

**2014 Spring**

**“Advanced Physical Metallurgy”  
- Bulk Metallic Glasses -**

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# Chapter 2. Metallic Glass

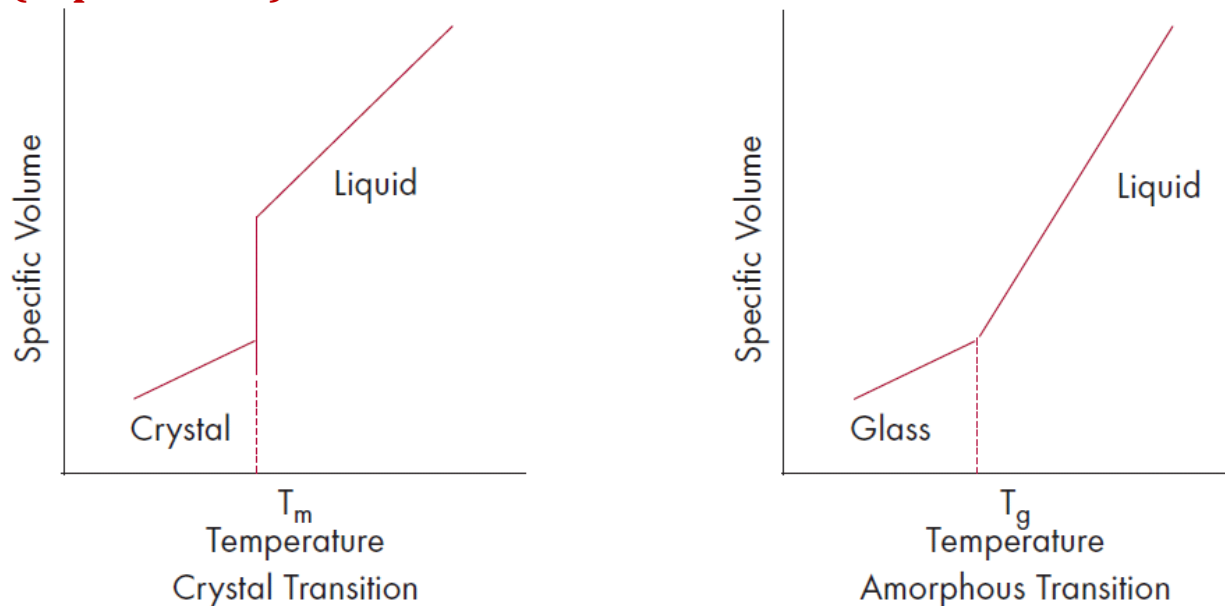
*Glass is any noncrystalline solid obtained by continuous cooling from the liquid state, and amorphous solid is any noncrystalline material obtained by any other method, except by continuous cooling from the liquid state.*

## Fundamentals of the Glass Transition

If liquid is cooled, two events can occur.

1) Crystallization (solidification at  $T_{m.p.}$ )

2) Undercooled below  $T_{m.p.}$   $\Rightarrow$  More viscous  $\Rightarrow$  Glass (supercooled)



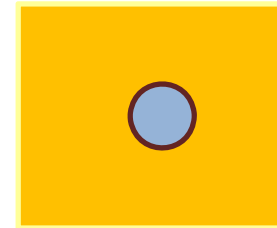
**Figure 4. Liquid-Crystalline Solid Transition (Left) and Liquid-Glass Transition (Right).**

# Fundamentals of the Glass Transition

- **Melting and Crystallization are Thermodynamic Transitions**
  - Discontinuous changes in structure and properties at  $T_m$
  - Structures are thermodynamically controlled and described by the
  - Phase Diagram
  - $T_{\text{melting}}$  and  $T_{\text{liquidus}}$  have fixed and specific values, 1710 °C for  $\text{SiO}_2$ , for example
- **The Glass Transition is a Kinetic Transition**
  - Continuous changes in structure and properties near  $T_g$
  - Structure and properties are continuous with temperature
  - Structures and properties can be changed continuously by changing the kinetics of the cooled or reheated liquid

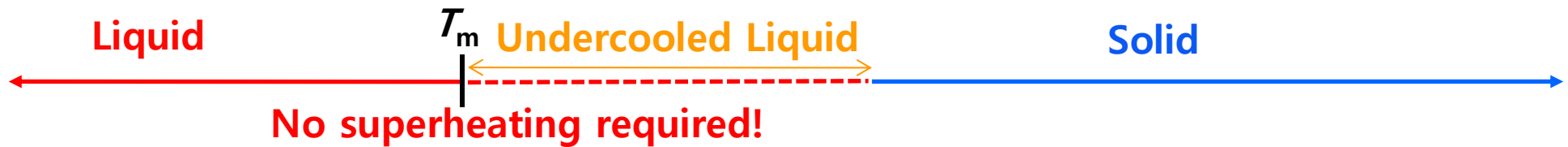
# Melting and Crystallization are **Thermodynamic Transitions**

**Solidification:** Liquid  $\rightarrow$  Solid



<Thermodynamic>

• Interfacial energy  $\Rightarrow \Delta T_N$



• Interfacial energy  $\Rightarrow$  No  $\Delta T_N$

$$\gamma_{SL} + \gamma_{LV} < \gamma_{SV}$$

vapor



**Melting:** Liquid  $\leftarrow$  Solid

In general, wetting angle = 0  $\Rightarrow$  No superheating required!

- \* Quasi-chemical approach
- \* Solid: force between pairs of atoms  
→ vaporize: break all "pairwise" bonds

For, example: Copper (Cu)

