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## Study of phase behaviour of epoxy asphalt binders with differential scanning calorimetry

Panos Apostolidis (*TU Delft*); Adrian Andriescu (*SES Group & Associates, LLC at Federal Highway Administration*); Michael Elwardany (*Engineering & Software Consultants, LLC at Federal Highway Administration*); David Mensching (*Federal Highway Administration*); Jack Youtcheff (*Federal Highway Administration*)

**Abstract:** The glass transition parameters are used to study the miscibility, or lack of it, in polymer modified asphalt binders. In this study, a quantitative assessment of the contribution of thermodynamics of mixing to glass transition was conducted in a differential scanning calorimetry for four asphalt binders modified with an elastomeric epoxy system. Especially, the values of heat capacity ( $C_p$ ) and subsequently the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of all binders were determined to quantify the miscibility based on the entropic changes. Emphasis was also given on examining the enthalpy of mixing as a function of the composition of epoxy asphalt binders during curing to ensure that these binders were completely crosslinked for further analyses. In all cases, the positive deviations of  $T_{g,mix}$  obtained from the ideal mixing rule, or  $\Delta T_{g,mix}$ , led to negative values of the entropy of mixing ( $\Delta S_{mix}^c$ ), dictating the presence of internal repulsive forces between the asphalt and epoxy components. The soft in properties and sol type base binders are also associated with epoxy asphalt binders of low  $\Delta T_{g,mix}$  values. Overall, the incorporation of the epoxy system in asphalt binders increases the  $T_g$  and decreases the amount of  $\Delta S_{mix}^c$ , and such performance imposes the formation of phase-separated binders.

# **Study of the phase behavior of epoxy asphalt binders using differential scanning calorimetry**

**2022 Petersen Asphalt Research Conference**

Panos Apostolidis<sup>1</sup>,  
Adrian Andriescu<sup>2</sup>, Michael Elwardany<sup>2</sup>,  
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<sup>1</sup>TU Delft; <sup>2</sup>SES & ESC Inc. at FHWA; <sup>3</sup>FHWA

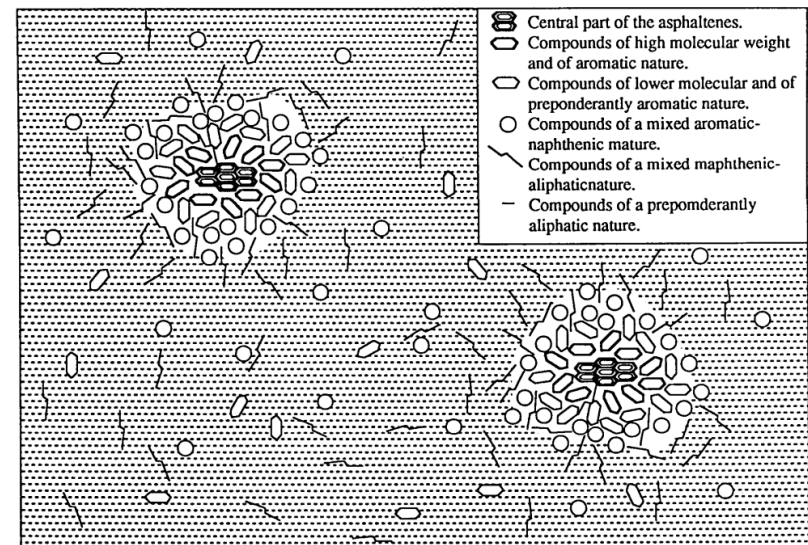
- **Motivation & Scope**
- **Binders & Set-up**
- **Results**
- **Future Research**

# Epoxy in Asphalt Binders

## *previous studies*

	<b>AAD-2</b>	<b>AAG-2</b>
PG grade	PG 52-34	PG 58-16
Continuous PG grade	PG 56,52-35,34	PG 61,22-18,83
Viscosity at 140°F [poise]	600	1056
Softening point [°F]	117	111
Penetration at 77°F [0.1-mm]	195	76
<i>Component analysis</i>		
Asphaltene, n-heptane [%]	21.3	5.0
Asphaltene, iso-octane [%]	3.1	2.8
Polar aromatics [%]	40.1	51.0
Naphthene aromatics [%]	26.7	35.3
Saturates [%]	10.0	6.6

SHRP 645A, 1993.



SHRP-AWP-90-008, 1990.

**AAD-2 (high-asphaltene content) → Gel-type binder → High curing rate with epoxy**  
**AAG-2 (low-asphaltene content) → Sol-type binder → Low curing rate with epoxy**

# Scope

- ❑ Understand the effect of epoxy systems on the glass transition of asphalt binders,
- ❑ Provide insights into the phase behavior of epoxy asphalt binders based on glass transition measurements,
- ❑ Guide the selection of binders for epoxy modification and potentially other reactive polymers.

