SAND2017-8777C

Rapid IR Flow-Through Method for Volatile Quantification in Thermoset Aging

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32nd PDDG, Taormina, Italy, Sept. 3 – 7, *2017*

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Epoxy Selection and Performance

Material properties:

- **Cure behavior, cure state evolution, physical relaxation (Tg), degradation chemistry tendencies, elevated temperature performance, adhesion, wetting, viscosity**

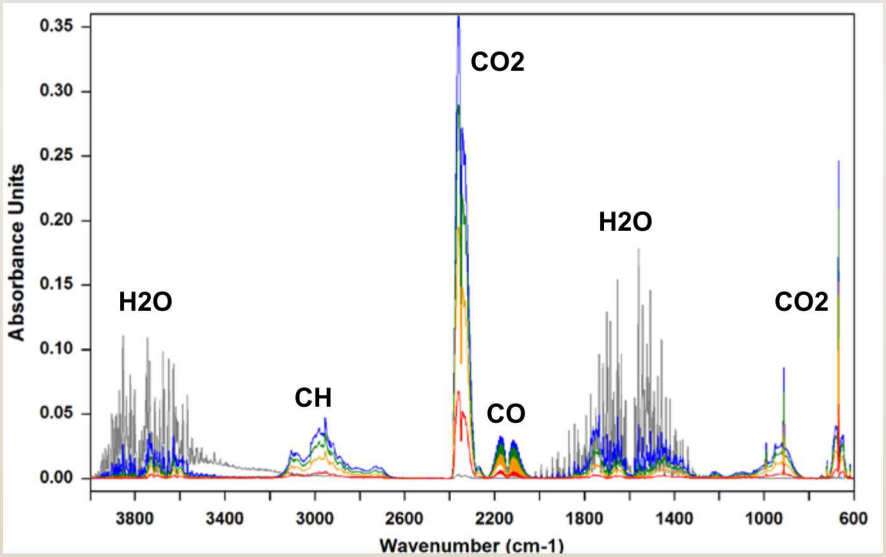
Broad research goals and approach:

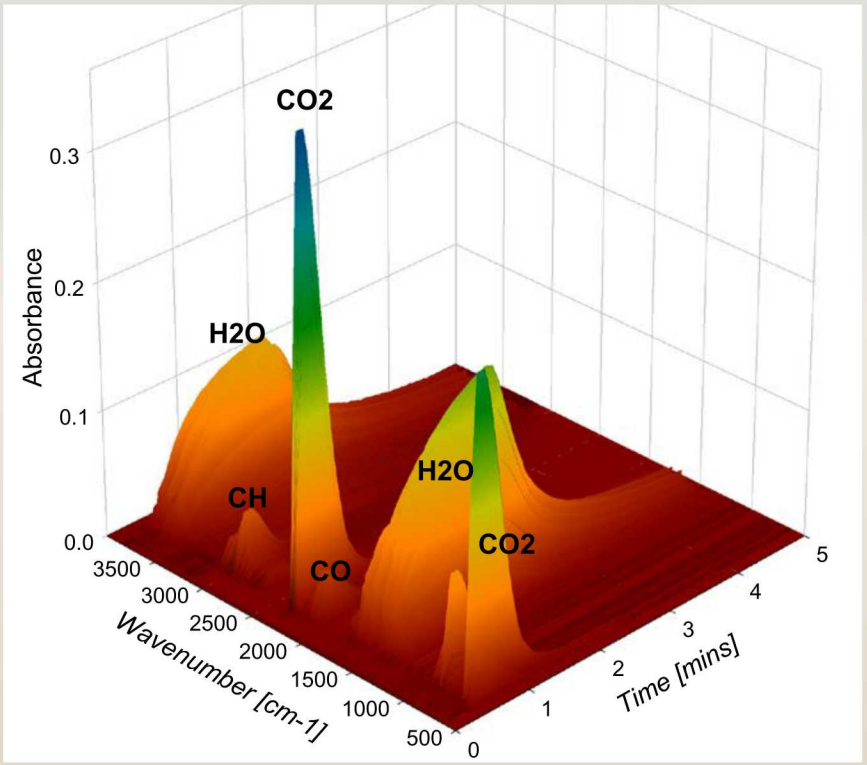
- **Cure behavior in epoxies**
- **Quantification of cure conversion states**
- **Spatially resolved oxidation chemistry**
- **High temperature epoxy degradation phenomena**
- **Degradation chemistry off-gassing characterization**
- **Develop diagnostic tools and lifetime prediction models**

Key words: Materials Characterization, Spectroscopy, Mechanistic Evaluation, Degradation Chemistry

High Temperature Performance of Epoxy

- Concern: Thermally induced decomposition (pyrolysis chemistry)
- Sealed ampoules, trapped gases, flow through approach, IR rapid scans
- IR based analysis of gaseous decomposition products





Quantification of H_2O and CO_2 yields via spectral and time integration

Giron N., Celina M., High temperature polymer degradation: Rapid IR flow-through method for volatile quantification. Polym Deg Stab 2017, in press

