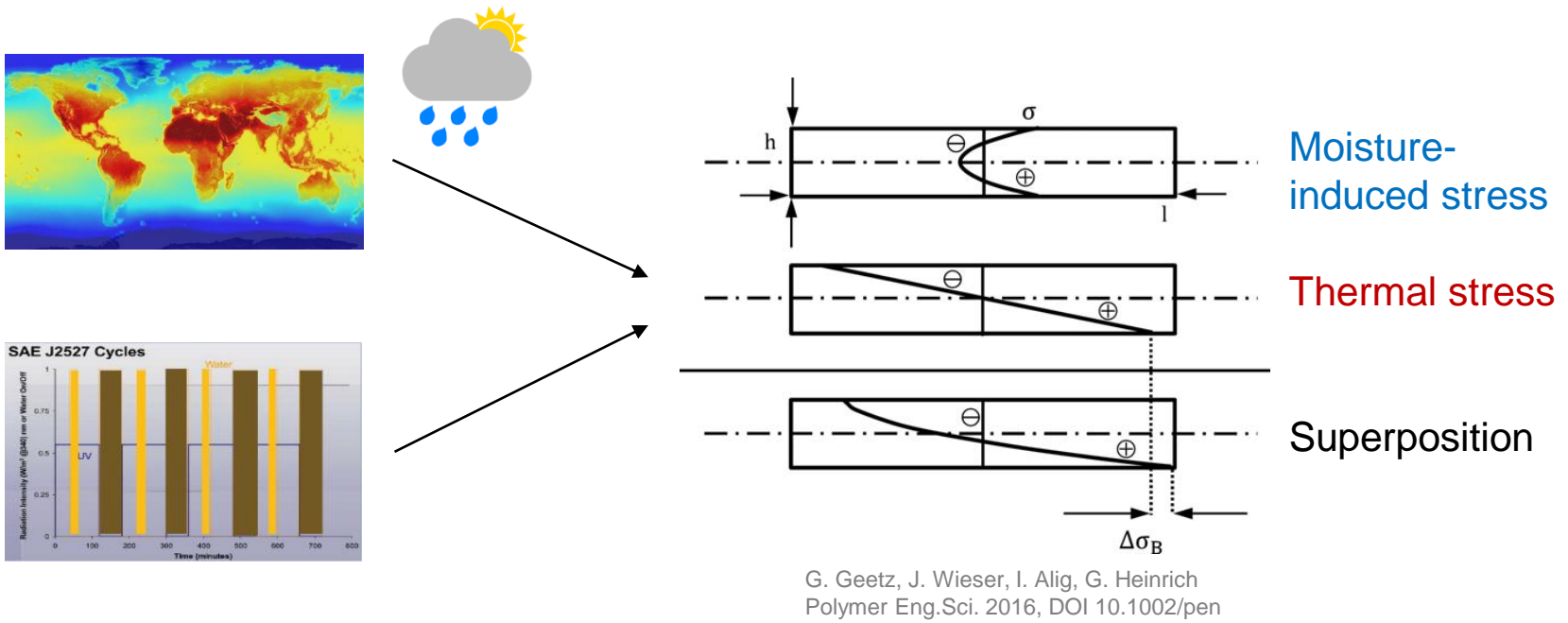
Different driving modes



Example 2

Modelling: "Simulated" weathering of PMMA

- Outdoor data and accelerated weathering protocols
- Calculation of thermal and hygroscopic stresses → failure

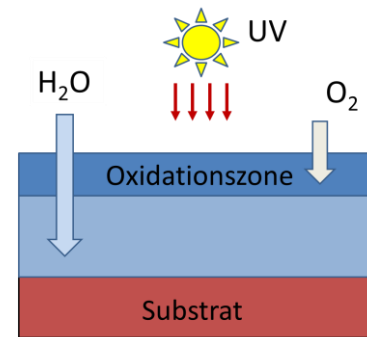


Zusammenfassung und Ausblick

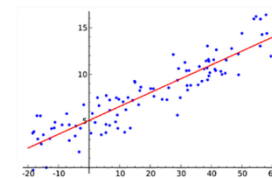
„Lebensdauervorhersagen sind schwierig, wenn sie Kunststoffe betreffen.“

... aber es gibt Hoffnung

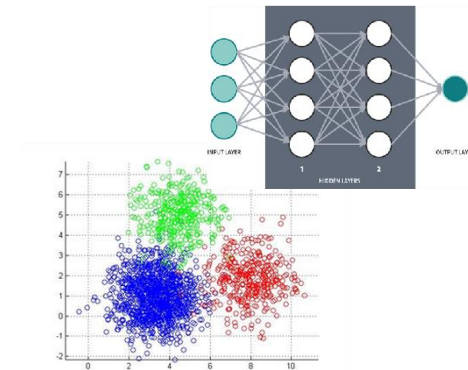
- Notwendigkeit der Verbesserung der Modelle (Kinetik und Materialeigenschaften)
- Die Parametrisierung der Modelle ist zeit- und kostenaufwändig
- Standortbezogene Wetterdaten sind gut zugänglich
- Es ist schwierig, Betriebs- und Mikroklimadaten zu erhalten



Degradations- und Versagensmodelle



KI-Methoden



Referenzen

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Accelerated thermal aging of thermoplastic materials for the motor compartment: Characterization, degradation model and lifetime prediction,
in: Service Life Prediction of Polymers and Coatings, Enhanced Methods, Edited by C.C. White, M.E. Nichols, J.E. Pickett, ch. 8, Elsevier 2020, p.116 -160, (ISBN 978-0-12-818367-0).

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Combination of material characterization and cyclic fatigue testing for investigation of elastomer aging,
in: Service Life Prediction of Polymers and Outdoor Weathering, Edited by C.C. White, M.E. Nichols, J.E. Pickett, Elsevier 2017, p. 197-227 (ISBN: 970-3-2349-7763).

Vielen Dank für die Aufmerksamkeit! Haben Sie Fragen?



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3. März

**Schadensanalyse
mit modernster
instrumenteller
Analytik**

22. April

**Rezyklate aus dem
gelben Sack**
- Potenzial für
hochwertige
Kunststoff-
anwendungen

6. Mai

**Lebensdauer von
Kunststoffen effizient
vorhersagen**
- Ermüdungsversuche
- Schadenshypothesen
- Modellierung

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