



# Identifying Uncertainty in Material Model Selection for Finite Element Analysis of a Hermetic Connector

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May 18th, 2016



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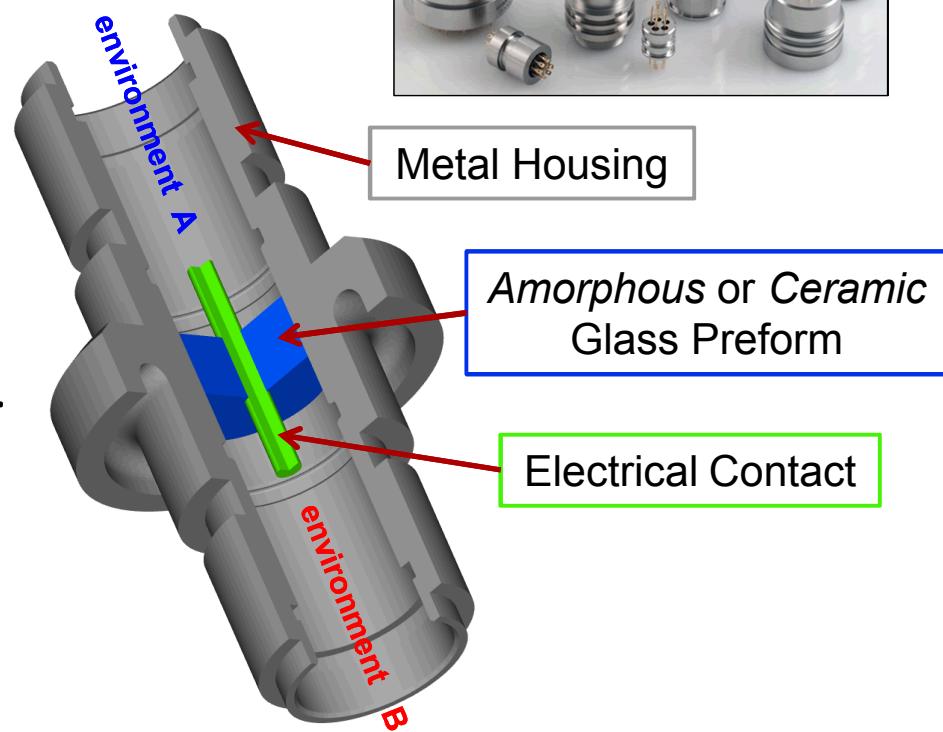
ASME Verification and Validation Symposium  
Las Vegas, NV, May 18-20th, 2016



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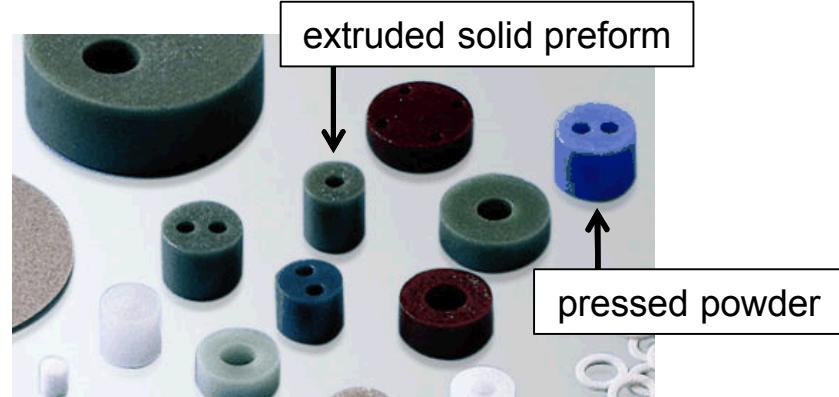
# What is a hermetic connector?

- Barrier to gas/liquid transfer between environments.
  - Allow electrical transmission
- Designed for extreme conditions
  - Thermal
  - Pressure
  - Shock/vibration
- Many applications:
  - Satellites, submarine vehicles, medical, telecommunications, etc.
- Types of hermetic connectors
  - Matched seals
  - Compression seals



# Creating a Hermetic Seal

- Piece-part assembly
  - Fixture holds preform and contact(s) in shell
- Glass melt and flow
  - Belt fed furnace w/ multiple chambers
  - Exceed melt temp
- Compression from shell as connector cools
  - $304L_{CTE} \approx 17 \text{ ppm}/^\circ\text{C}$
  - $GLASS_{CTE} \approx 10 \text{ ppm}/^\circ\text{C}$



# So what's the problem?



processing...  
...testing



Visual, x-ray, CT, ultrasonic, etc.

- Processing, testing, and fielding causes short and/or long term residual stress.
- Difficult to identify and visualize cracks due to size of connectors.
- Very difficult to measure stress in the glass of a hermetic connector.

**WE MUST RELY ON MODELING!**

# So what's the BIGGER problem?

Assumptions and approximations lead to uncertainties in model predictions.

- Real Geometry → Modeled Geometry
  - Drawing does not match processed form (not just tolerances).
  - Menisci vary and may be neglected in the model.
  - Shell details may be neglected which affects modeled shell volume.
- FEA Assumptions
  - Material model selection for pin, glass, and shell (chosen based on available data or limited computational resources).
  - Set temperature ( $T_{set}$ )
  - Glass transition ( $T_g$ ) is dependent on processing history

# Simulating the Sealing Process

## Old way...

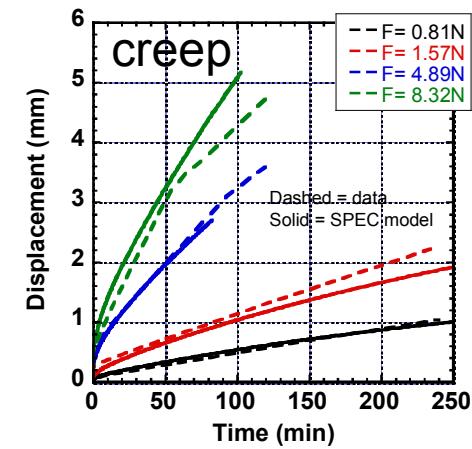
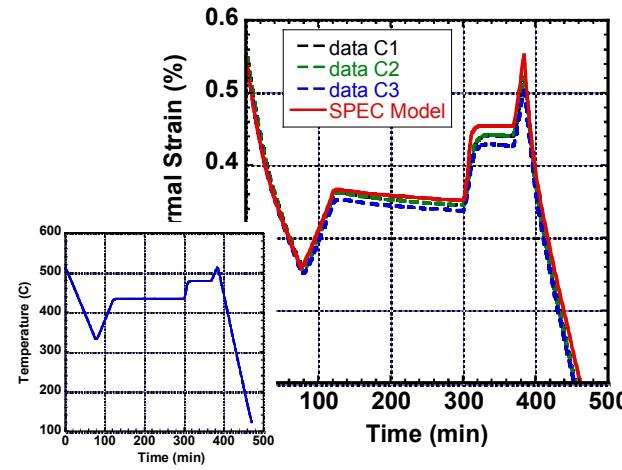
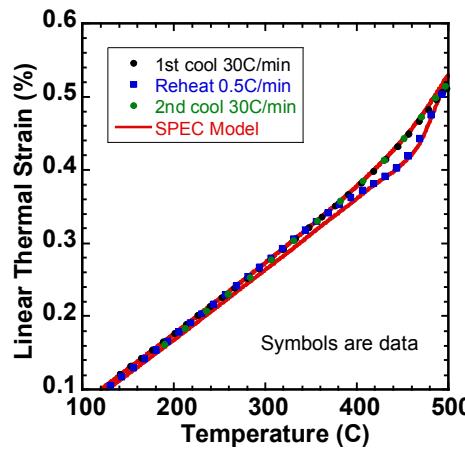
- Choose constitutive models:
  - Elastic for glass
  - Elastic-plastic for metals
- **Assume  $T_{set}$** 
  - $T_{set}$  → Room Temp
  - Rate independent
- **Less** information about processing is needed
- **Qualitative** predictions
  - Lead design process
  - Determine features that greatly affect stress

