

2009 spring

*Advanced Physical Metallurgy*  
*“Amorphous Materials”*

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# Theories for the glass transition

## A. Thermodynamic phase transition

- **Glass transition**

$H, V, S$  : continuous

$C_p, \alpha_T, K_T$  : discontinuous

→ by thermodynamic origin, 2<sup>nd</sup> order transition

→ In fact, it appears on some evidences that the glass transition is **not a simple second-order phase transition.**

## B. Entropy

- **Heat capacity** → dramatic change at  $T_g$

- **Description of glass transition by entropy (Kauzmann)**

$$S = \int C_p d \ln T \rightarrow \text{The slow cooling rate, the lower } T_g \rightarrow T_K \text{ or } T_g^0$$

→ Measurement of Kauzmann temp. is almost impossible.

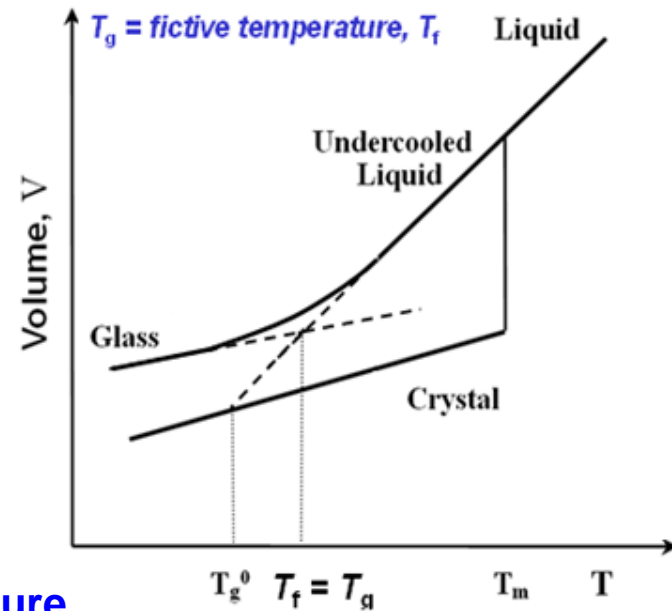
( ∴ very slow cooling rate → longer relaxation time → crystallization

# Theories for the glass transition

## C. Relaxation behavior

At high temp. (SCL + Liquid)

Liquid is characterized by **equilibrium amorphous structure**  
**metastable to crystalline in SCL.**



Below glass transition: frozen-in liquid

→ glass transition is observed when **the experimental time scale** (1)  
becomes comparable with **the time scale for atom/molecule arrangement** (2)

→ If (1) > (2) → liquid/ (1)~(2) → **glass transition**/ (1) < (2) → glass

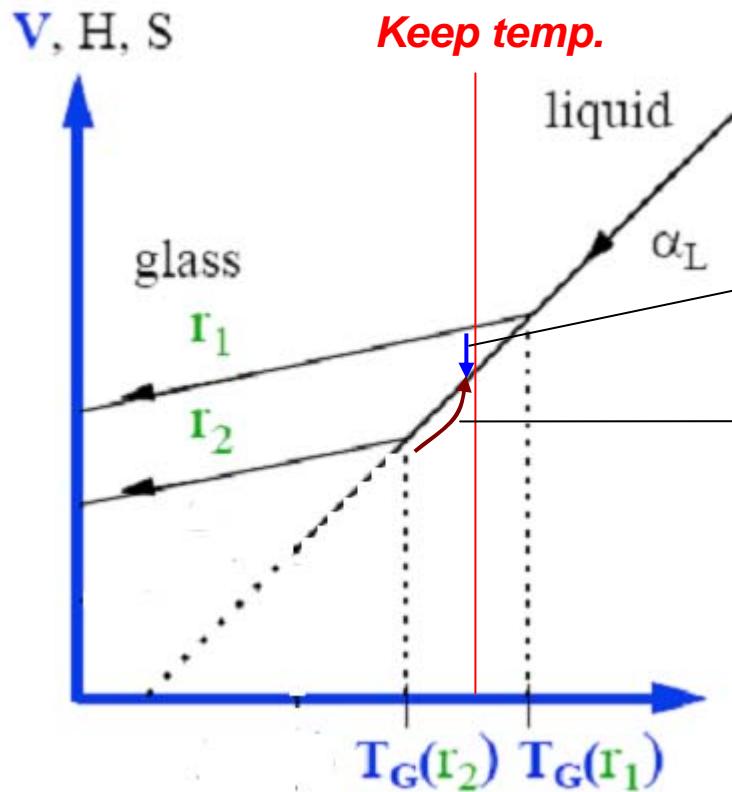
**(A concept of glass transition based on kinetic view point)**