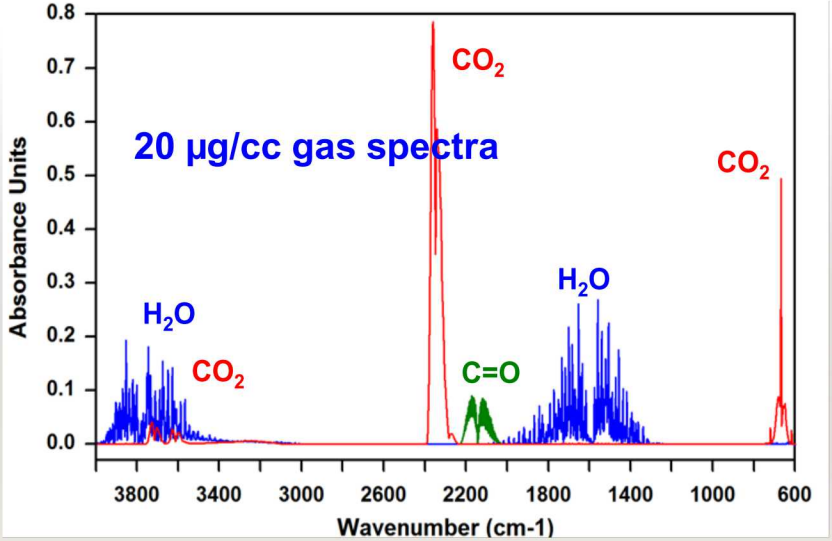
Analytical Methods

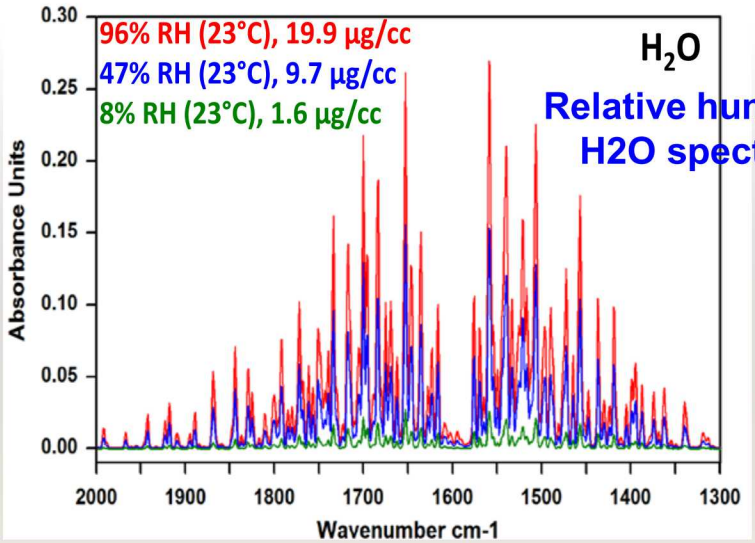
- **Considered multiple approaches (prior work in this area):**
- **MS or GC-MS is the method of choice for establishing exact mechanistic pathways through identification of volatiles. Some calibrated direct MS approaches have been accomplished .**
- **SPME (solid phase micro-extraction) may enable analysis of a large range of volatiles (often higher Mw) that can be individually identified through subsequent GC-MS, but does not easily capture H_2O, CO_2 or CO.**
- **GC (gas chromatography) requires individual head space sampling techniques and calibration efforts with temperature and pressure controls. Water analysis is usually challenging due to surface adsorption, particularly if needed in parallel with CO_2 and CO.**

- **Is there a feasible approach using a simple flush-out of the ampoule gases through an IR gas cell? Development of IR Flow-Through Volatile Quantification**
- **This was accomplished for CO_2 and CO gas evolution from epoxies using IR, but water was not considered. In situ IR gas evolution diagnostics was also applied to polymer pyrolysis or even fire gases.**

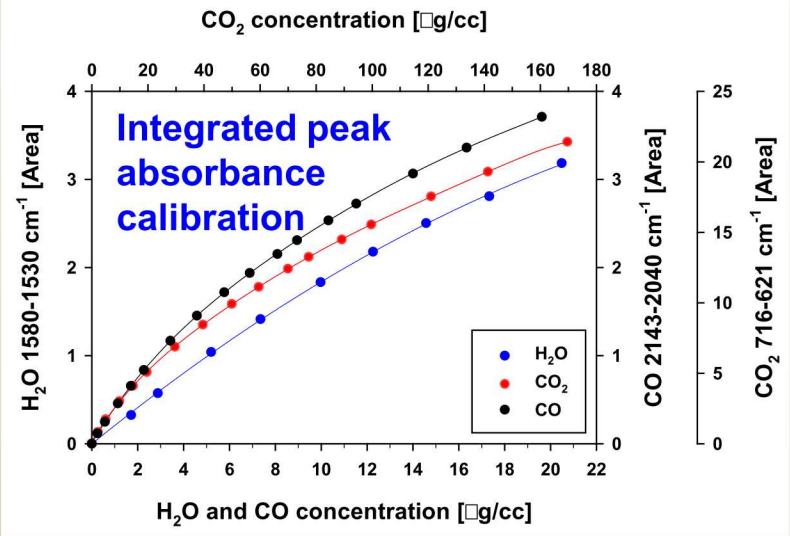
No perfect 'ready to go' method available

IR Based Gas Analysis



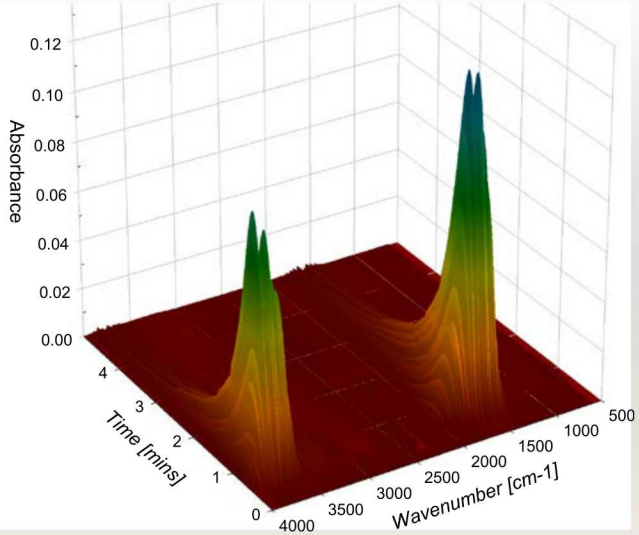


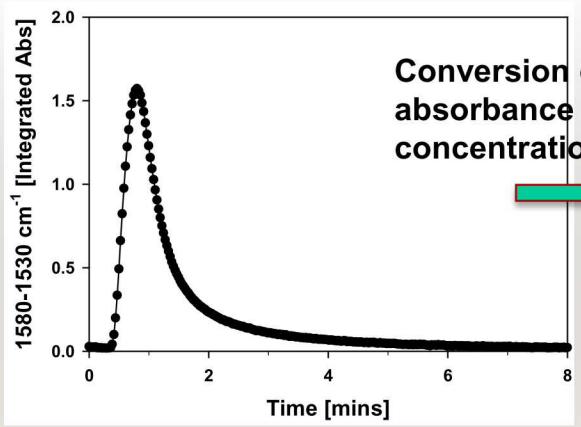
- Spectral signatures for H_2O, CO_2, CO do not overlap
- Calibration is non linear