## New Way!

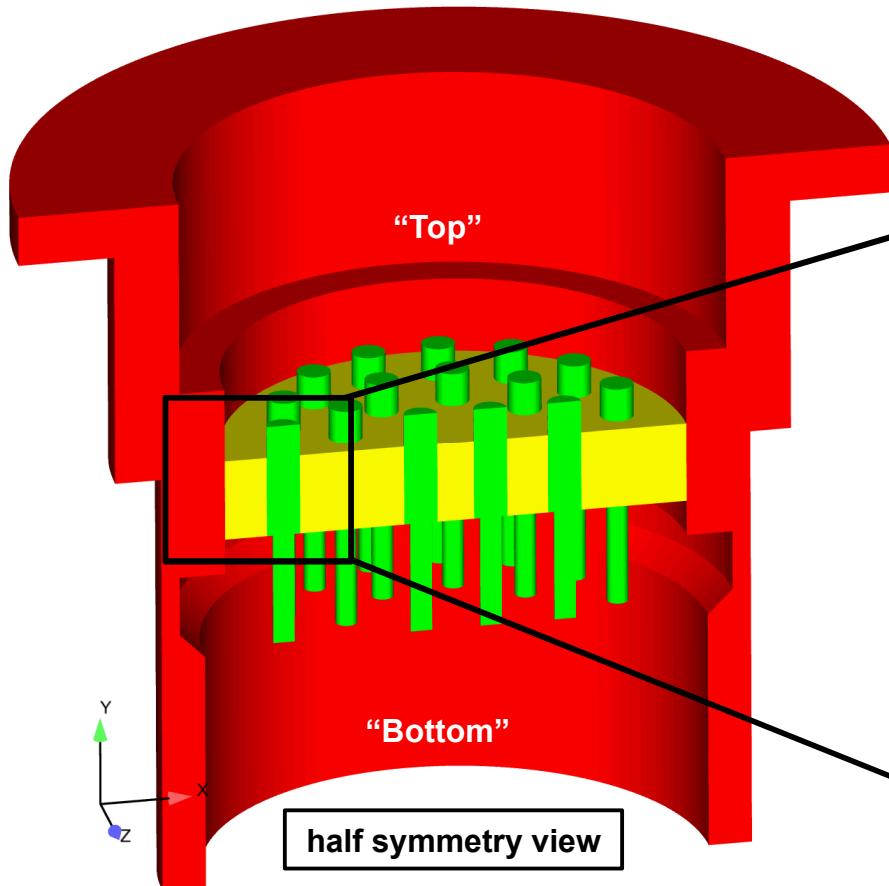
- Choose constitutive models:
  - Viscoelastic for glass
  - Viscoelastic-plastic for metals
- **Predicted  $T_g$** 
  - $>T_g$  → Room Temp
  - Rate dependent
- **Detailed** information about processing is needed
- **Quantitative** predictions
  - Predict evolution of residual stress and structural relaxation over time.

# Viscoelastic Glass Predictions

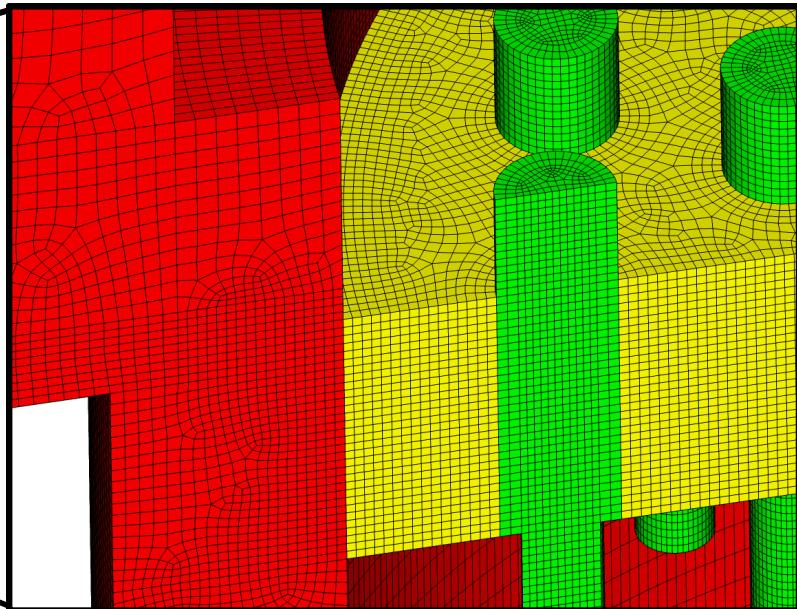
- Simplified Potential Energy Clock (SPEC) Model [1]
  - Predicts behavior of thermorheologically simple materials [2]
    - thermosets, thermoplastics, elastomers, and inorganic glasses
  - Based on the Potential Energy Clock (PEC) model which is derived using the Helmholtz free energy and a material clock through which potential energy accelerates relaxation. [3,4]
    - SPEC easier to calibrate and requires less data to parameterize.
    - stress relaxation, physical aging, creep, and “yield”
    - time and temperature history dependent



# Hermetic Seal Model



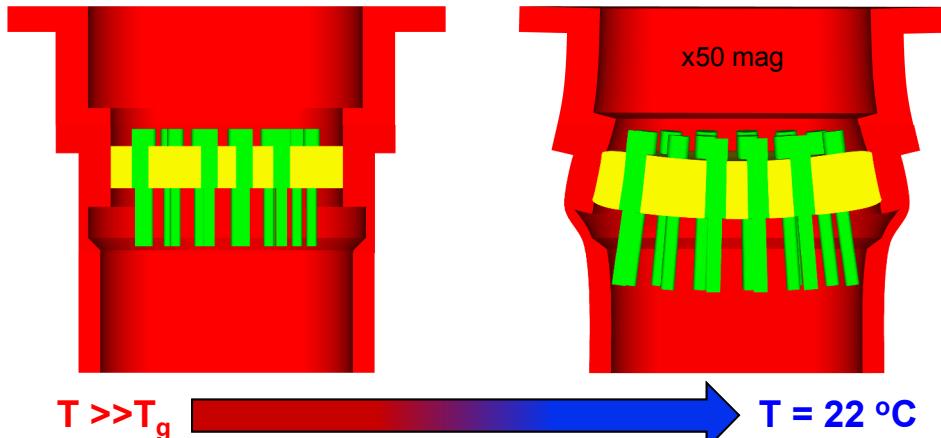
**RED** – Shell  
**YELLOW** – Inorganic sealing glass  
**GREEN** – Pins