Vaporization

Heat of vaporization 80 Kcal/mole

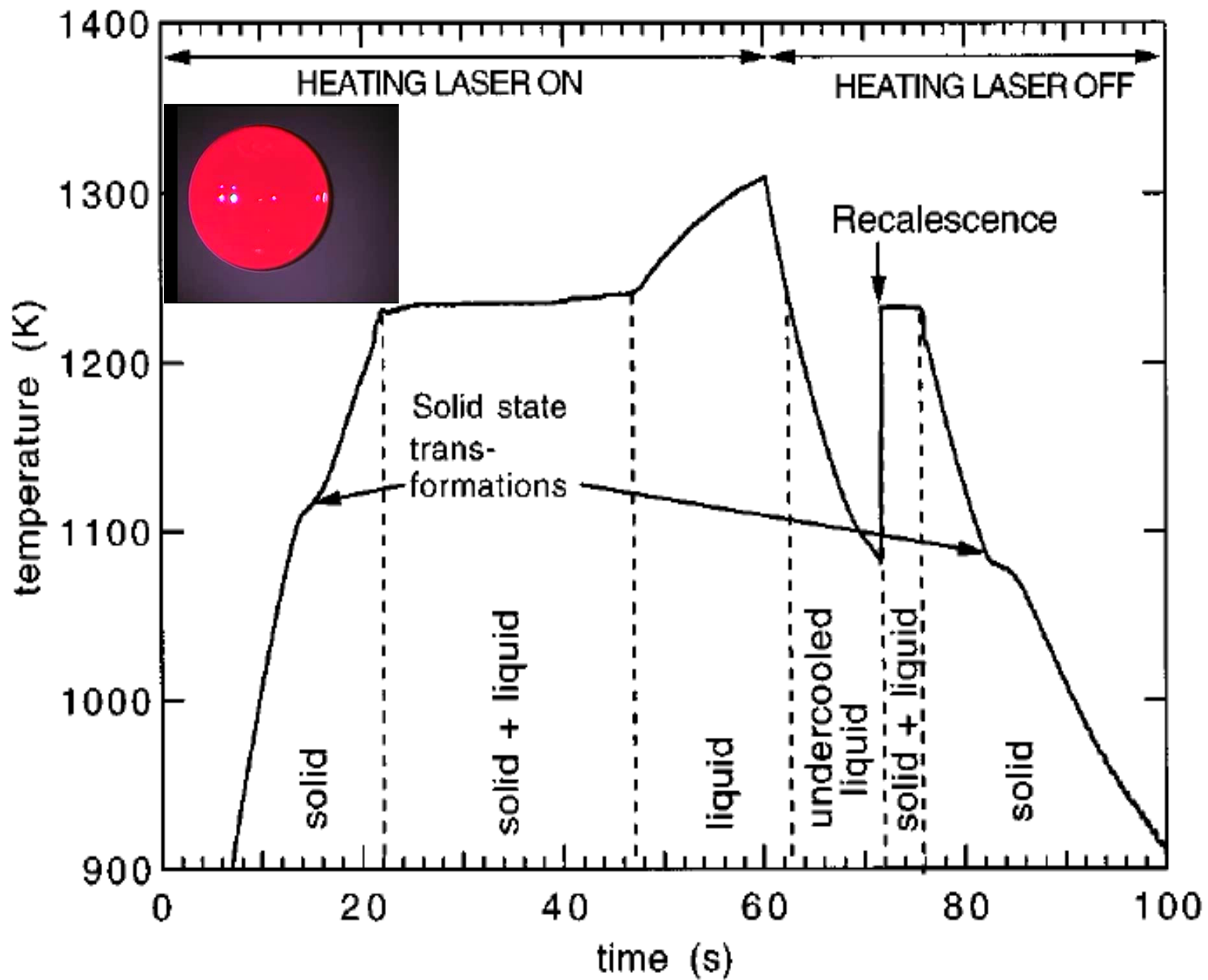
Melting

Heat of fusion 3.1 Kcal/mole



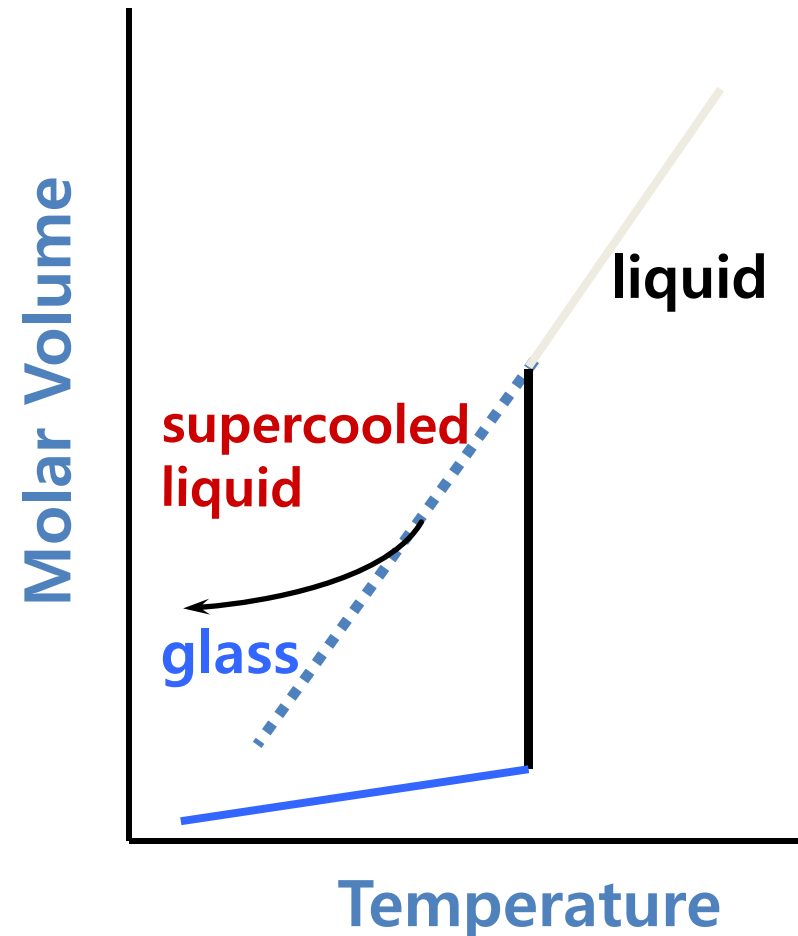
25 times → 1/25 broken

Melting: each bond is replaced by one with 4 percent less E,  
although bond energy of liquid is changed by the positions.  
→ Heat of fusion during melting: need to generate weaker liquid bonds



# Glass Formation is Controlled by Kinetics

- Glass forming liquids are those that are able to **“by-pass” the melting point,  $T_m$**
- Liquid may have a **“high viscosity”** that makes it difficult for atoms of the liquid to diffuse (rearrange) into the crystalline structure
- Liquid maybe cooled so fast that it does **not have enough time to crystallize**
- Two time scales are present
  - **“Internal” time scale** controlled by the viscosity (bonding) of the liquid
  - **“External” timescale** controlled by the cooling rate of the liquid



## Definition of a glass ?

$$\tau_{micro} \ll \tau_{exp} \ll \tau_{relax}$$

**Time scale separation between microscopic, experimental, relaxation; the system is out of equilibrium on the experimental time scale.**

**(cf. S.K. Ma, Statistical Physics)**



Viscosity indicates the resistance to flow of a system and is a measure of its internal friction. The International System unit of viscosity is  $\text{Pa s} = \text{kg m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ . An older unit is Poise, P with the relationship:

$$1 \text{ P} = 0.1 \text{ Pa s} \quad (2.1)$$

As a reference point, water at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  has a viscosity of 1 centiPoise, cP ( $10^{-2}$  Poise). The viscosities of some substances of common use are:

Water at $20^\circ\text{C}$	1.002 cP ( $1.002 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa s}$ )
Mercury at $20^\circ\text{C}$	1.554 cP ( $1.554 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa s}$ )
Pancake syrup at $20^\circ\text{C}$	2,500 cP (2.5 Pa s)
Peanut butter at $20^\circ\text{C}$	250,000 cP (250 Pa s)
Soda glass at $575^\circ\text{C}$	$1 \times 10^{15}$ cP ( $1 \times 10^{12} \text{ Pa s}$ )

As defined above, the glass transition temperature,  $T_g$ , is the temperature at which the supercooled liquid becomes solid glass. To be more accurate, this should be called the thermal or calorimetric glass transition. It is also important to realize that this “transition” is not a true thermodynamic phase transition, but its origin is strictly kinetic, since the value of  $T_g$  depends on the cooling rate and, more generally, on the way the glass is prepared.

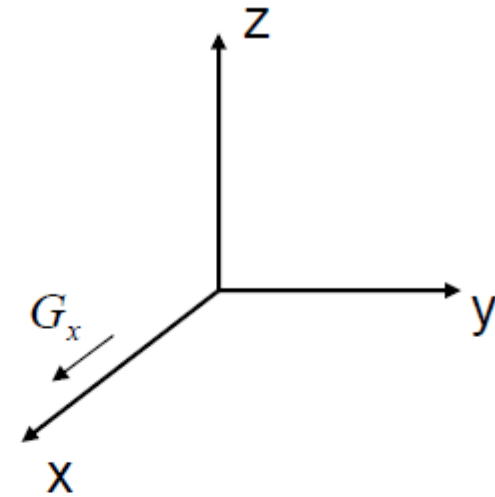
## \* Glass: Solid? or liquid?

