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Network glasses, terminal atoms intermediate phases

P. BOOLCHAND

The University of Cincinnati Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science 814 Rhodes Hall, ML0030 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0030 U.S.A. Network glasses, terminal atoms intermediate phases.\* F. Wang, M. Micoulaut,K.A.Jackson, B. Goodman and P. Boolchand. University of Cincinnati

J.C. Phillips, Rutgers University M.F. Thorpe, Arizona State University

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# Nature of glass transition

Glass transitions are usually hysteretic.

 But in select compositional windows, T<sub>g</sub>s become non-hysteretic.

 These windows occur when network connectivity or mean r resides in the 2.30 < r < 2.50 range typically.</li>

#### Modulated Differential Scanning Calorimetrya probe of the nature of glass transitions



D.G. Georgiev, P.Boolchand, M.Micoulaut Phys. Rev B 62, R9228 (2000)

# MDSC permits probing glass transitions more accurately than traditional DSC

- far more sensitive (AC versus DC method)
- separates reversing (vibrational or thermodynamics) from non-reversing (Configurational or structural arrest, aging, and history related) events.
- Obtain scan-rate independent  $T_g$ s and  $\Delta C_p$  from reversing heat flow.
- Feedback from MDSC has been crucial to optimize sample synthesis

# Relevant Part of the Periodic Table for Chalcogen based glasses

|    | IV   | V    | VI   | VII              |
|----|------|------|------|------------------|
|    | Si   | Р    | S    | C                |
|    | Ge   | As   | Se   | Br               |
|    | Sn   | Sb   | Te   | I                |
| :N | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1                |
|    | s²p² | s²p³ | s²p4 | s²p <sup>5</sup> |

#### Three types of glass transitions observed in the Ge-Se binary



<r> = 2 (1 + x)

Type 1: △H<sub>nr</sub> finite, narrow, hysteretic and ages;<r> = 2.30

Type 2:△H<sub>nr</sub> minuscule ~ 0 , does not age;<r> = 2.44

Type 3:  $\Delta H_{nr}$  is broad, hysteretic and ages; **(r) = 2.67** 



# The 3 types of glass transitions are signatures of 3 distinct elastic phases.

- Narrow T<sub>g</sub>s with symmetric ΔH<sub>nr</sub> profiles that age: Flexible
- Reversing T<sub>g</sub> profiles (ΔH<sub>nr</sub> ~ 0) that do not age : Intermediate
- Wide Tgs with asymmetric ΔH<sub>nr</sub> profiles that age : Stressed-Rigid

# Reversibility windows are centered around r = 2.4

• This is not a coincidence. Early studies\* showed this magic number to be signature of the onset of stressedrigidity in *random* networks.

 More recent work shows that networks usually self-organize, i.e., display two transitions, a rigidity- and a stresstransition that define an intermediate phase.

\*J.C.Phillips JNCS 34,153 (1979); M.F.Thorpe JNCS 57,355 (1983)



M.F. Thorpe et al. J.Non Cryst. Solids 266-269,859 (2000).













 $(\bigcirc)$ 

Collapse of Reversibility windows in networks with terminal atoms\*.

•What is the experimental evidence?

•Why do windows collapse ?

•We shall see that even in these narrow windows, atom size mismatch plays an important role as networks self-organize to minimize stress.

\*Fei Wang ,PB, K.A.Jackson, M.Micoulaut, J.Phys.:Condens. Matter 19, 226201(2007).









## Networks with terminal atoms

# Mean-field rigidity transition occurs when,

 $r = 2.40 - 0.4(n_1/N) *$   $Ge_{0.25}S_{0.75-y}I_y \quad \text{taking CN of Ge,S and I as}$  4,2 and 1,  $r = 4 \times 1/4 + 2(3/4-y) + 1(y) = 2.4-0.4y$ or y = 1/6

\* PB and MFT , Phys. Rev B <u>50</u>, 10366 (1994).

 Mean-Field Rigidity Transition predictions do not distinguish between S or Se.

 Thermal results would appear to be consistent with mean-field results. But there is more!

 Raman scattering provides more clues. Atom sizes play a role in relieving network stress as networks selforganize.

# Raman Scattering



 $Ge_{25}S_{75-y}I_{y}$ 



Y. Wang et al. PRL <u>87</u>, 18, 5503 (2001).

F. Wang et al. J Phys. Condens. Matter <u>19</u>, 226201 (2007).





### Stochastic networks and m-unit concentrations from combinatorics

 $P(m, y) = [4! y^{m} (1-y)^{4-m}] / [m! (4-m)!] \qquad 0 < m < 4 , 0 < y < 1$ 









# Structural re-organization in the IP



## Photo-melting of the IP in chalcohalides



# Conclusions

- Terminal atoms collapse IPs of base networks rather dramatically. This is a fairly general observation.
- Characteristic rings where isostatic rigidity is nucleated are perhaps cut by terminal atoms.
- In real systems atom size mismatch plays an important role in the way network stress is relieved locally and globally as networks self-organize.

### Intermediate phases in glasses

- <u>Chalcogenide glasses (1996- present)</u>
  Covalent systems are ideal because *r* is estimated directly.
- <u>Chalcohalide glasses (2002-present)</u>

Halogens terminate networks, and collapse IP in a rather striking fashion. Interm. Range order is implicated in IP.

- <u>Alkali-Germanates and Silicates (2001-present</u>)
  CN of Alkali atoms and effective constraints of networks are less obvious. However, T<sub>g</sub>s provide a good guide on network connectivity.
- Solid electrolyte glasses (2005-present)

AgI,  $Ag_2S$ ,  $Ag_2Se$  as additives in base oxide and/or chalcogenide glasses are Fast Ion conductors. Wide IPs are observed and FIC is promoted qualitatively once networks become flexible.

# DSC and Modulated-DSC (MDSC)





# Network Forming Units:

### Group V centered LS



#### Group IV centered LS



#### Intermediate Phase in $Ge_xSe_{1-x}$ glasses P.B, X.W.Feng and W J.Bresser, J.N.C.S, <u>293</u>,348 (2001).