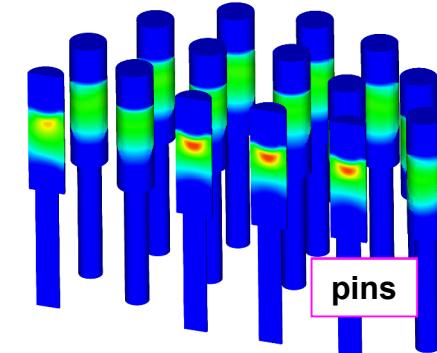
- no glass menisci or pin details
- simplified shell (no threads, rounds, chamfers)
- contiguously meshed interfaces

# Residual Stress from Sealing Process

compression during cool down

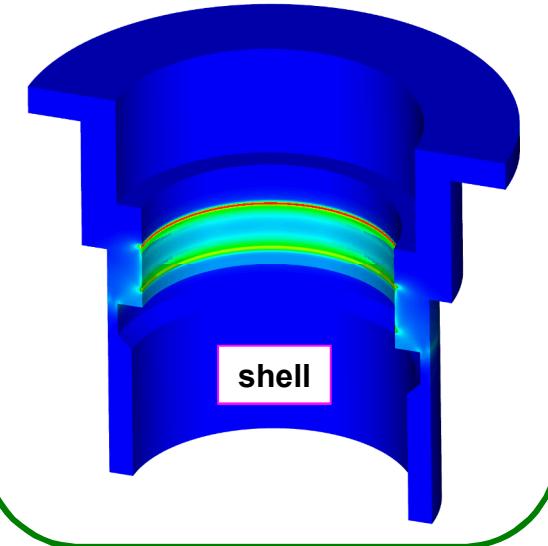
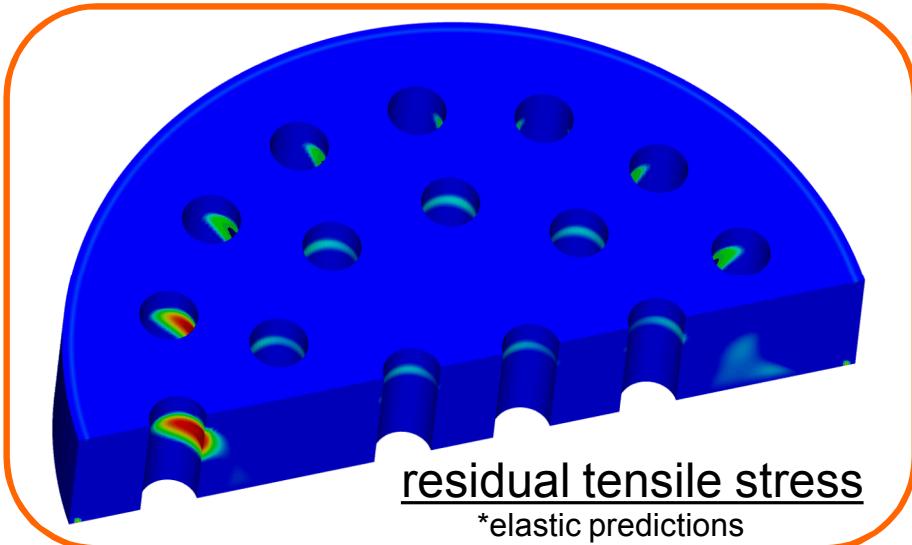