$$\eta = G_x / \left( \frac{dv_x}{dz} \right)$$

$G_x$ : Shear stress in x direction

→ causing velocity gradient:  $\frac{dv_x}{dz}$

$dz$ : thickness of element perpendicular to the applied stress

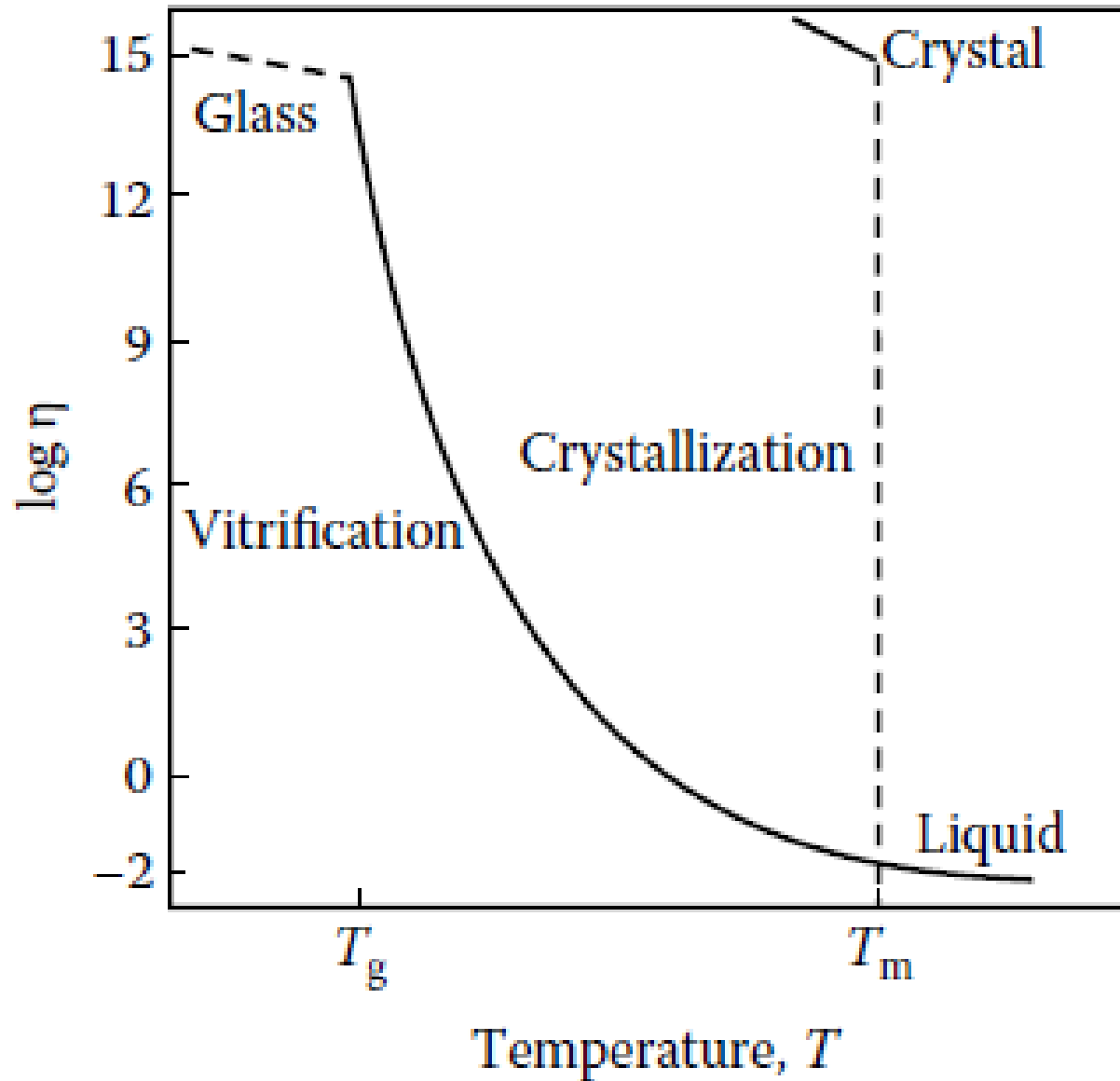


ex) **small stress**  
100 N applies for one day to 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of material  
having viscosity of 10<sup>14.6</sup> poise

→ yield deformation of 0.02 mm  
**just measurable**

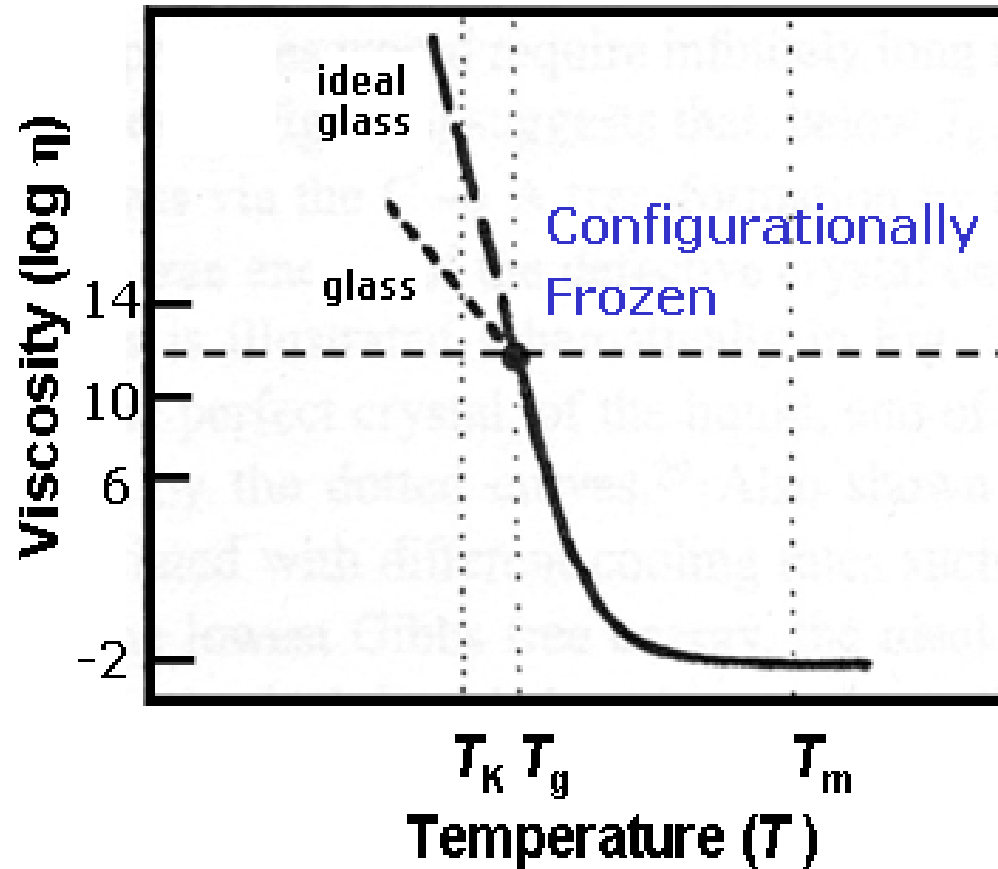
→ **Solid**: application of small force for one day  
produces no permanent change.

Variation of viscosity with temperature for crystal and glass formation



Glass : undercooled liquid with high viscosity

*The higher the structural relaxation, the closer it moves toward a "true" glass.*