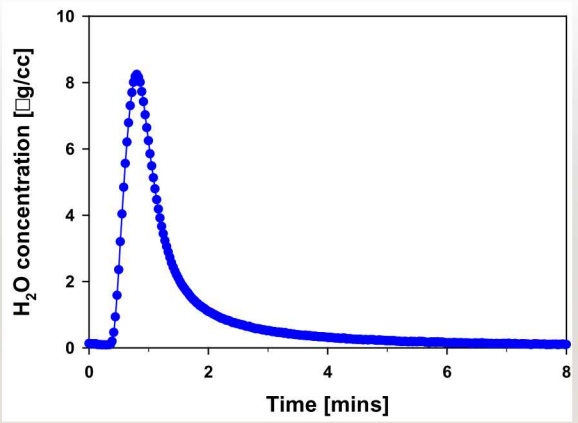


Good spectral response in concentrations of interest

Successful Quantification of Water



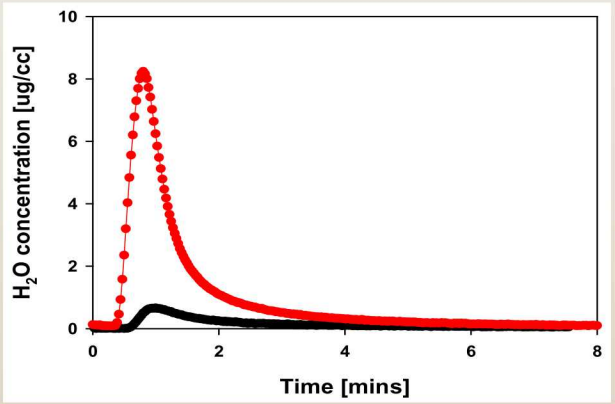




$$M = Q \times \int_{t1}^{t2} \left[F \int_{\nu 1}^{\nu 2} A(\nu)\, d\nu \right] dt$$

F = calibration factor [µg/abs]
A(v)=Absorbance at v
Q = flow rate [cc/min]

- **Spectral signatures for H_2O, CO_2, CO do not overlap**
- **Calibration is non linear**
- **0.01% of 1 gram sample = 10 mg**



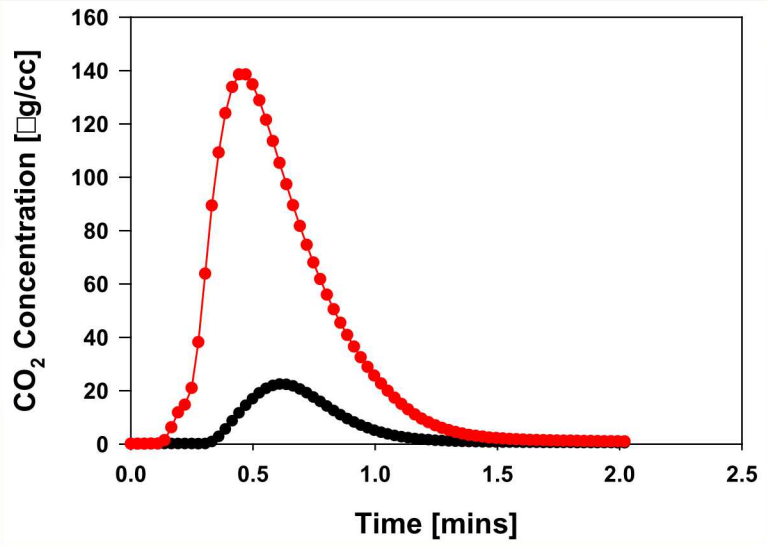
Theoretical: 70% RH at 25.5°C – (19.2 cc)(0.7*23.7 µg/cc) = 318.5 µg
Measured: (7.94 µg-min/cc)(40 cc/min) = 317.6 µg

Theoretical: 7.3% RH at 27.1°C – (19.2 cc)(0.073*26 µg/cc) = 36.4 µg
Measured: (1.155 µg-min/cc)(40 cc/min) = 46.2 µg

Good spectral response in concentrations of interest

Successful Quantification of CO_2

- Similar approach for quantification of CO_2
- Method validation through analysis of ampoules with known amount



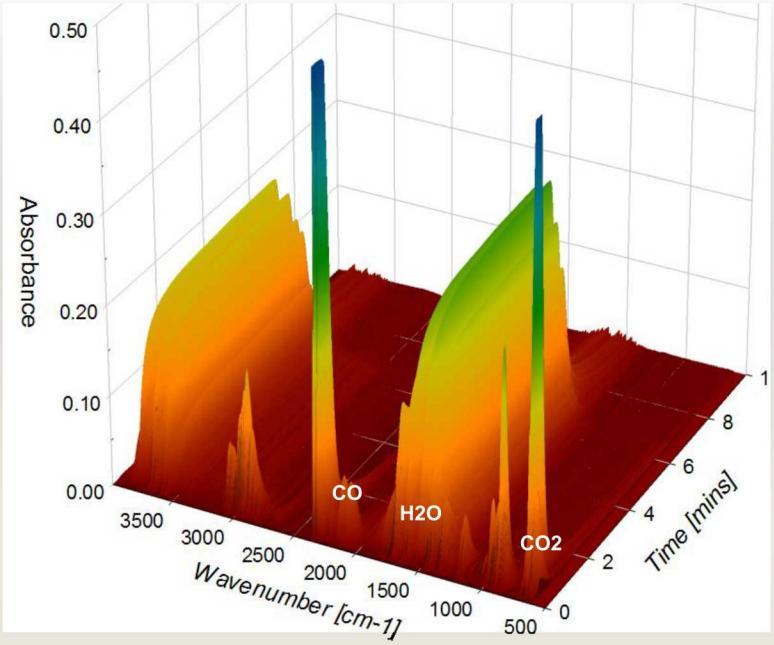
Theoretical: (700 Torr)(0.0863)(19.2 cc)/(62363 cc Torr K^{-1} mol^{-1})/(296.6 K)(44 g/mol)= 2759 µg
Measured: (68.2 µg-min/cc)(40 cc/min) = 2729 µg