plastic strain in metals



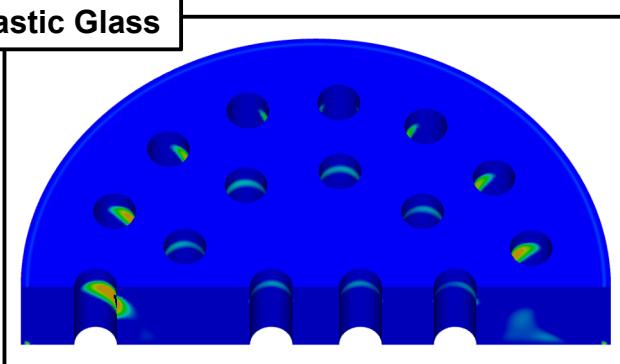
residual tensile stress

\*elastic predictions

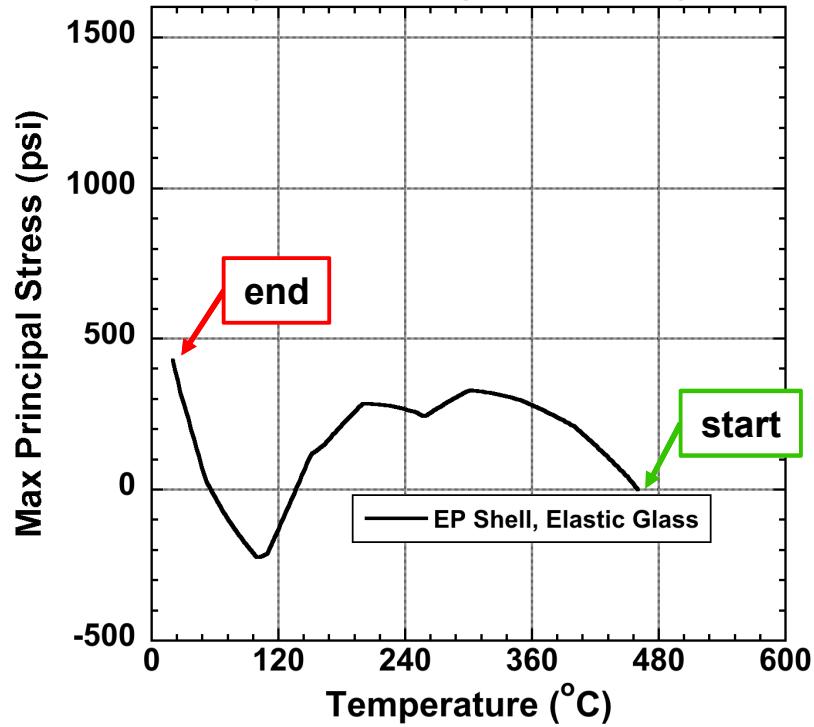


# Constitutive Model Comparison

EP Shell, Elastic Glass

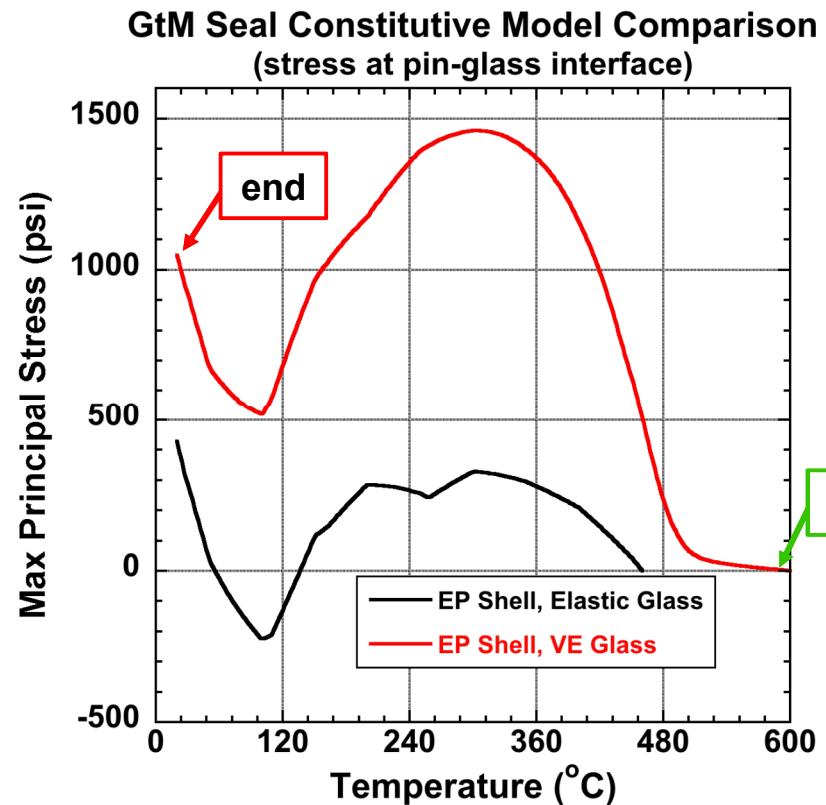
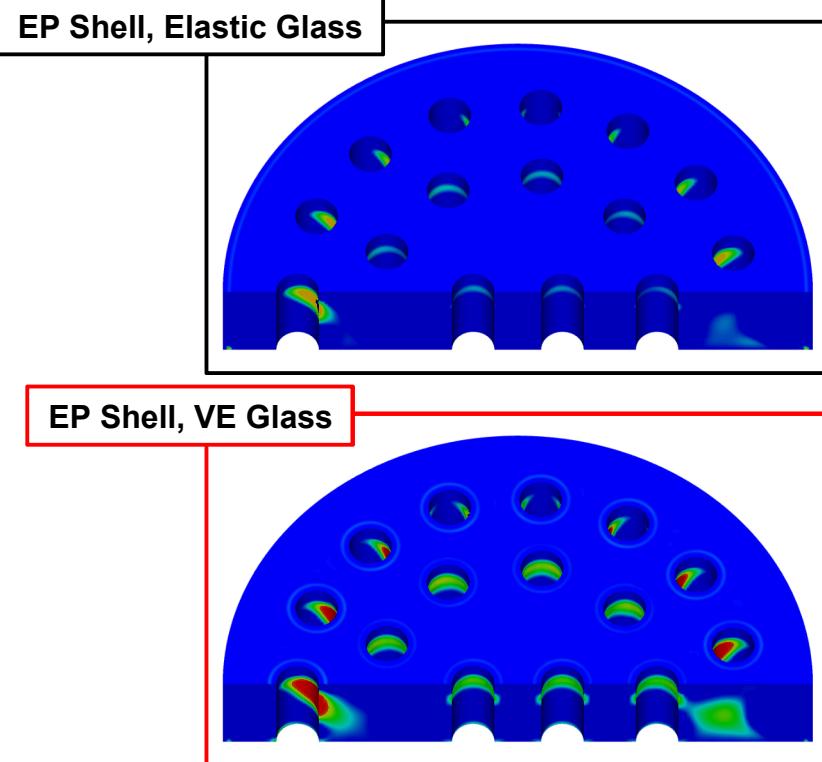


GtM Seal Constitutive Model Comparison  
(stress at pin-glass interface)



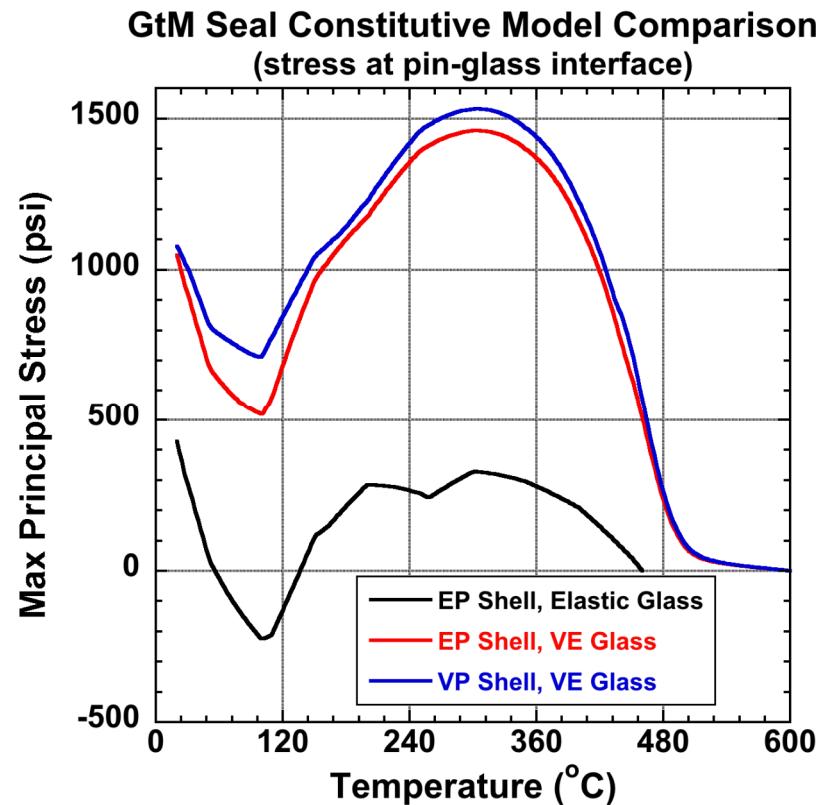
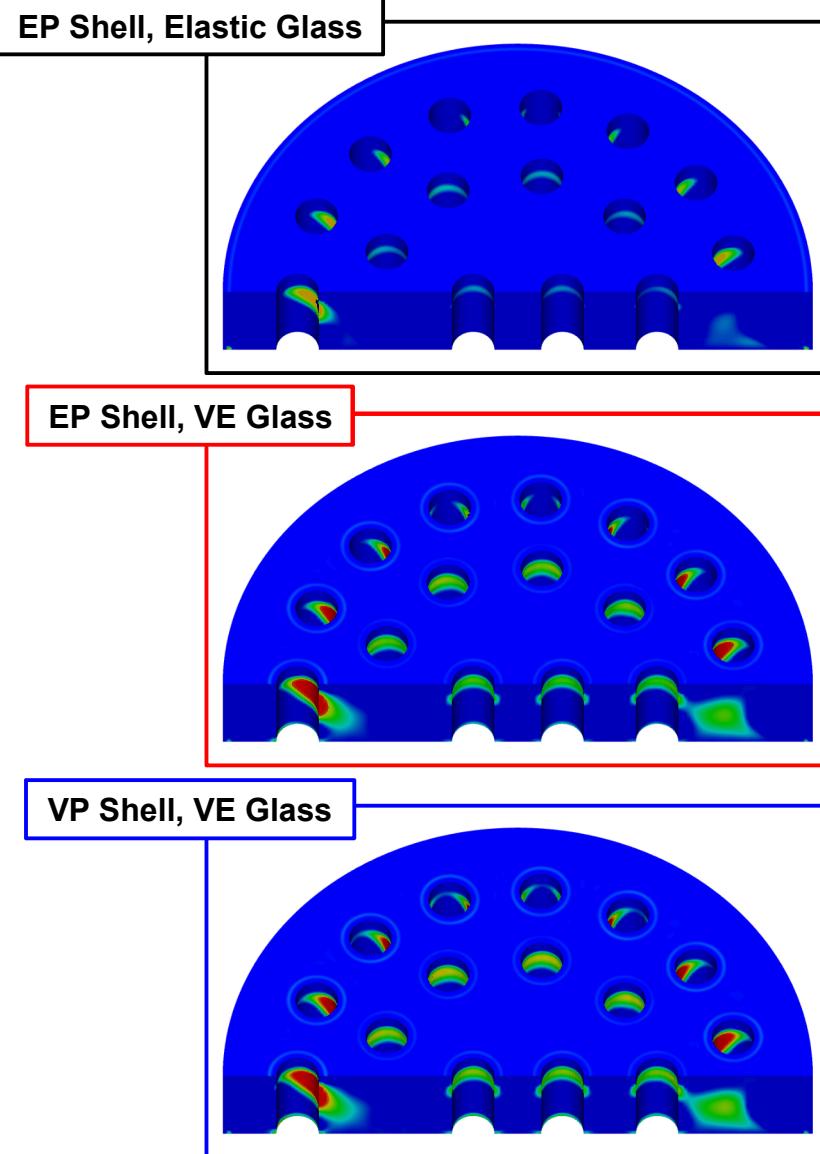
\*assumed failure at 5000 psi