(property of liquid-like structure suddenly changes to that of solid-like structure)

→ understanding of glass transition from viewpoints of relaxation

## C. Relaxation behavior

- In glass transition region, properties change with time.
- \* Process of relaxation behavior: **stabilization**  
(equilibrium amorphous structure) → closely related to glass property

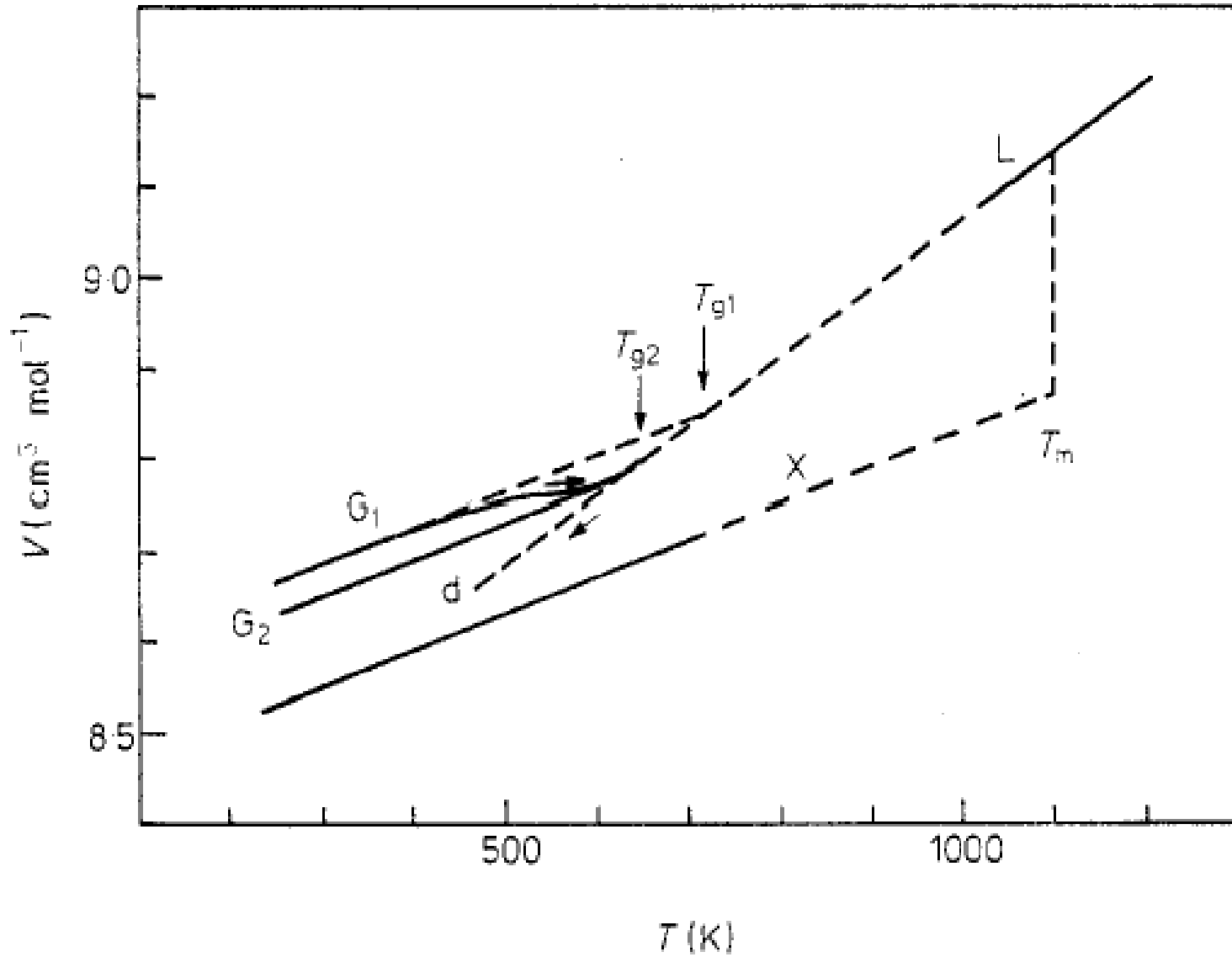