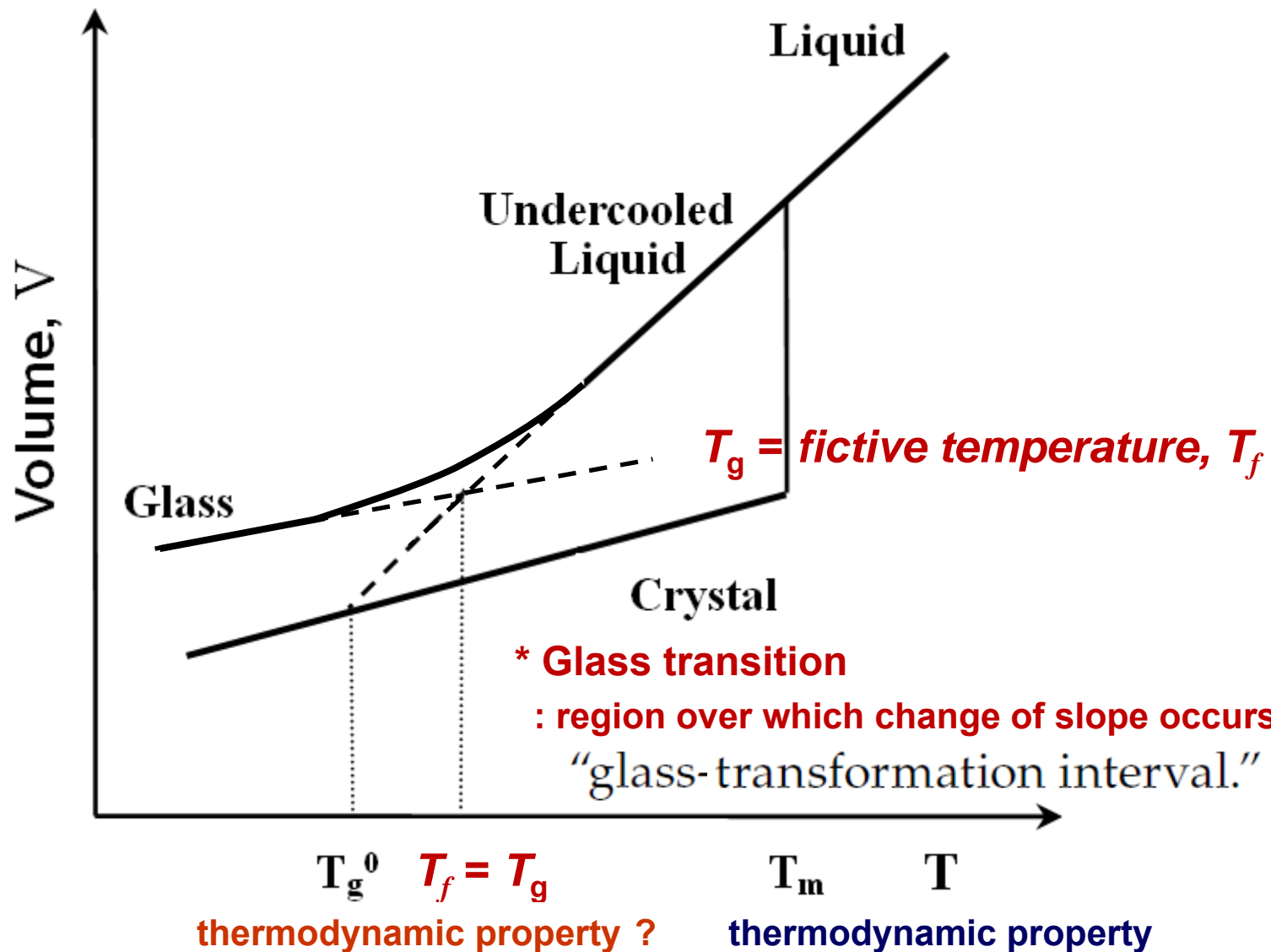


***A solid is a materials whose viscosity exceeds  $10^{14.6}$  poise***

***cf) liquid  $\sim 10^{-2}$  poise***

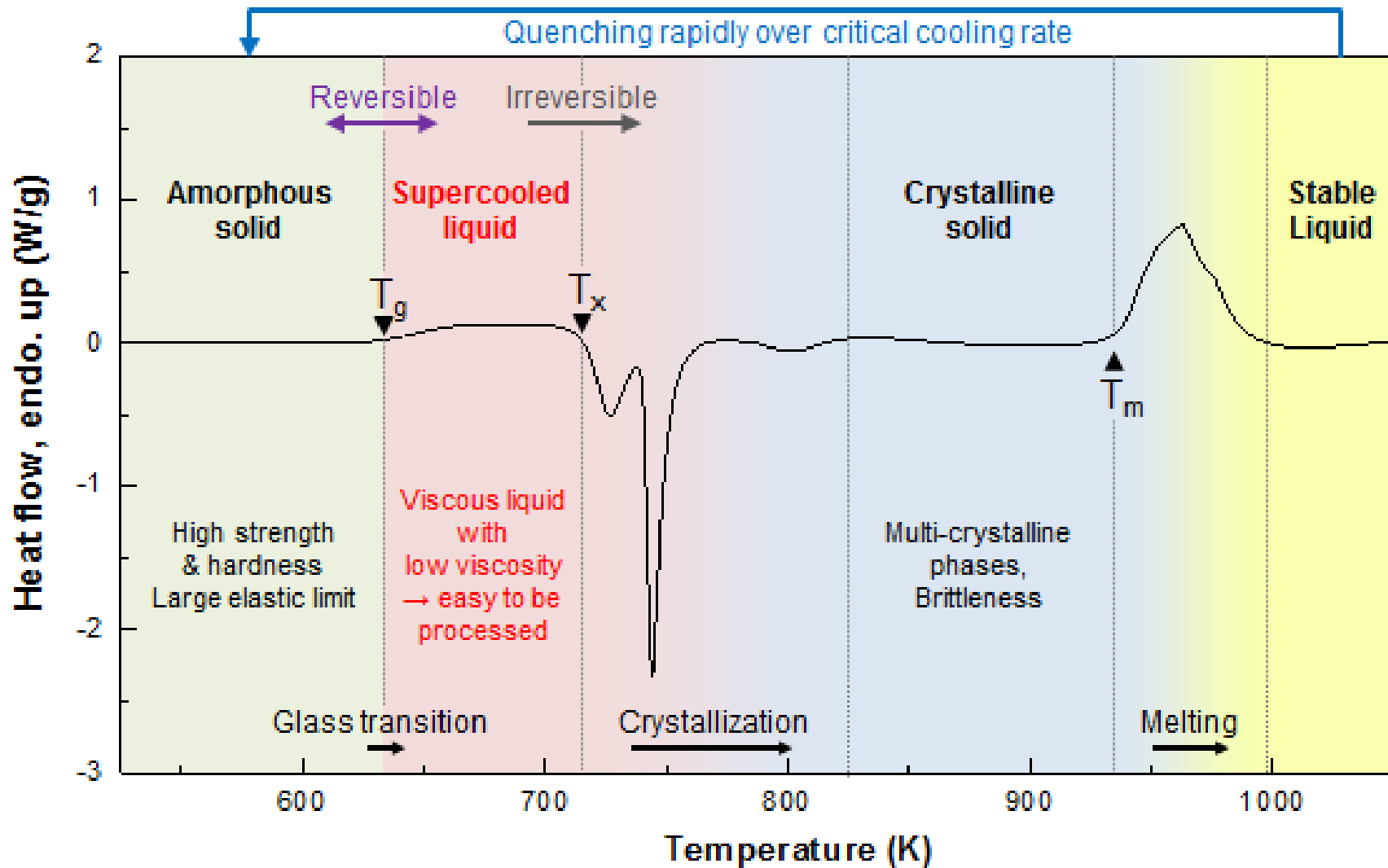
## \* Glass transition

On cooling, although the driving force for nucleation is continually increasing, this is opposed by the rapidly decreasing atomic mobility which, at very high undercoolings, dominates. Eventually, homogeneously frozen at  $T_g$ :



# DSC trace of Vitreloy 1

: the temperature regions sectioned according to phase transformations



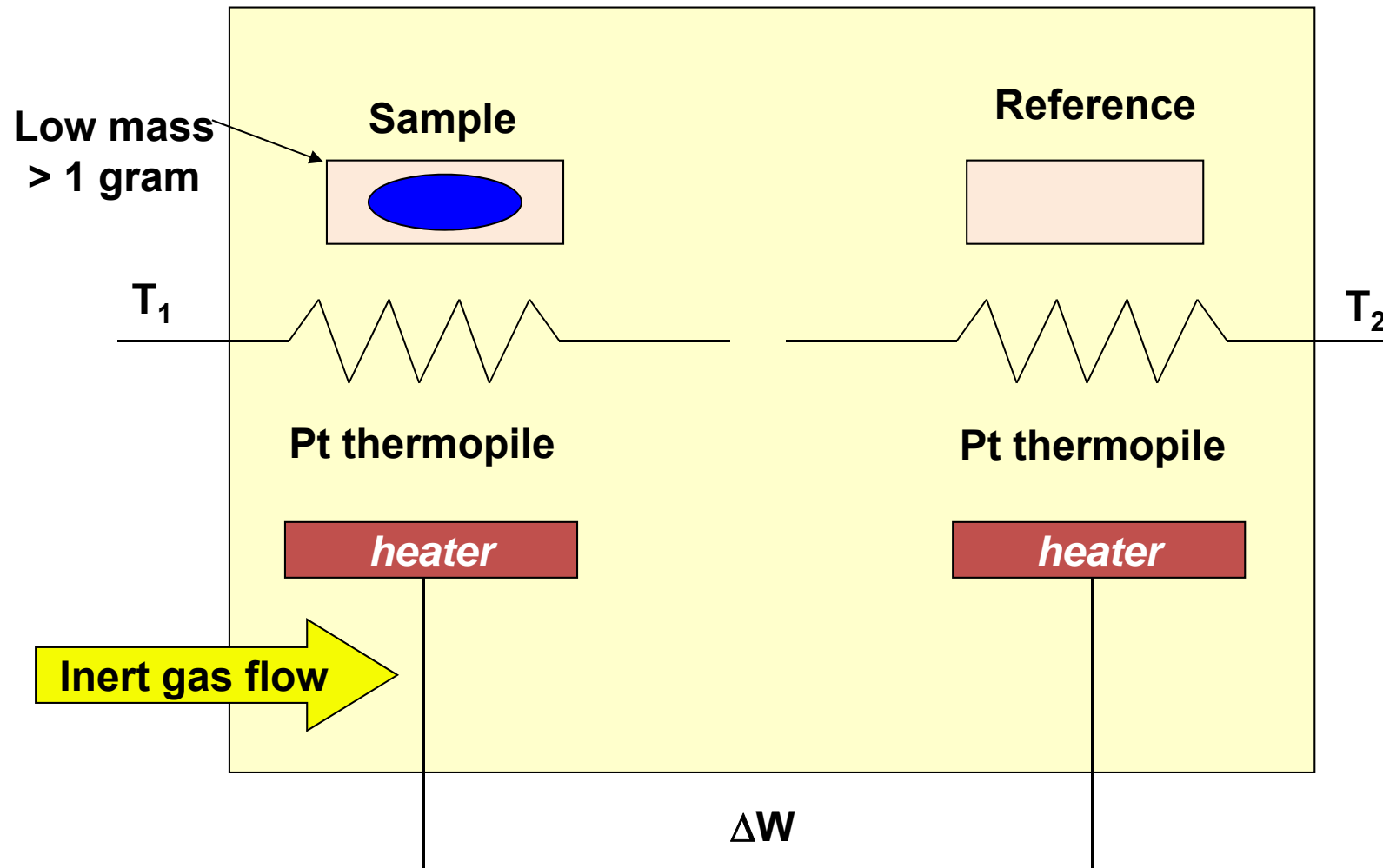
**$\Delta T_x$  : indication of thermal stability of the glass produced**