# Constitutive Model Comparison



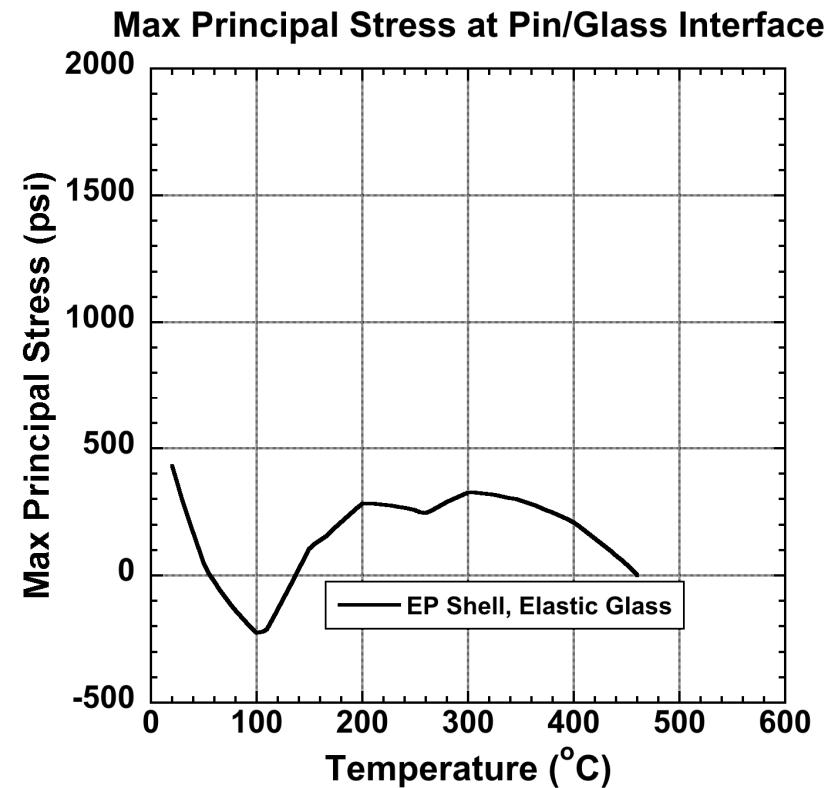
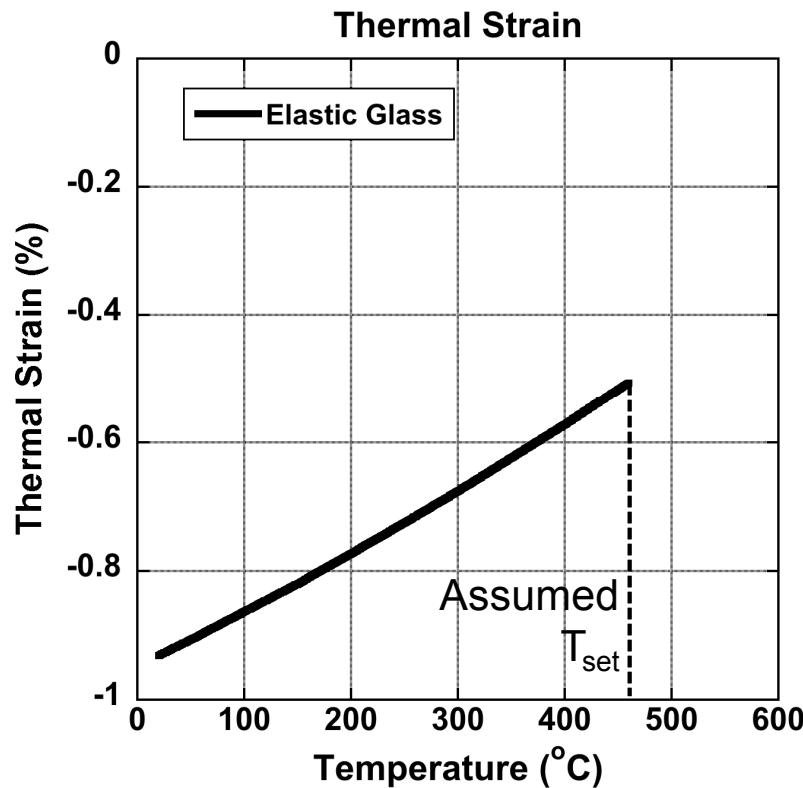
\*1  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$  cooling rate  
\*assumed failure at 5000 psi