Theoretical: (100 Torr)(0.0863)(19.2 cc)/(62363 cc Torr K^{-1} mol^{-1})/(296.6 K)(44 g/mol)= 395 µg
Measured: (10.48 µg-min/cc)(40 cc/min) = 419 µg

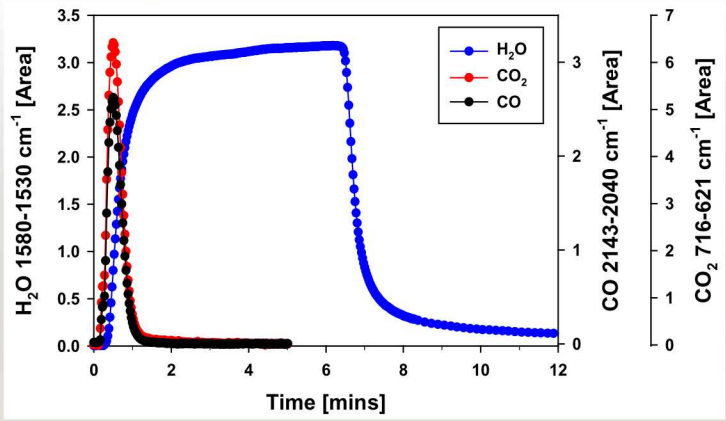
Flushing out of known amount validates this method