- depending on cooling rate, specific volume **↑** or **↓**

smaller volume

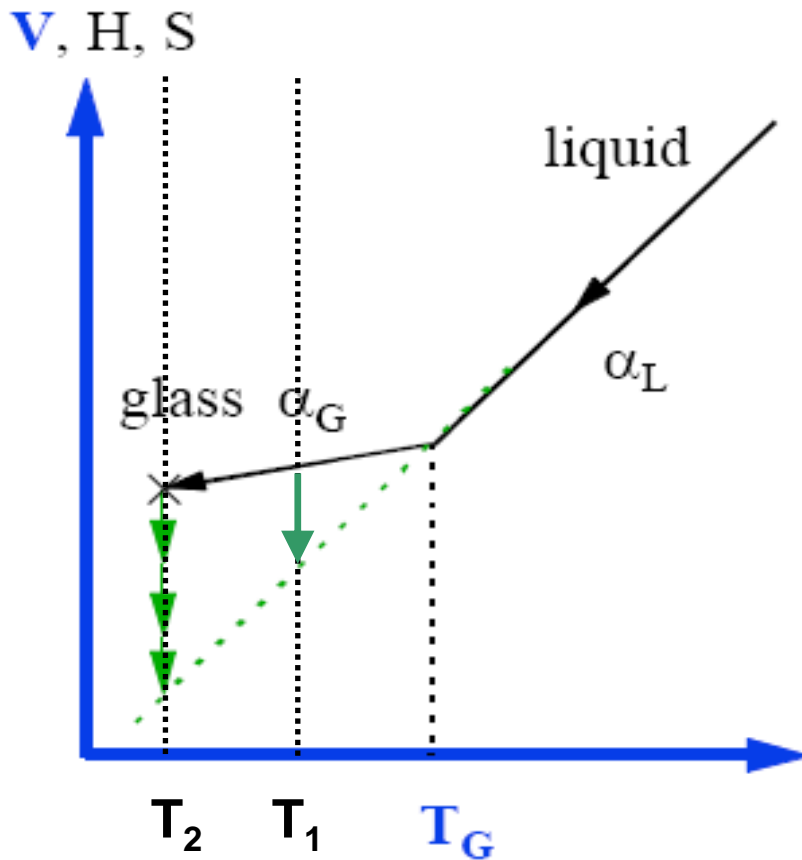
larger volume

### C. Relaxation behavior



<Specific volume of PdCuSi>

## C. Relaxation behavior : rate of relaxation behavior



Specific Volume (density) of the glass depends on the time at a given  $T < T_g$

### • high temp. ( $T_1$ )

- Kinetics for stabilization: large
- Initial departure from equil. amor. structure: small