# Constitutive Model Comparison



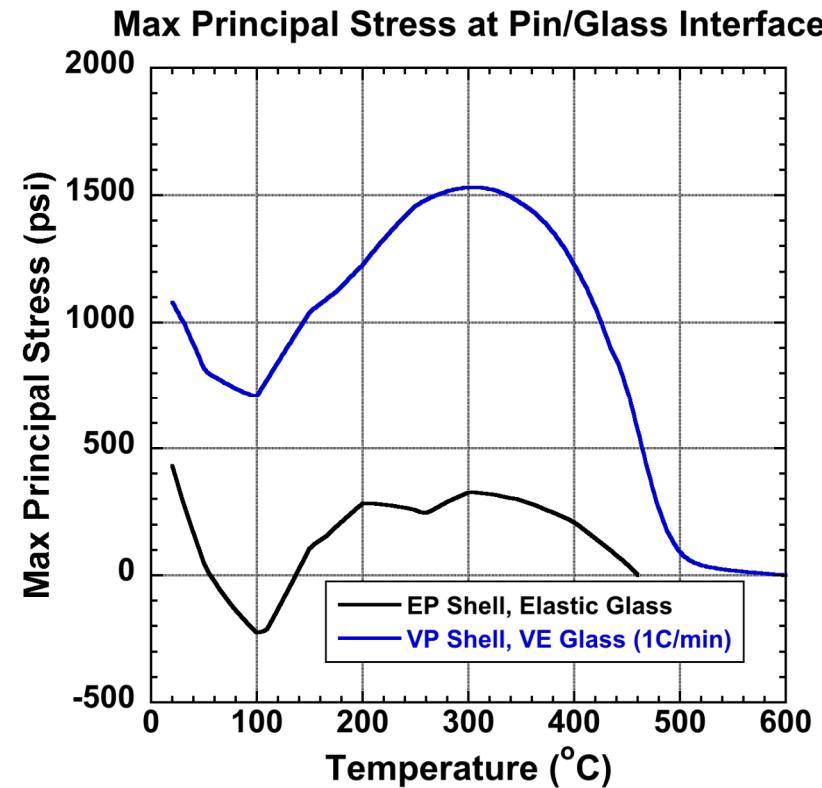
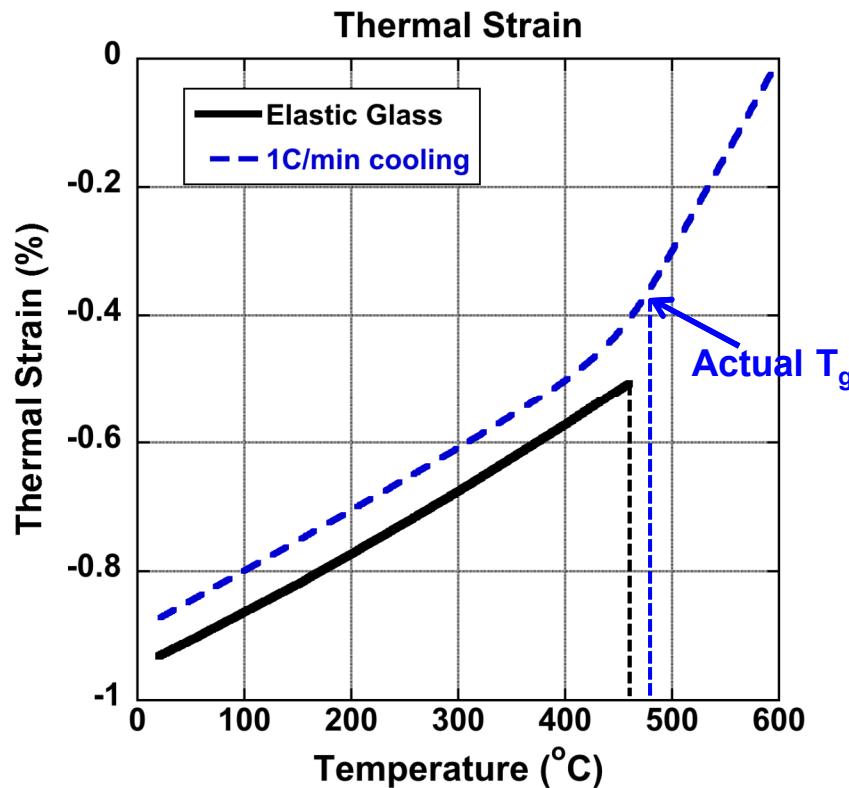
\*1 °C/min cooling rate  
\*assumed failure at 5000 psi

# History Dependent Predictions



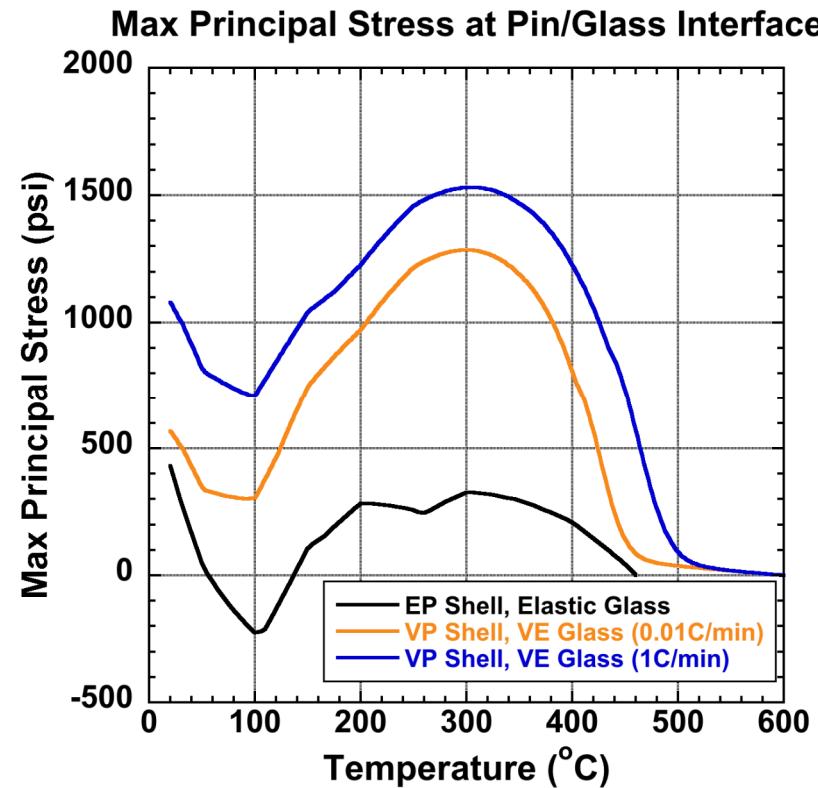
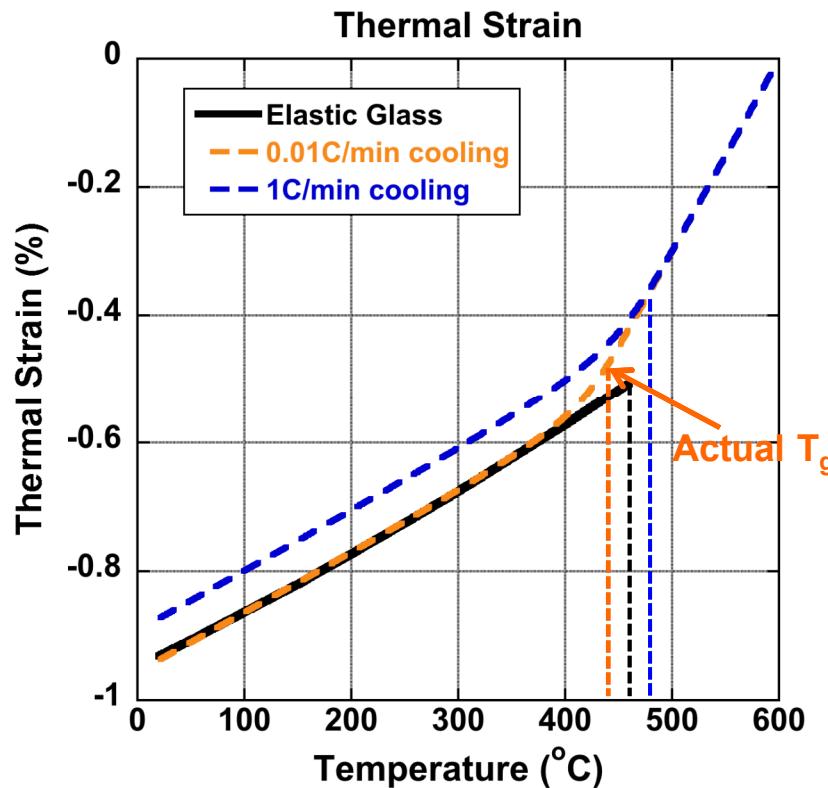
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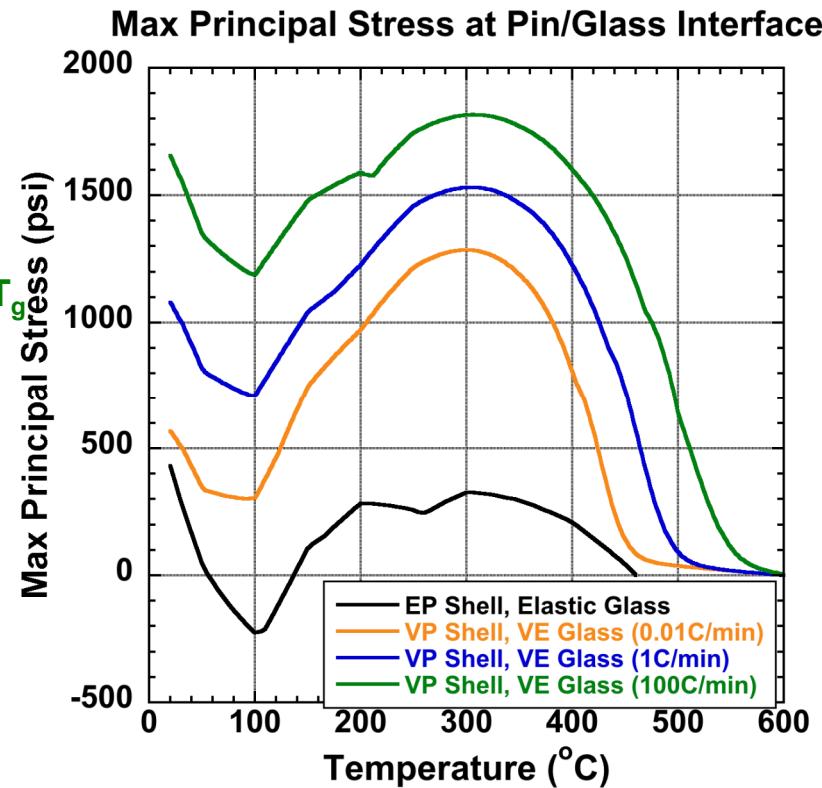
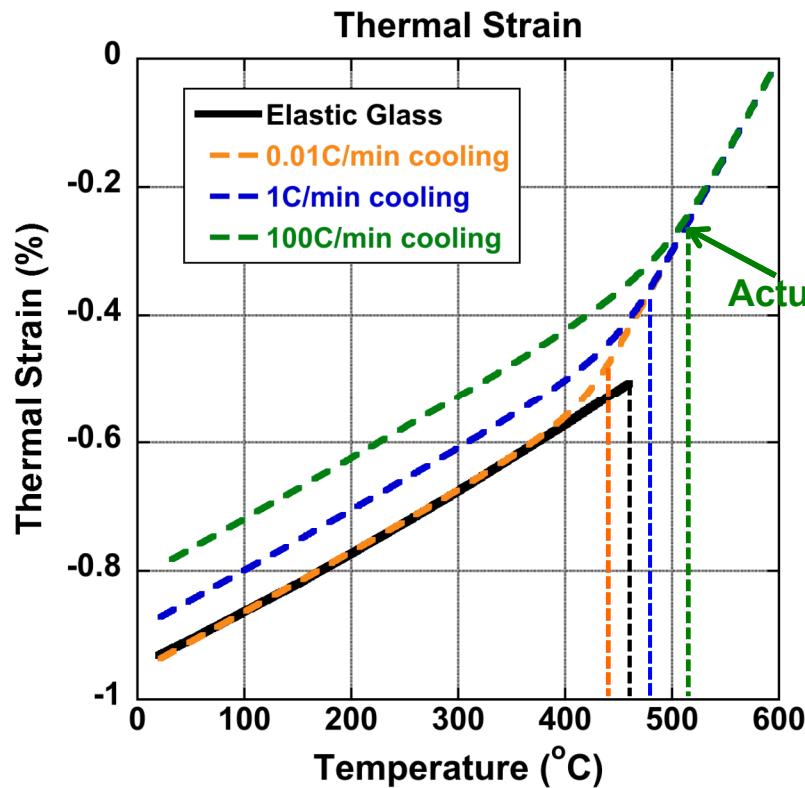
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# History Dependent Predictions