Aged Epoxy Test Specimen

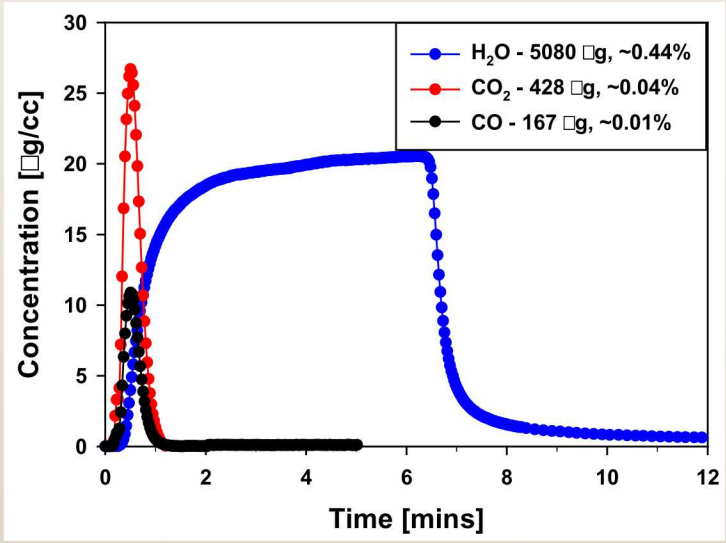
Primary IR spectral response over time



IR peak absorbance over time



Volatile concentrations over time

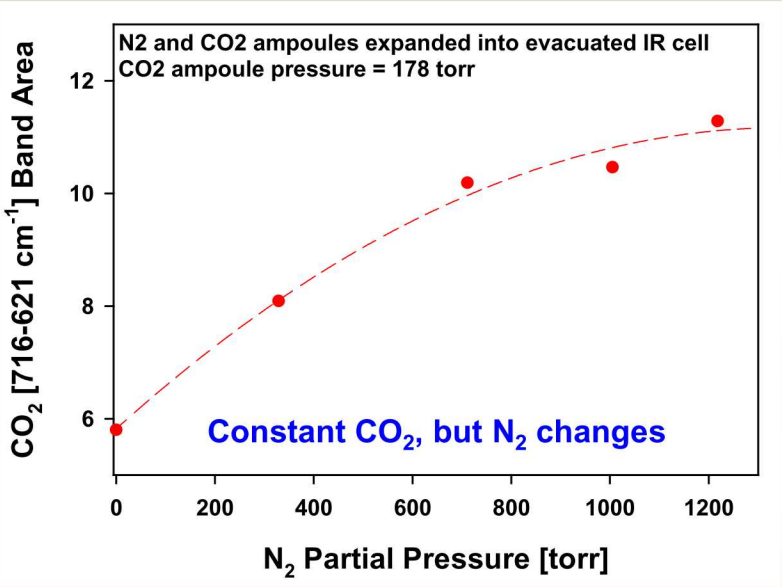


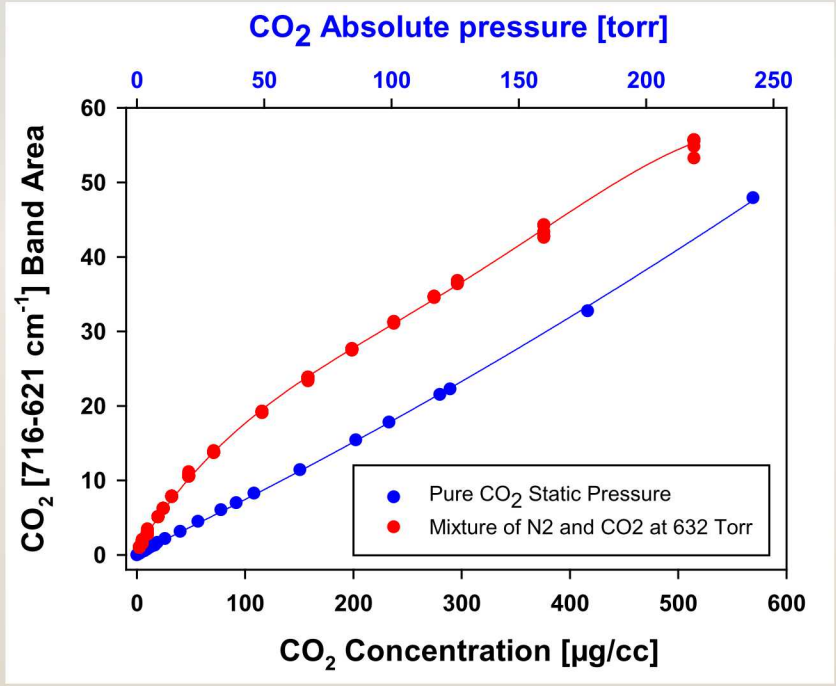
- ~ 1g sample was aged for < 1 d at 240°C
- Formation of 0.44 % H_2O, 0.04% CO_2, 0.01% CO during exposure
- Note: Extended H_2O detection

Volatile analysis works for aging experiment

Complications - Calibrations

- Volatile (H_2O, CO_2, CO) absorbance depends on more than absolute P
- Absorbance depends on gas composition, collisional energy transfer?
- Calibration and volatile analysis need to have similar concentrations
- Could not use reduced P calibration; aging and analysis at 632 Torr N2

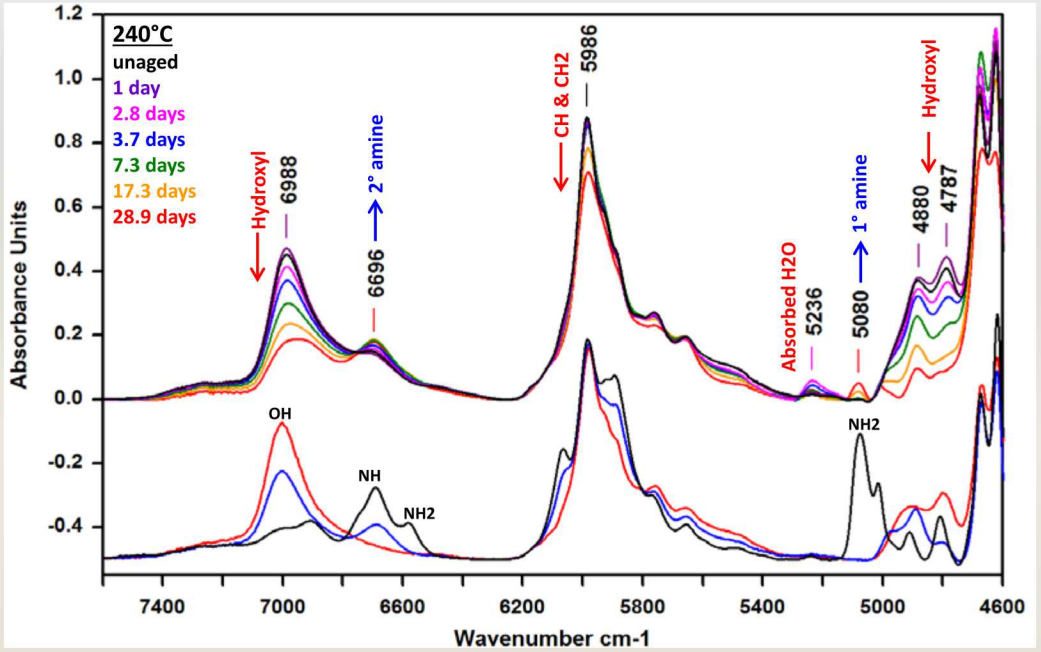


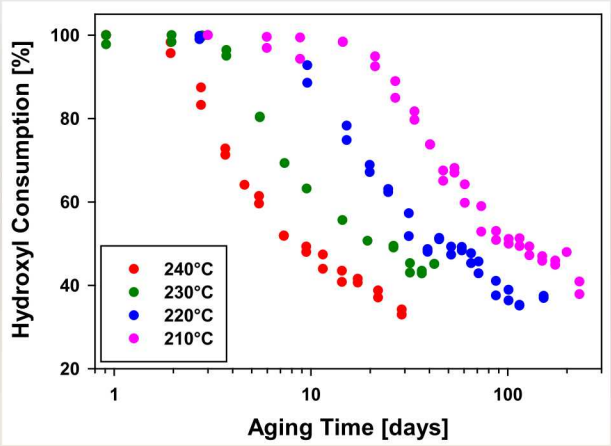


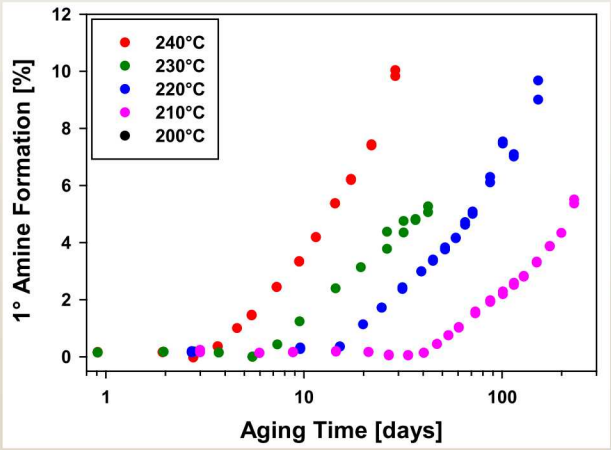
Single gas pressure based calibration is only approximate