➔ Total change in property: small

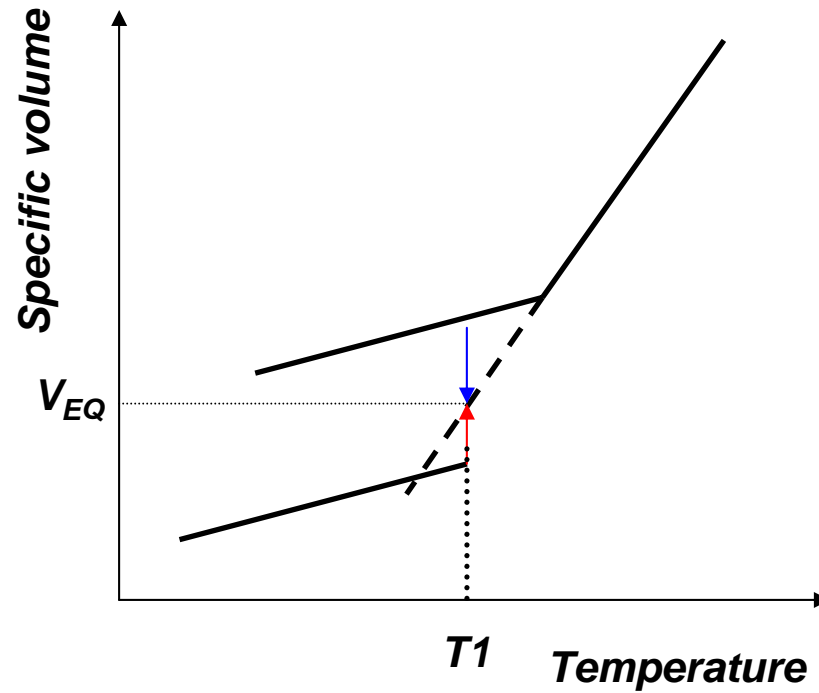
### • low temp. ( $T_2$ )

- Kinetics for stabilization: small
- Initial departure: large

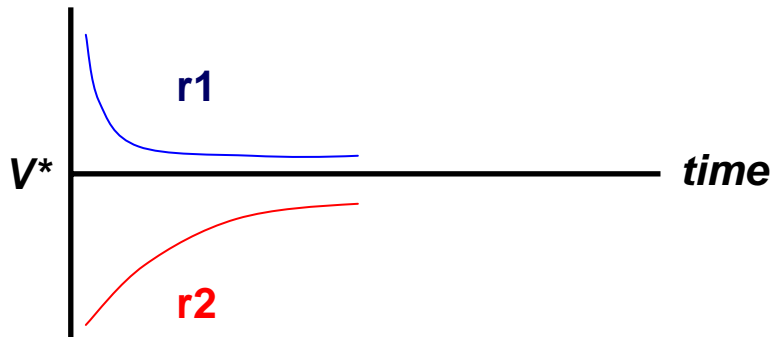
➔ relatively very small degree of (R)

➔ At intermediate temp. kinetics relaxation behavior (property change) may be largest.