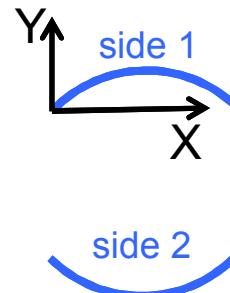
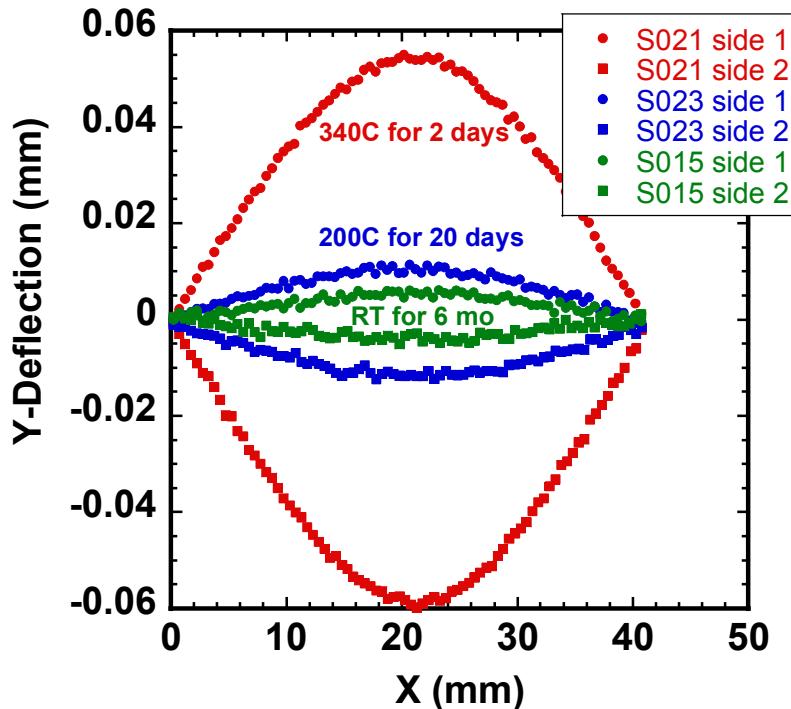
\*assumed failure at 5000 psi