# Thermal analysis: DSC

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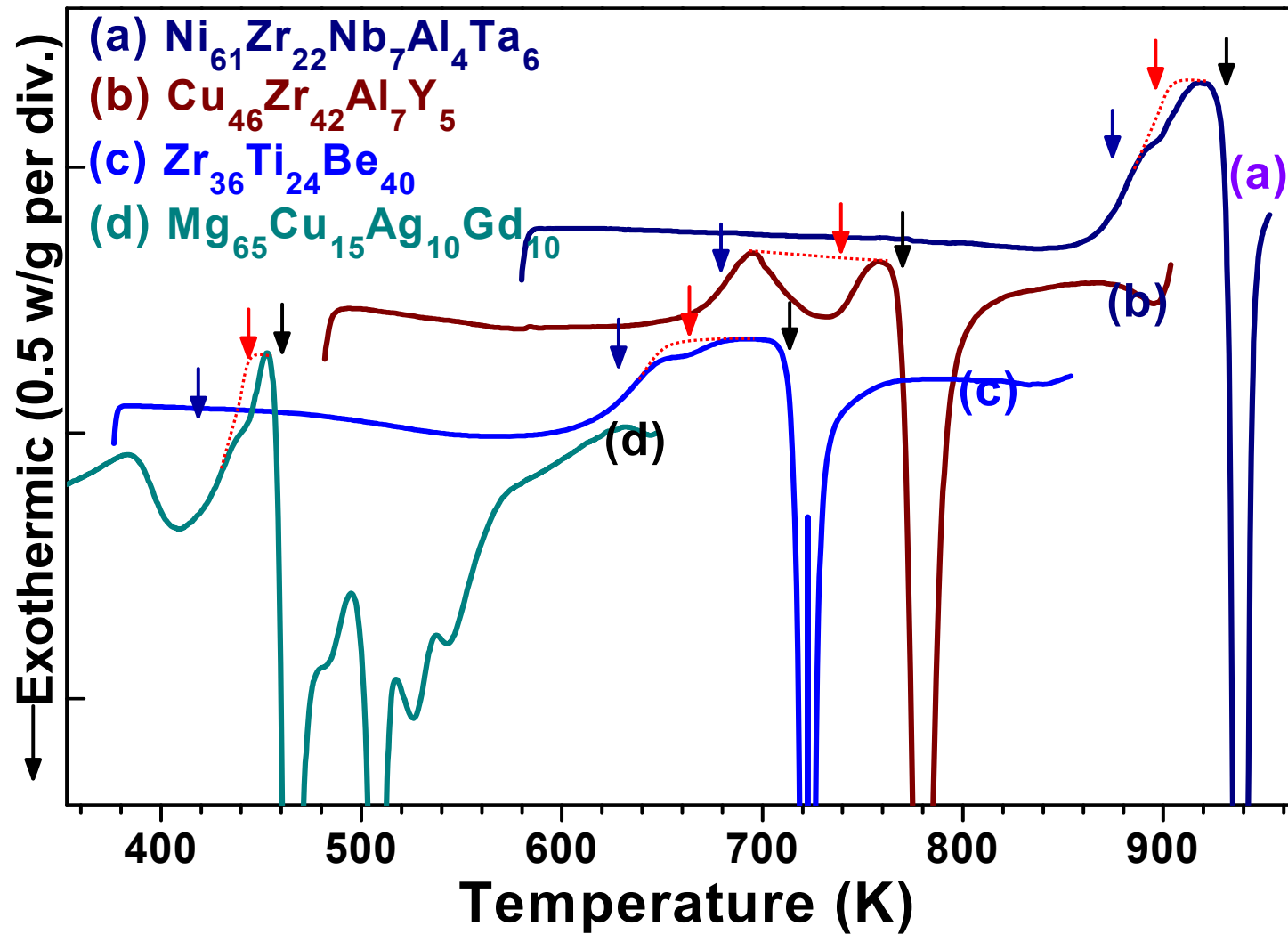
- A *calorimeter* measures the heat into or out of a sample.
- A *differential calorimeter* measures the heat of a sample relative to a reference.
- A *differential scanning calorimeter* does all of the above and heats the sample with a linear temperature ramp.
- Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) **measures** the **temperatures** and **heat flows** associated with transitions in materials as a function of time and temperature in a controlled atmosphere.

# Schematic of DSC Instrument





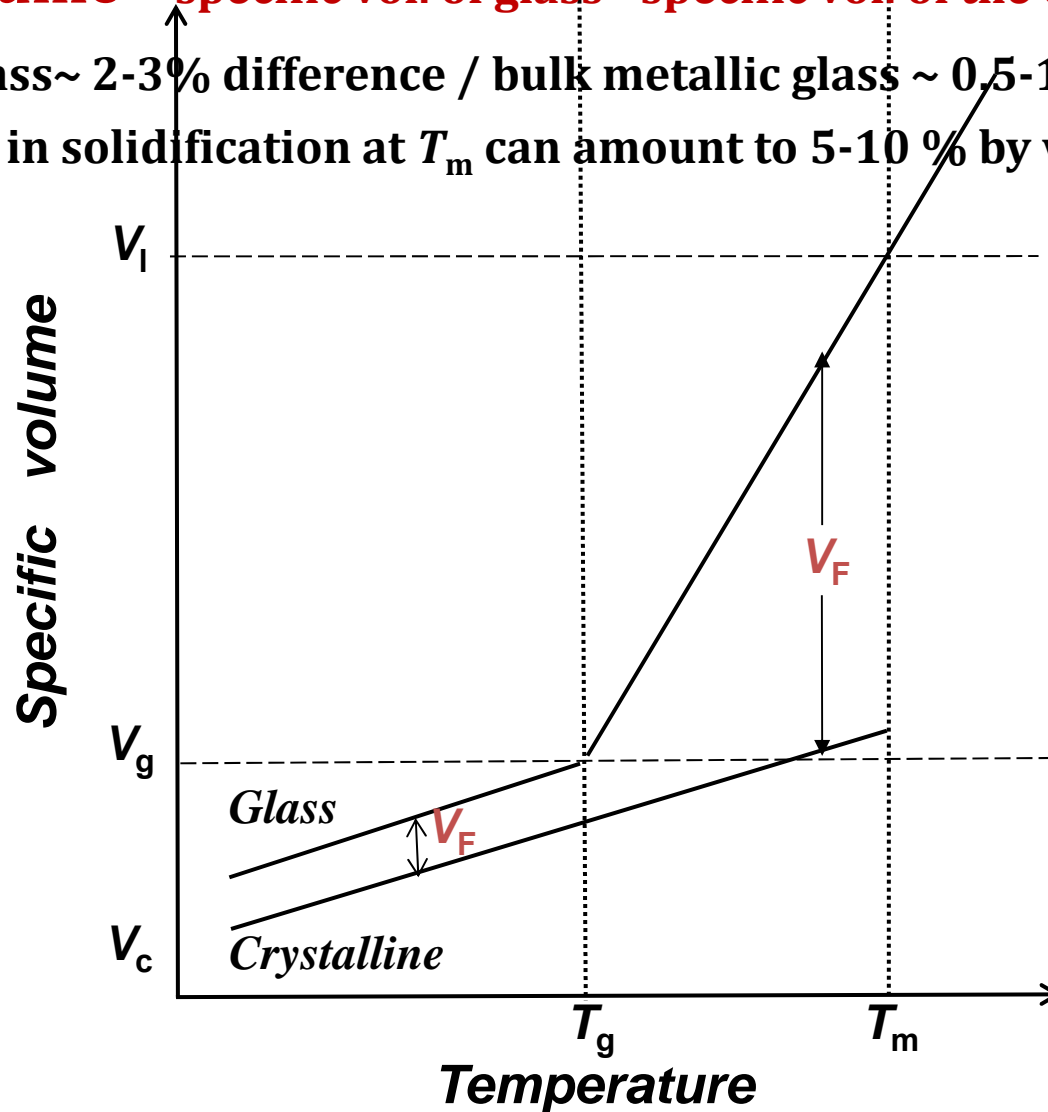
Variation of  $T_g$  depending on alloy compositions → Broken Bonds