# Relaxation from initial volumes above and below the equilibrium volume



## Variation of volume with time from initial volumes above and below the equil. volume



• relaxation kinetics

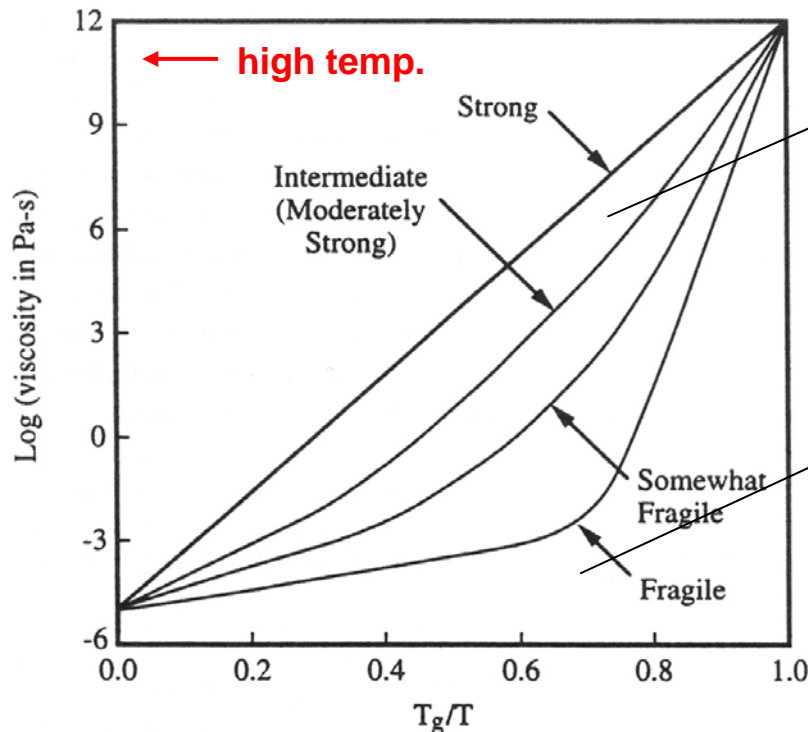
$$r_1 > r_2$$

## d. viscosity

### \* Another definition of glass transition;

- Viscosity ( $10^{12-13}$  poise)
- most glass forming liquid exhibit high viscosity.
- In glass transition region, viscosity suddenly changes.

→ Fragility concept: Strong vs Fragile



→ **Strong glass : Arrhenius behavior**

$$\eta = \eta_0 \exp\left[\frac{E_a}{RT}\right]$$

→ **Oxide glass** ex)  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{GeO}_2$

→ **fragile glass : Vogel-Fulcher relation**

- deviation from simple Arrhenius behavior

$$\eta = \eta_0 \exp\left[\frac{B}{T - T_0}\right]$$

→ **Ionic system, organic materials**



## d. viscosity

### \* How do we describe **viscous flow**?

- Several atomistic model
- absolute rate model
  - free volume model
  - excess entropy model

#### 1) Absolute rate model

→ atom/molecular rearrangement by **stress**

$$\eta = \frac{\tau \exp(\Delta E / kT)}{a_0 \sinh(\tau V_a / 2kT)}$$

**$\tau$**  : shear stress  
 **$A_0$**  : atom jump distance  
 **$V_a$**  : flow volume  
 **$\Delta E$**  : activation energy for flow

→ model describing **stress dependence of flow**

→ in case of small stress (  $\tau V_a / 2kT \ll 1$  )

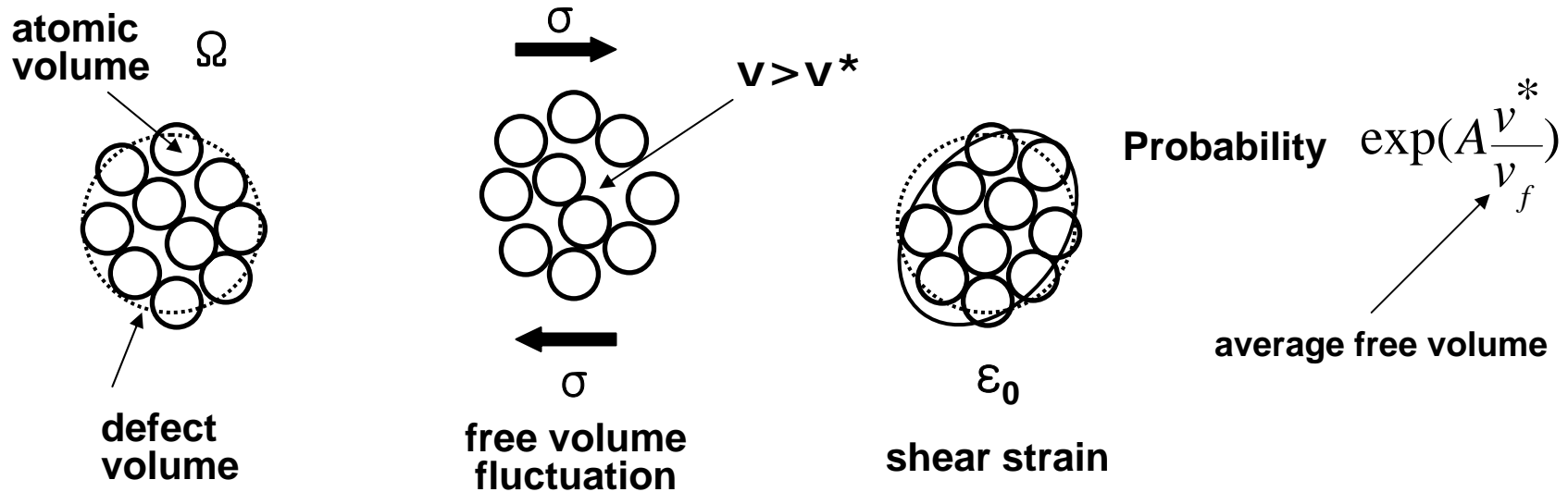
→ Arrhenius temp. dependence for the viscosity