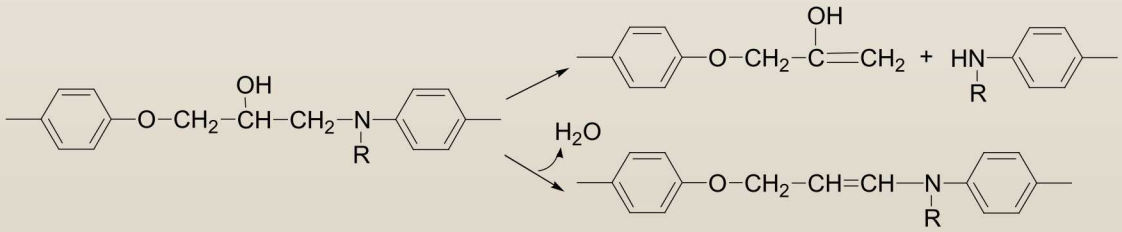
NIR Degradation Kinetics

- Changes in epoxy hydroxyl group (loss) with aging
- Formation of amine; must form carbonyls or unsaturation in parallel





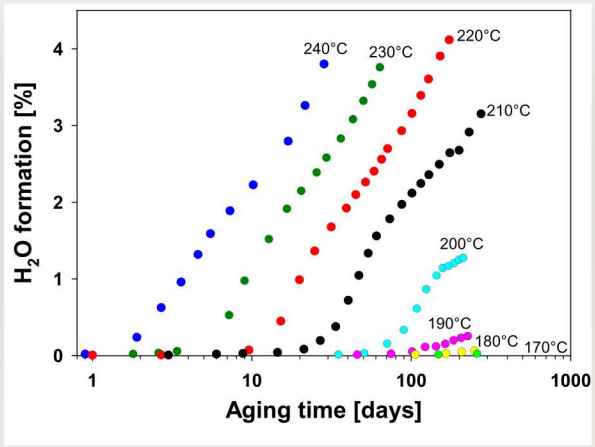


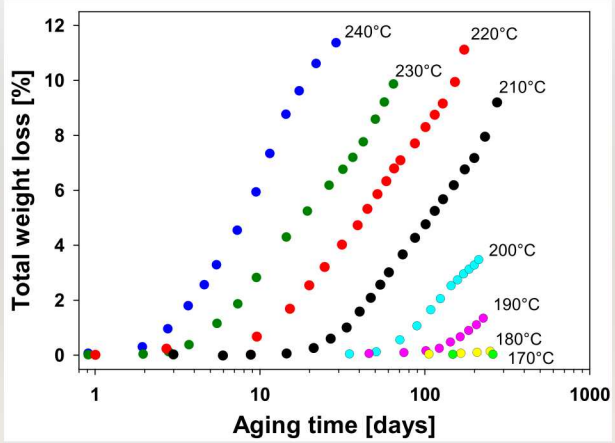


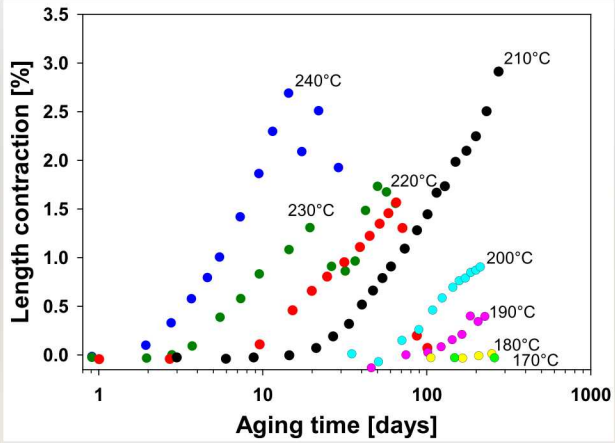
NIR epoxy response is consistent with 'aging chemistry'

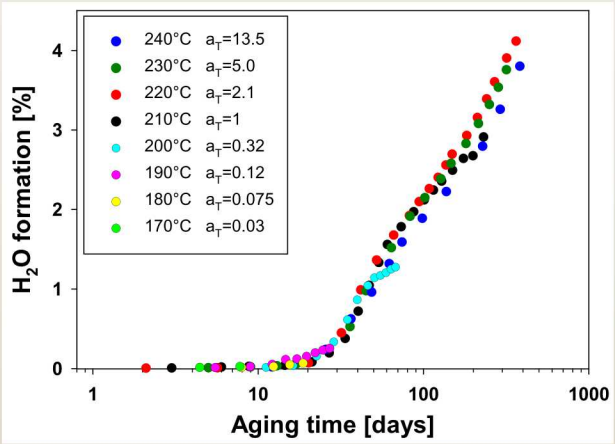
H_2O Yield - Weight Loss - Contraction

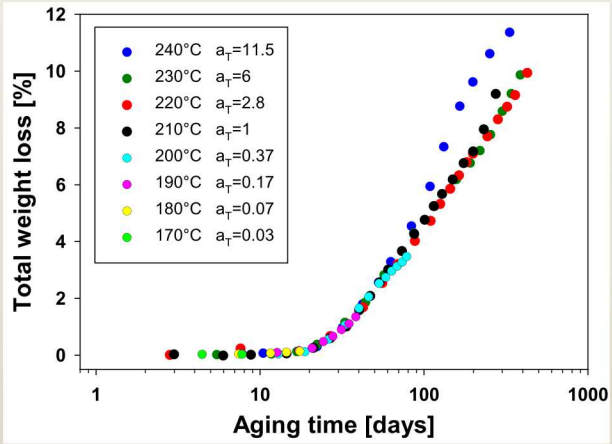
- Each property is monitored as part of extensive aging study
- t-T superposition to yield aging behavior with temperature