At a temperature  $T_x$ , which is higher than  $T_g$ , the supercooled liquid transforms into the crystalline phase(s). As mentioned earlier, the temperature interval between  $T_x$  and  $T_g$  is referred to as the width of the supercooled liquid region (SLR), that is,  $\Delta T_x = T_x - T_g$ . The value of  $\Delta T_x$  is different for different glasses, and is usually taken as an indication of the thermal stability of the glass produced. In the case of BMGs, this temperature interval is usually quite large and values of over 120 K have been reported; the highest reported to date is 131 K in a  $\text{Pd}_{43}\text{Cu}_{27}\text{Ni}_{10}\text{P}_{20}$  BMG alloy [17]. In the case of rapidly solidified thin ribbon glasses, and marginal glass-formers, the value of  $\Delta T_x$  is very small, if observed at all.

**\* Free volume = specific vol. of glass - specific vol. of the corresponding crystal**

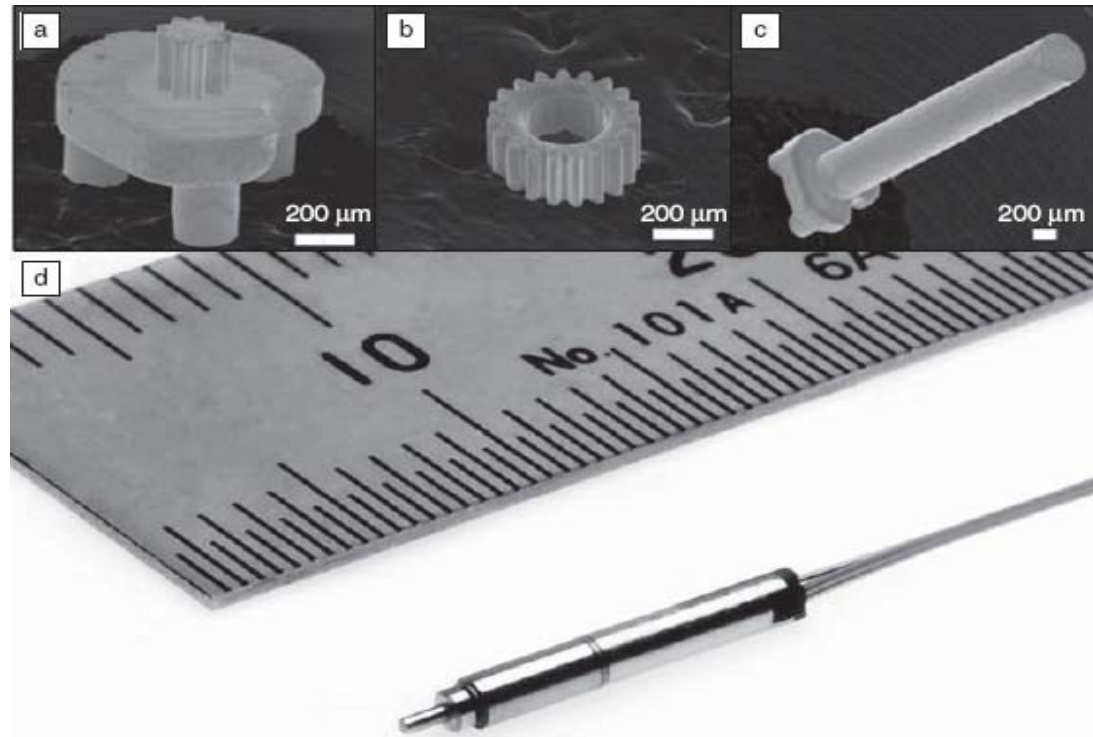
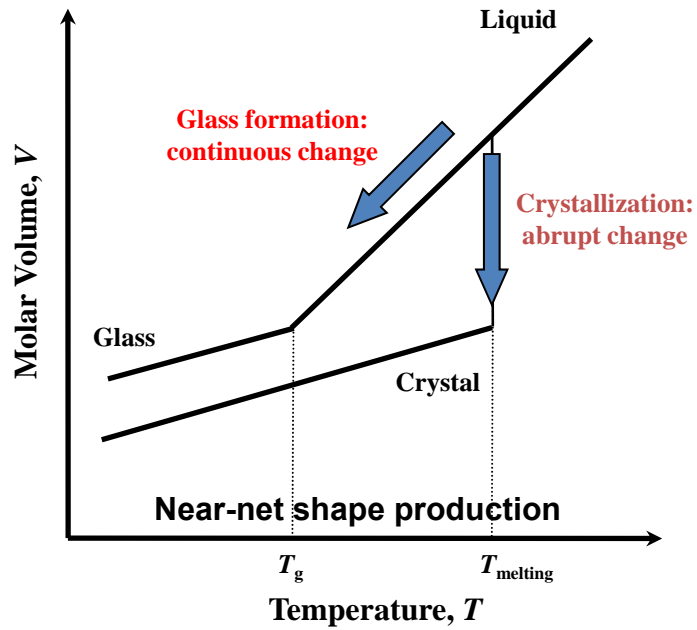
- normal glass ~ 2-3% difference / bulk metallic glass ~ 0.5-1 % difference
- Shrinkage in solidification at  $T_m$  can amount to 5-10 % by volume.



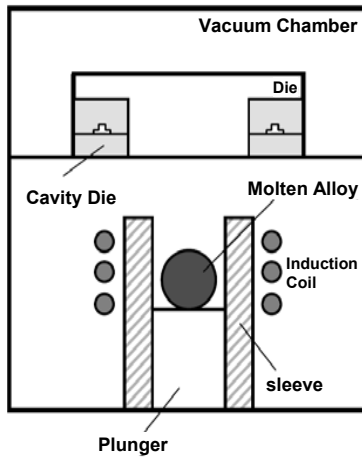
At the glass transition temperature,  $T_g$ , the free volume increases leading to atomic mobility and liquid-like behavior.