→  $\log \eta$  vs  $1/T$  : linear ←  $\eta = \eta_0 \exp(\Delta E / kT)$

→ for many glass, at limited temp. range

## 2) Free volume model

**Free volume** → excess volume originated from thermal expansion without phase change in liquid



- $V^*$ : activated volume for molecular movement → crucial role for flow
  - ➔ Critical step in flow = opening of void of some critical vol. for atoms to move by an applied stress or thermal activation
  - ➔ redistribution of free volume (Kinetic viewpoints)

## Free volume

- explanation of glass transition through free volume
- hard sphere model (thermal oscillation)
  - Total volume: occupied by spheres ( $V_{occ}$ )
    - parts where atoms can move freely**
    - **permitting diffusion motion**
    - **free volume**
  - Transport of atom: voids over critical volume **(by free vol. redistribution)**
  - As temp. decrease,  $V_f$  will decrease in liquid.

### On the other hand,

- Free vol. **in glass** is relatively independent of temp. than that of liquid.
  - **free volume** → **frozen-in (not happen to redistribution of free vol.)**

## \* Is it possible to observe glass transition through free volume?

- if free volume decreases under critical value,

- hard sphere model  $\eta_p = 0.516$

- M.D. simulation  $\eta_p = 0.56$

→ hard sphere dense random packing:  $\eta_p = 0.636$

### • Qualitative analysis with temp. change

- expansion coeff.:  $\alpha_{Tl}, \alpha_{Tg}$

- expansion coeff. of free volume:  $\Delta\alpha_T = \alpha_{Tl} - \alpha_{Tg}$

- Vol at T=0

$$V_{occ}(T=0) = V_g - V_g \alpha_{Tl} T_g \quad (\text{extrapolation of total volume of liquid})$$

$(V_g = \text{total volume at } T_g)$

- Total vol. at glass (T=0)

$$V = V_g - V_g \alpha_{Tg} T_g$$

- free volume at T=0

$$V_f = V - V_{occ} = V_g (\Delta\alpha_T) T_g$$

## 2) Free volume model

→ by Doolittle (1951)

→ flow of hydrocarbon liquids in the range of high fluidity  
by empirical relation

$$\eta \approx \eta_0' \exp(\gamma V_0 / V_f)$$

**$V_0$  : van der Waals volume of the molecule**  
 **$V$  : molecular volume at given temp.**  
 **$V_f$  : free volume ( $V_f = V - V_0$ )**  
 **$\gamma$  : constant**