# History Dependent Predictions

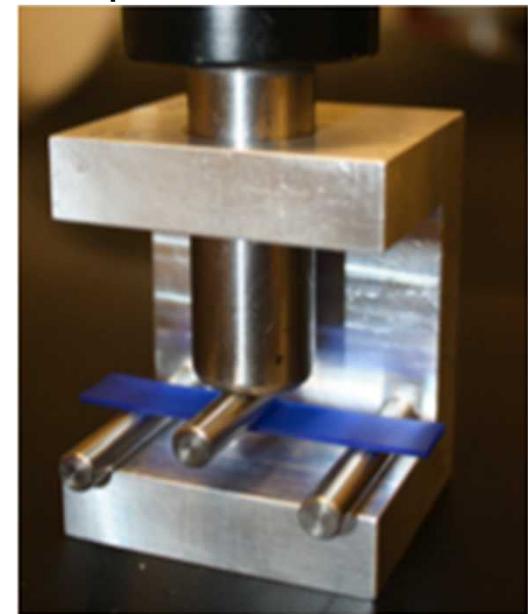


\*assumed failure at 5000 psi

# Glass Creep at Room Temperature



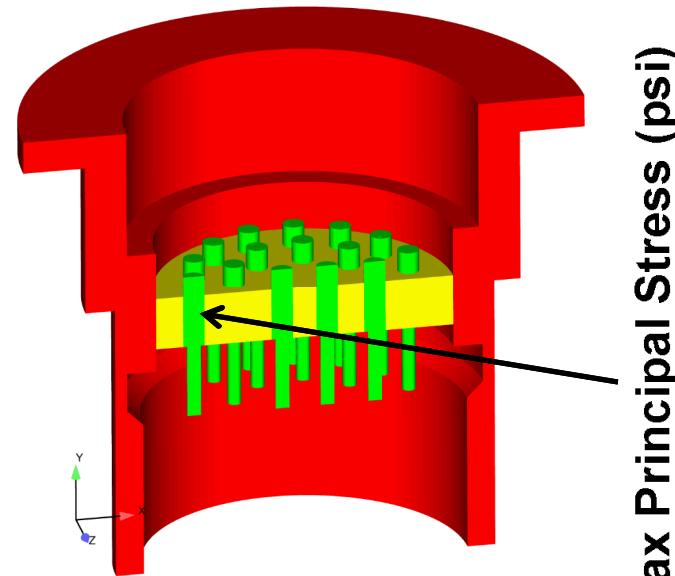
3-Pnt Bending Test  
Creep Under Dead Load



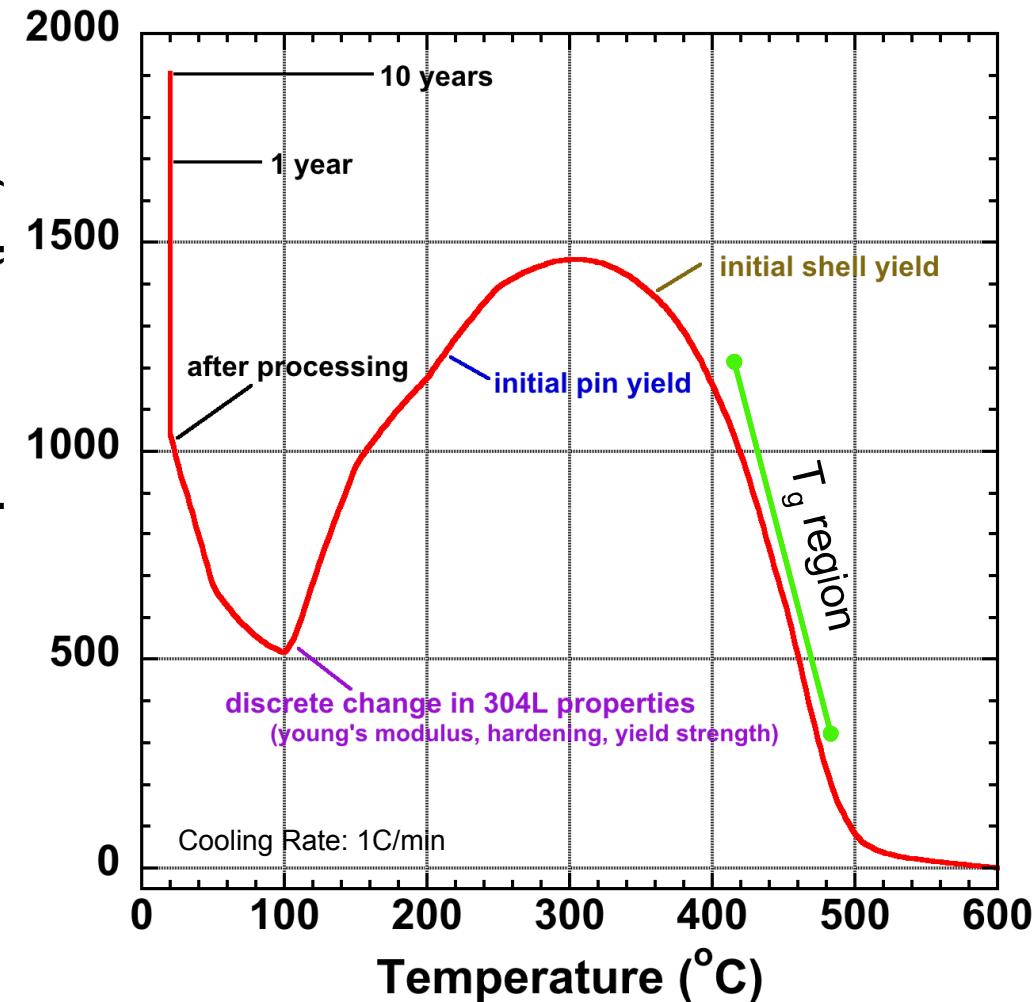
T (°C)	Stress (psi)
340	3500
200	3500
20	4000

.... Measurable creep 440°C below glass transition...  
So what happens over long periods of time?

# Aging of Compression Seal



- 304L Shell: thermoelastic-plastic
- Alloy 52 Pin: thermoelastic-plastic
- Glass: viscoelastic (SPEC)



# Back to uncertainties...

- Geometry
  - **5-10%** error within tolerances
  - Glass thickness/position, pin diameter, and various shell features.
- Material properties
  - **150% error** of room temperature predicted tensile stress.
    - Based on elastic  $\rightarrow 1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$  viscoelastic
    - Difference in predicted stress depends on temperature examined.
- Cooling rate dependence
  - **50% error** of room temperature predicted tensile stress.
    - $1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min} \rightarrow 0.1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$  OR  $1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min} \rightarrow 100 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$
    - Difference in predicted stress depends on temperature examined.
- History dependence (aging)
  - 55% increase in tensile stress after 1 year.
  - Additional testing needed to validate aging predictions...

# Conclusion

- FEA models can lack geometry and material model detail and still predict qualitative trends to direct the design process.
- Predicted tensile stress when using viscoelastic glass is significantly higher than assuming elastic properties.
- Actual history (processing, aging) makes a difference.
- Quantitative predictions will require physically based models.
- Uncertainty in model predictions are difficult to quantify, but easy to identify! 

# QUESTIONS?

# References

1. Adolf, Douglas B., Chambers, Robert S., Neidigk, Matthew A., "A simplified potential energy clock model for glassy polymers." *Elsevier Polymer* 50 (2009): 4257-4269.
2. Chambers, Robert S., Tandon, Rajan, Stavig, Mark E., "Characterization and calibration of a viscoelastic simplified potential energy clock model for inorganic glasses." *Elsevier Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids* 432 (2016): 545-555.
3. Caruthers, James M., Adolf, Douglas B., Chambers, Robert S., Shrikhande, Prashant, "A thermodynamically consistent, nonlinear viscoelastic approach for modeling glassy polymers." *Elsevier Polymer* 45 (2004): 4577-4597.
4. Adolf, Douglas B., Chambers, Robert S., Caruthers, James M., "Extensive validation of a thermodynamically consistent, nonlinear viscoelastic model for glassy polymers." *Elsevier Polymer* 45 (2004): 4599-4621.