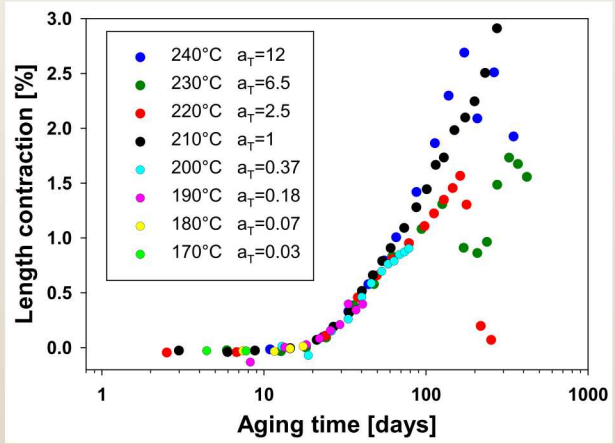








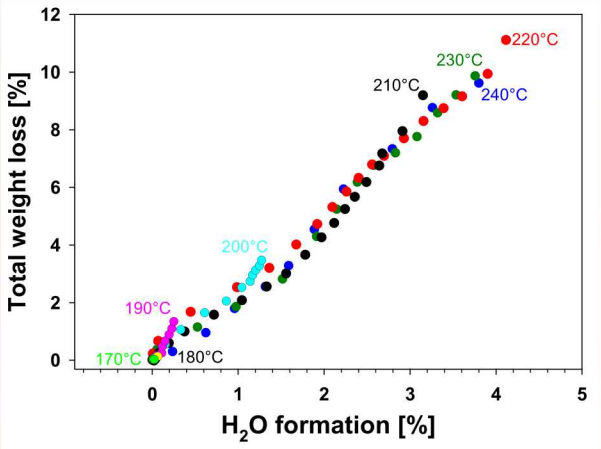


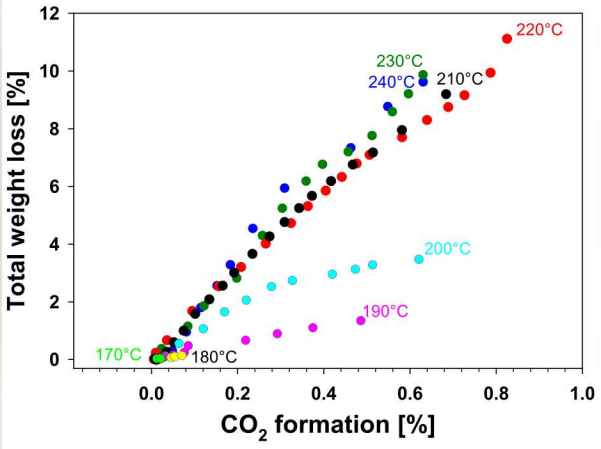


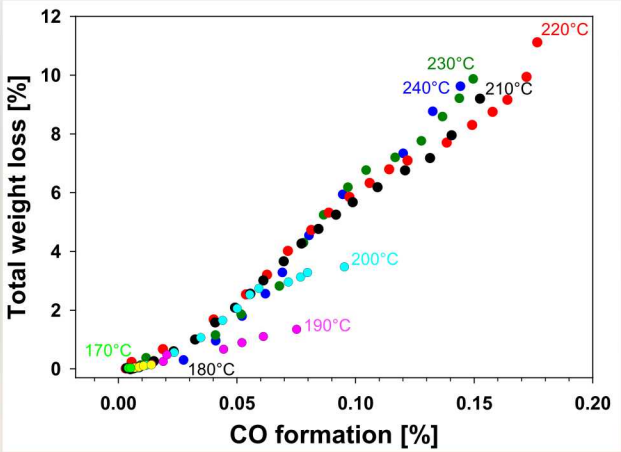
Aging chemistry and physics are coupled

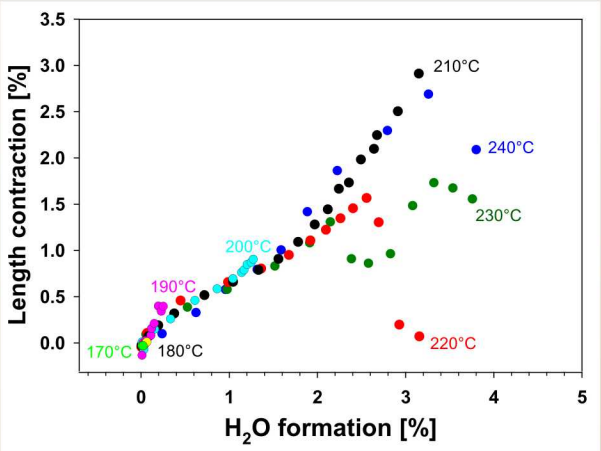
Volatile Formation with T

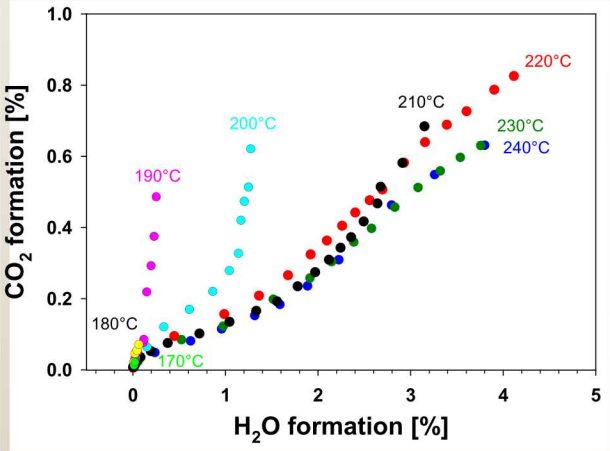
- Some subtle differences in volatile formation over large T range
- Cross-correlations are used to highlight mechanistic variations