→ temp. dependence of  $\eta$  → temp. dependence of  $V_f$

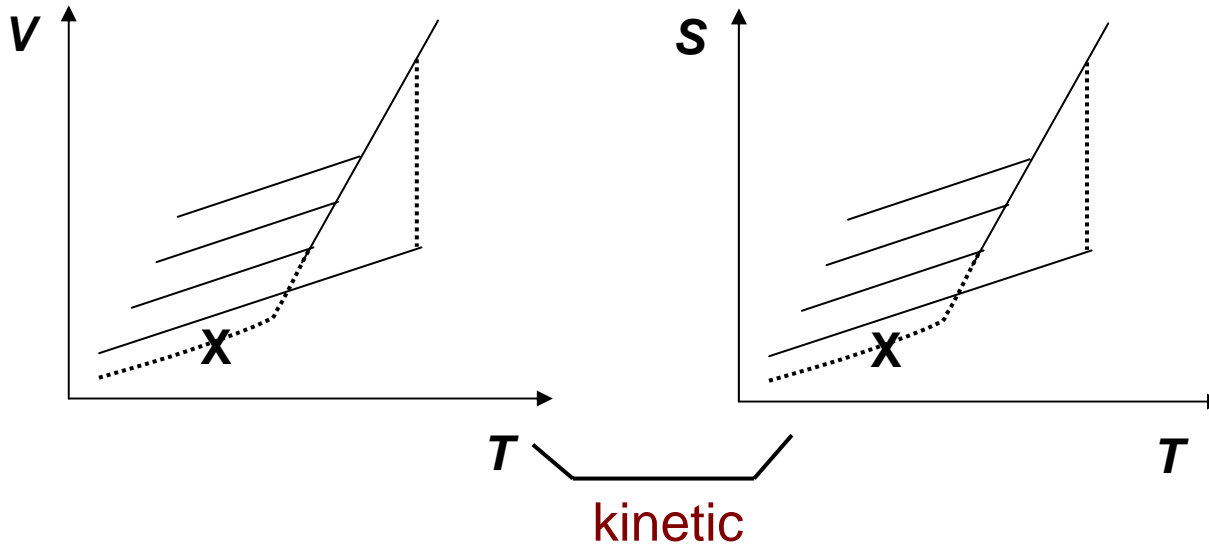
→ Viscosity near  $T_g$  by Williams Landel and Ferry (1955)

→ glass transition/ viscosity

$$\eta \approx \eta_0' \exp \left[ \frac{b}{f_g + \Delta\alpha(T - T_g)} \right]$$

**$f_g = (V_f/V)_{T_g}$  : fractional free volume**  
 **$\Delta\alpha$  : difference between the thermal  
expansion coeff. of liquid and glass**  
 **$b$  = constant**

### 3) Excess entropy model: thermodynamic viewpoint

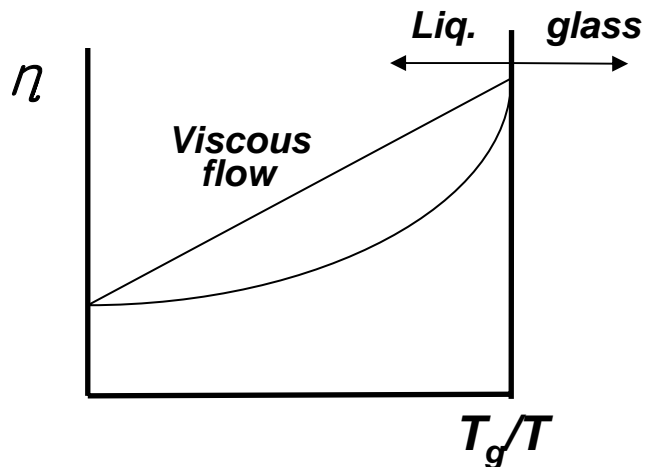


- decrease of configurational entropy with temp. change  $\rightarrow$  **viscosity**

by Gibbs  $\eta \approx \eta_0 \exp(c/T \cdot S_c)$

**c: const (potential energy barrier for atom movement)**

**$S_c$ : configurational entropy**



Viscous – fragile – configuration

$\rightarrow$  **connection**