Below the glass transition temperature, atoms (ions) are not mobile and the material behaves like solid

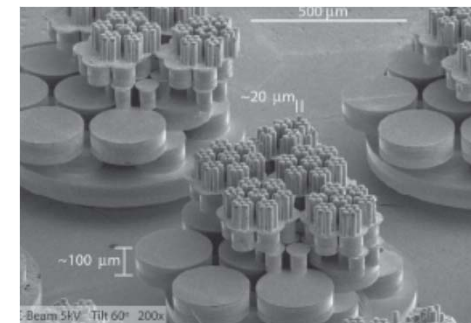
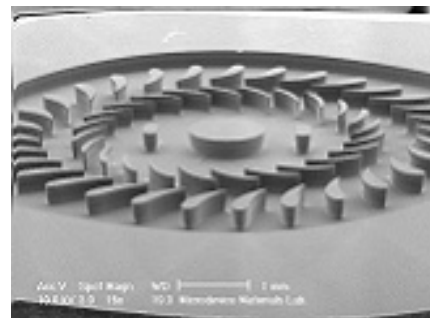
# \* Micro/Nano casting



Precision Gears for Micro-motors



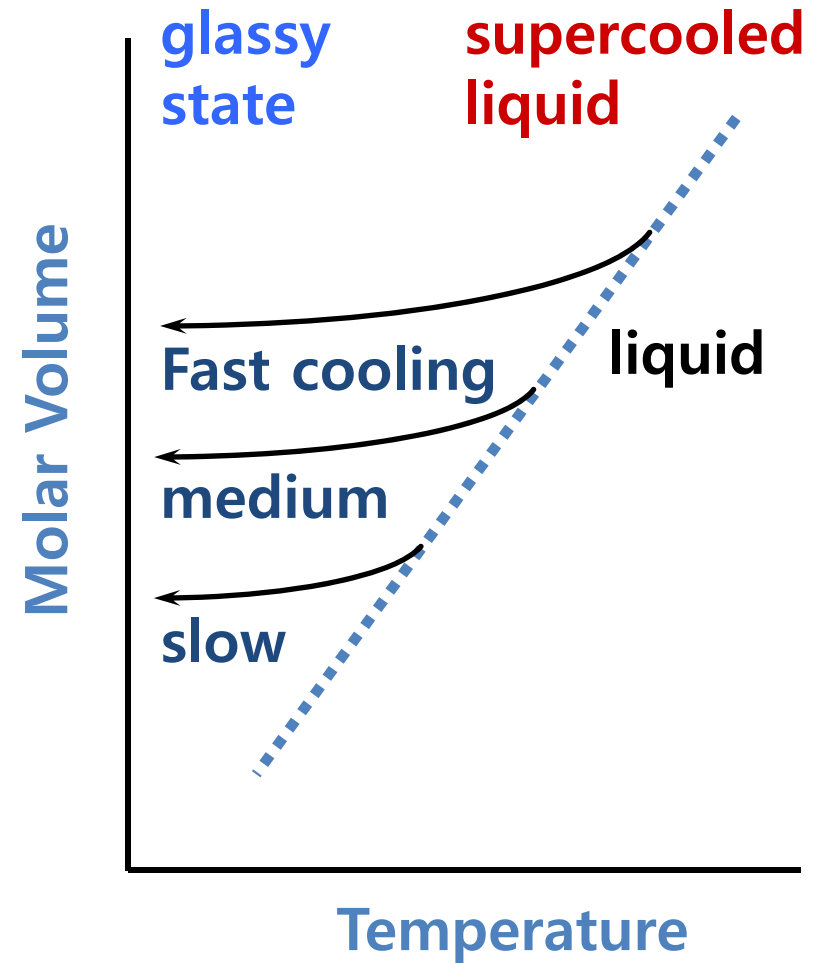
Precision die casting



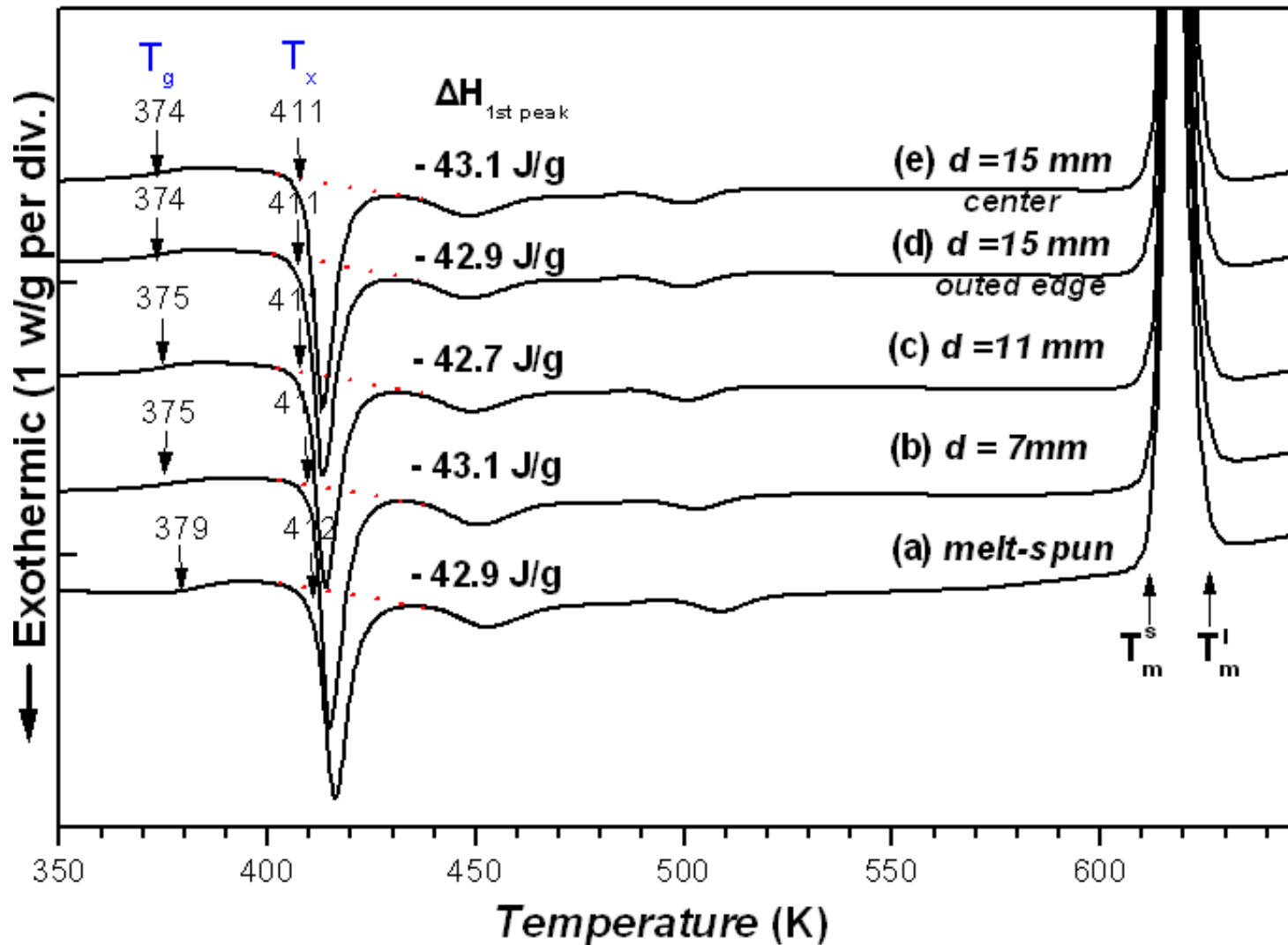
MRS BULLETIN 32 (2007)654.