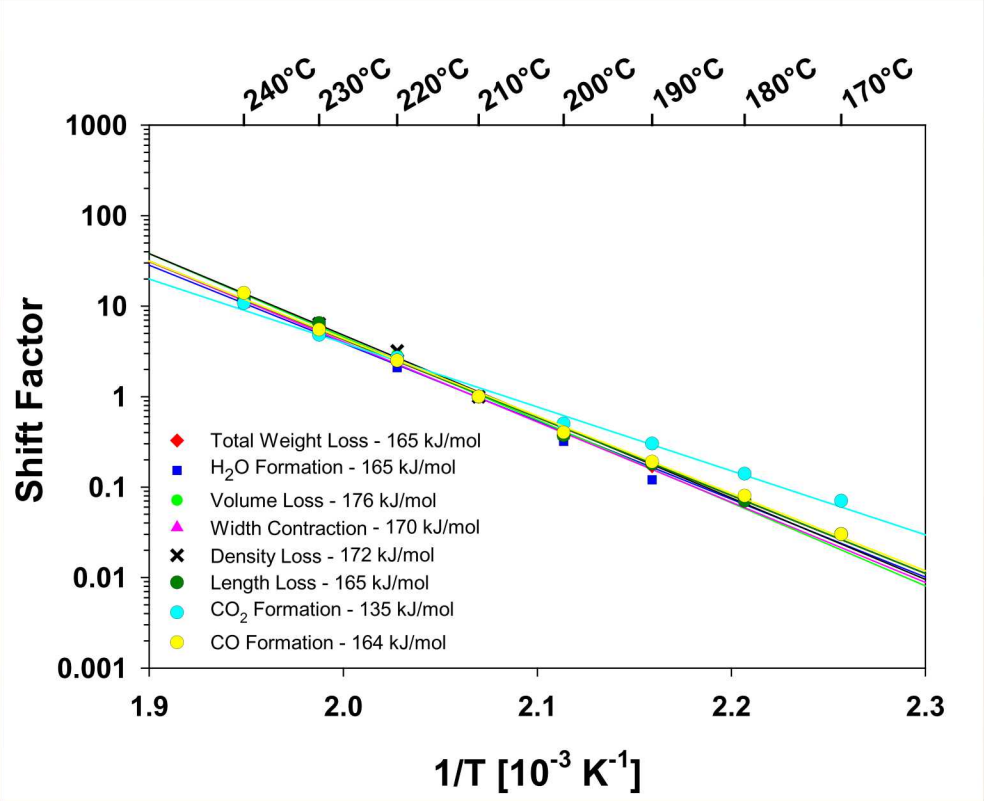
Towards lower T

- Less water
- More CO_2
- More acetic acid

Ongoing aging studies towards lower temperatures – Arrhenius?

Kinetic Models – Basis for Extrapolations

- Shift factors were determined by time–temperature superposition of multiple property changes referenced to 210°C
- Still significant uncertainty in shift factors for 180-160°C

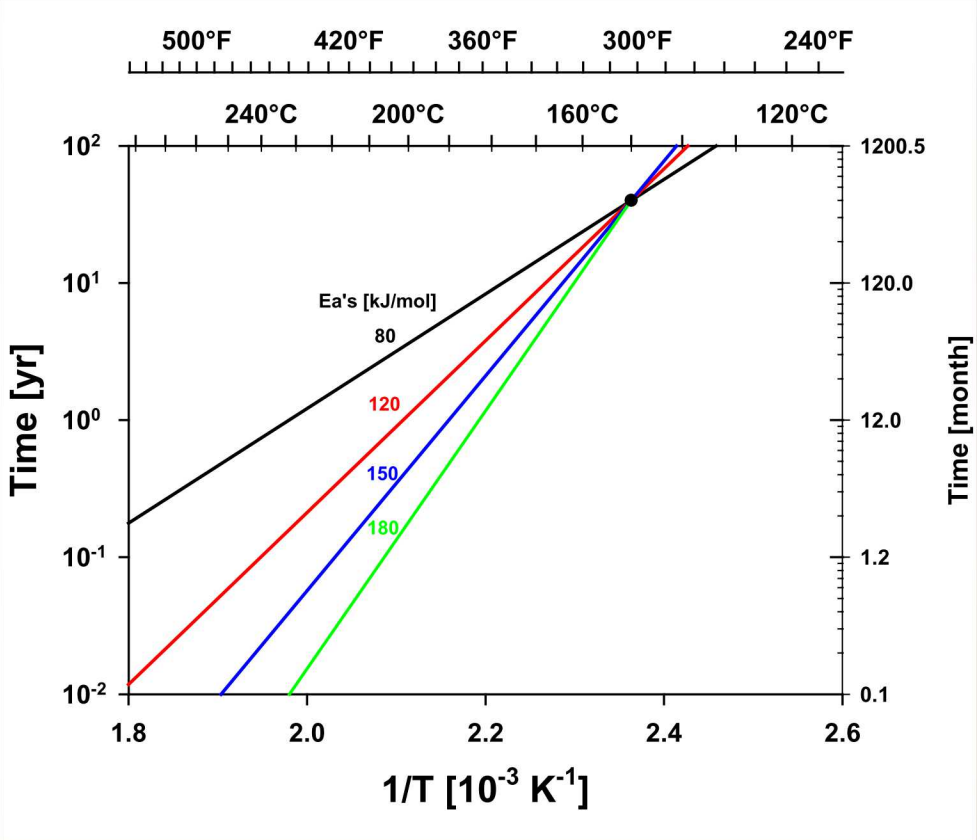


CO_2 generation appears to be developing as a separate process with different Ea

Trend: Activation energies range from ~140-180 kJ/mol

Lifetime Prediction Models

- Arbitrary performance expectations for t-T



Need to establish Ea for high temperature epoxy degradation processes through extensive t-T data sets, establish relevant Ea

Summary

- IR based volatile identification and quantification for aging studies
- Method is amenable to successive aging exposures
- Determination of H_2O, CO_2 and CO in presence of some methane, toluene, phenol, acetone, isopropylene is possible

Ongoing work, more comprehensive t-T aging studies for lifetime prediction studies, evaluation of mechanistic changes towards lower temperatures

Impact: New method and systematic volatile analyses as degradation chemistry signatures are being used for lifetime prediction purposes