# The Cooling Rate Affects the Properties of Glass

- **Faster cooling** freezes in the glass at a **higher temperature**
- The temperature is lowered so fast that the liquid does not have time to relax to the properties at the next lower temperature, glass is formed at a high temperature
- **Slower cooling** freezes in the glass at a **lower temperature**
- The temperature is lowered slowly enough that the liquids can relax to properties at lower and lower temperatures, glass is eventually formed at a lower temperature

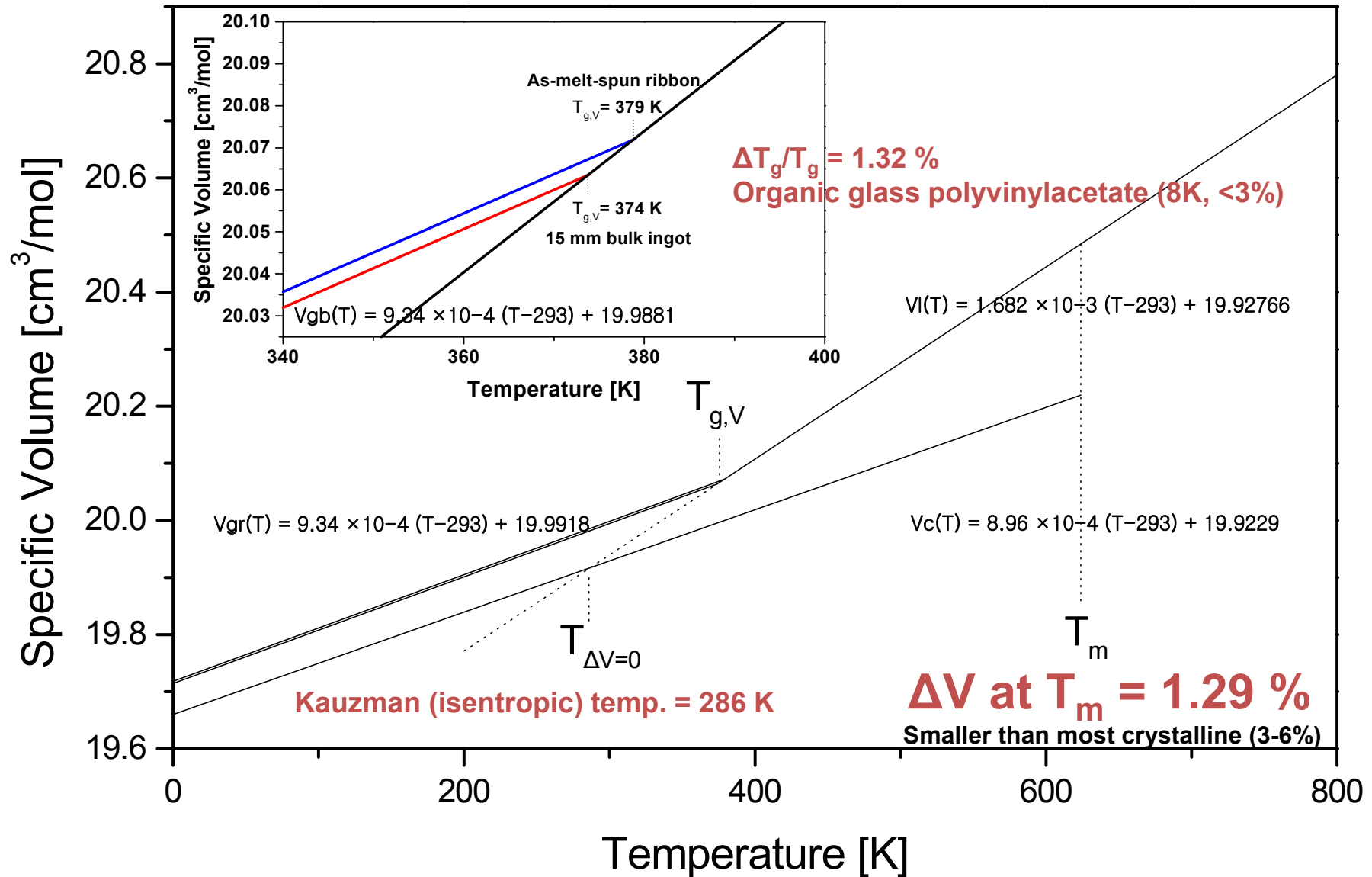


❖ Typically  $T_g$  is  $\sim 50\text{-}60\%$  of the melting point. ( $0.6T_m$ )



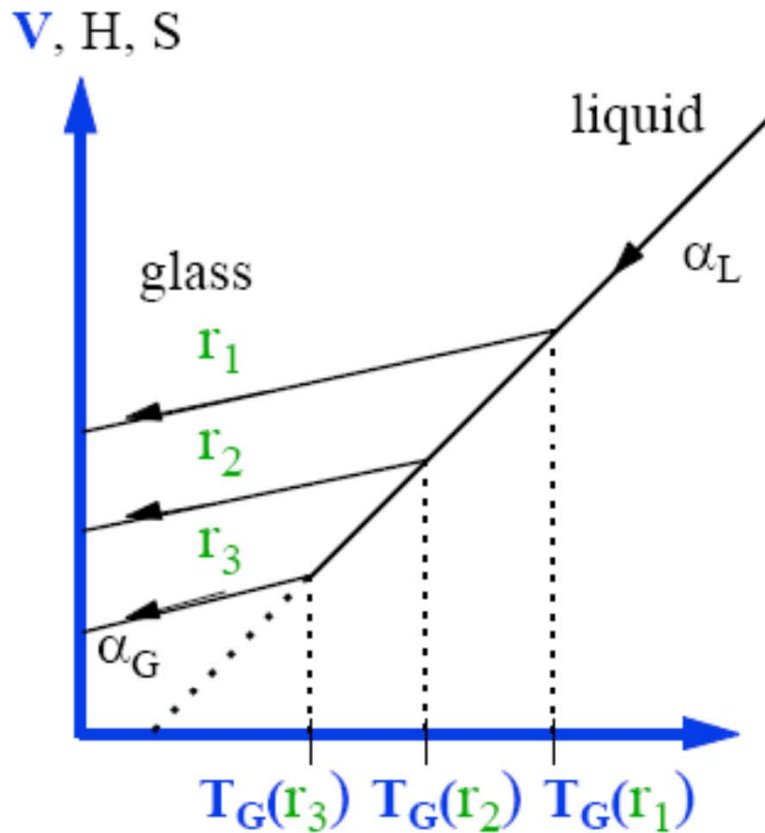
\* J Mater Res, 19 (2004) 685.

**\*  $T_g$  depends on thermal history even in same alloy composition.**

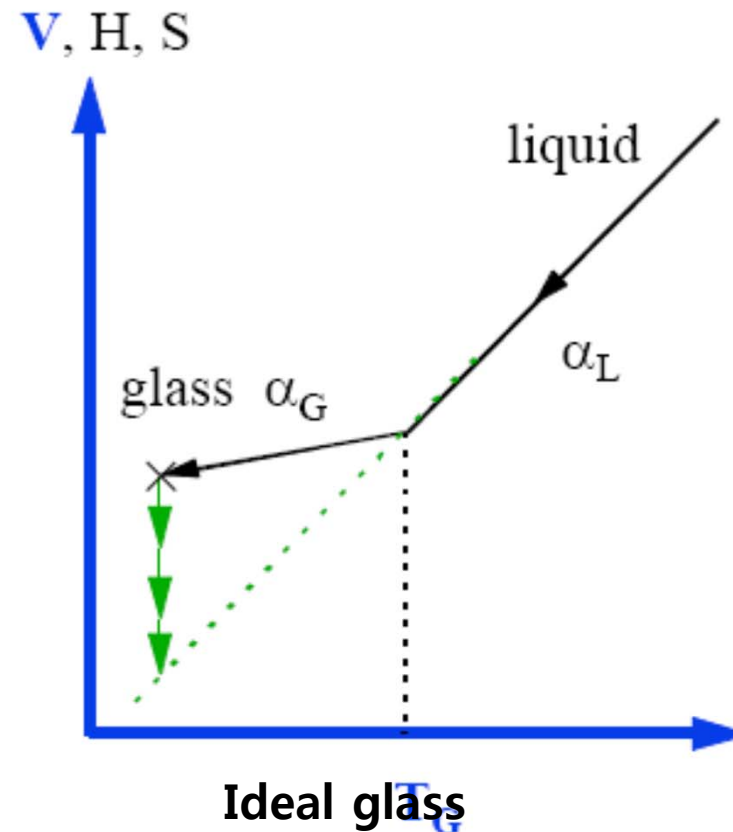


\* APL, 92 (2008) 091915.

## \* Kinetic Nature of the Glass Transition



$T_g$  depends on the rate at which the liquid is cooled.  $T_G(r_3) < T_G(r_2) < T_G(r_1)$  if  $r_3 < r_2 < r_1$



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

\* Glass  $\rightarrow$  excited state - (sufficient time)  $\rightarrow$  relax and eventually transform to crystalline ground state