# Materials

## *binders*

### Asphalt

**US source: PG 64-22 [VA], PG 67-22 [FLO]**

**European source: 70/100 pen & 160-220 pen**

### Epoxy

**Commercial epoxy-asphalt binder (ChemCo Systems)**

### New binders

**Epoxy:Asphalt = 0:100, 20:80, 50:50, 100:0 [% wt ratio] \*\***

\*\* EA0, EA20, EA50 and EA100

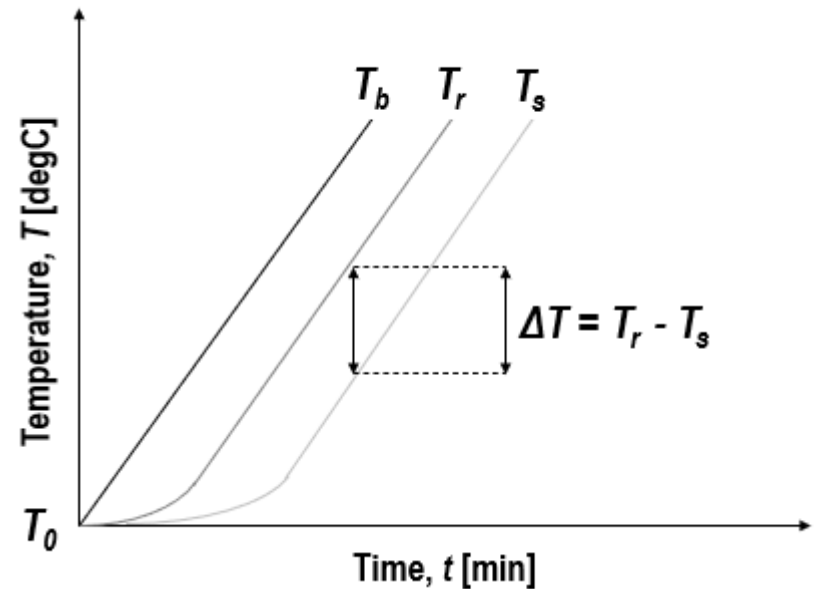
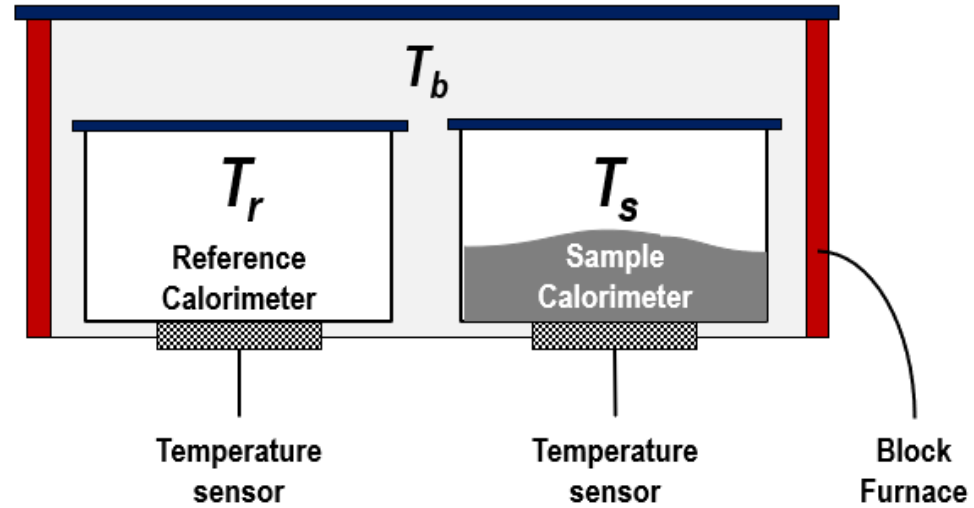


# Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

*set-up*



DSC, PerkinElmer



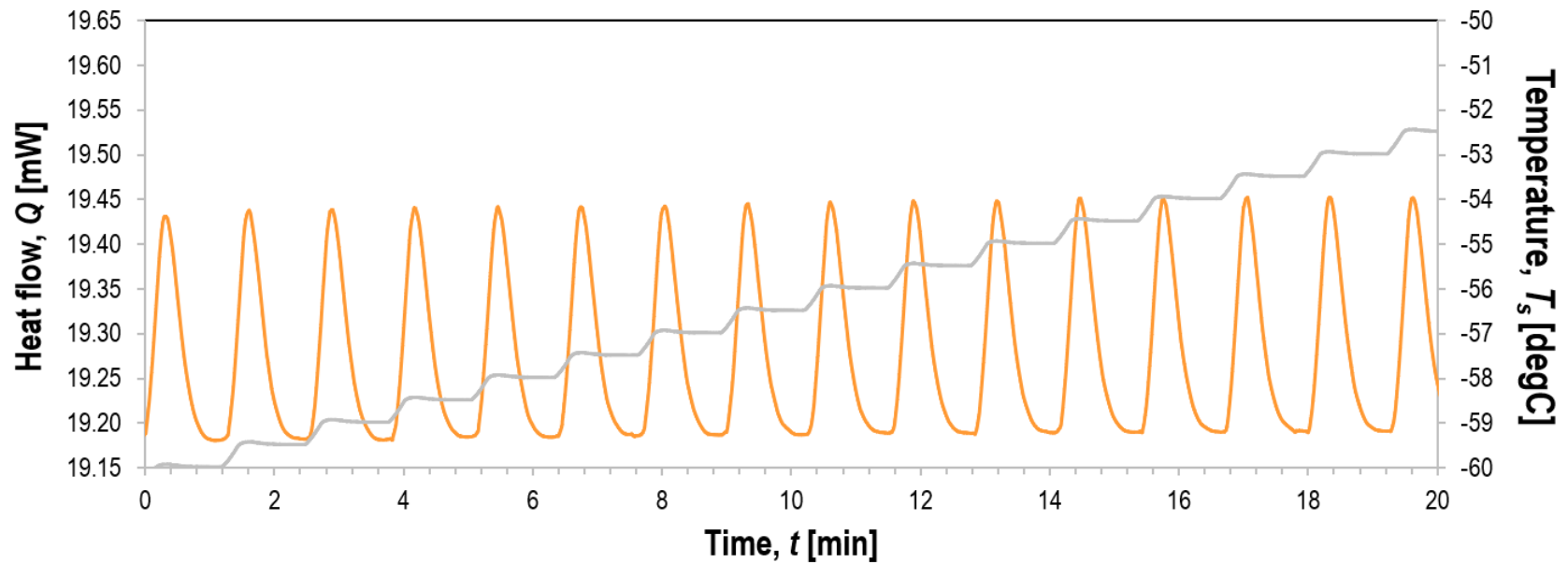


# Modulated Differential Scanning Calorimetry (MDSC)

## *temperature modulation*

- 1 Isothermal | -60 degC for 5 min
- 2 Modulation | 5 degC/min to 300 degC
- 3 Isothermal | 300 degC for 5 min
- 4 Modulation | 5 degC/min to -60 degC

Sample mass : between 5 and 10 mg

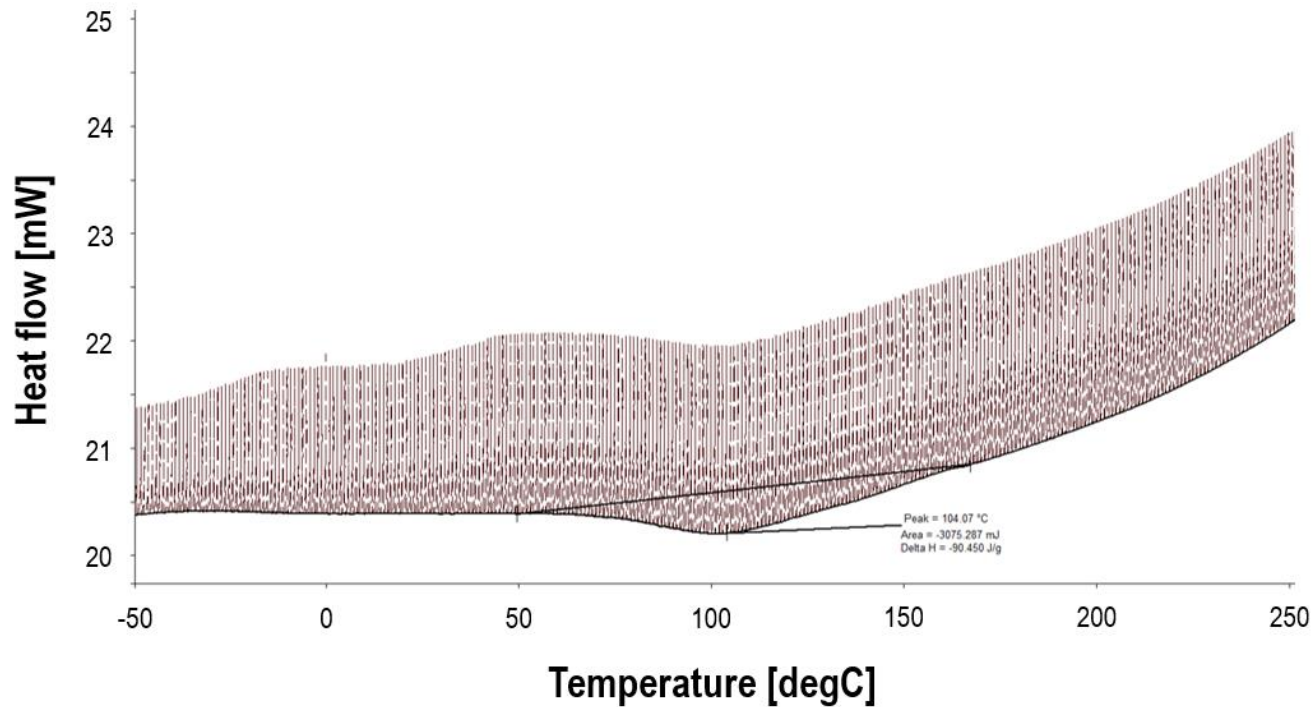


# Modulated Differential Scanning Calorimetry (MDSC)

## *temperature modulation*

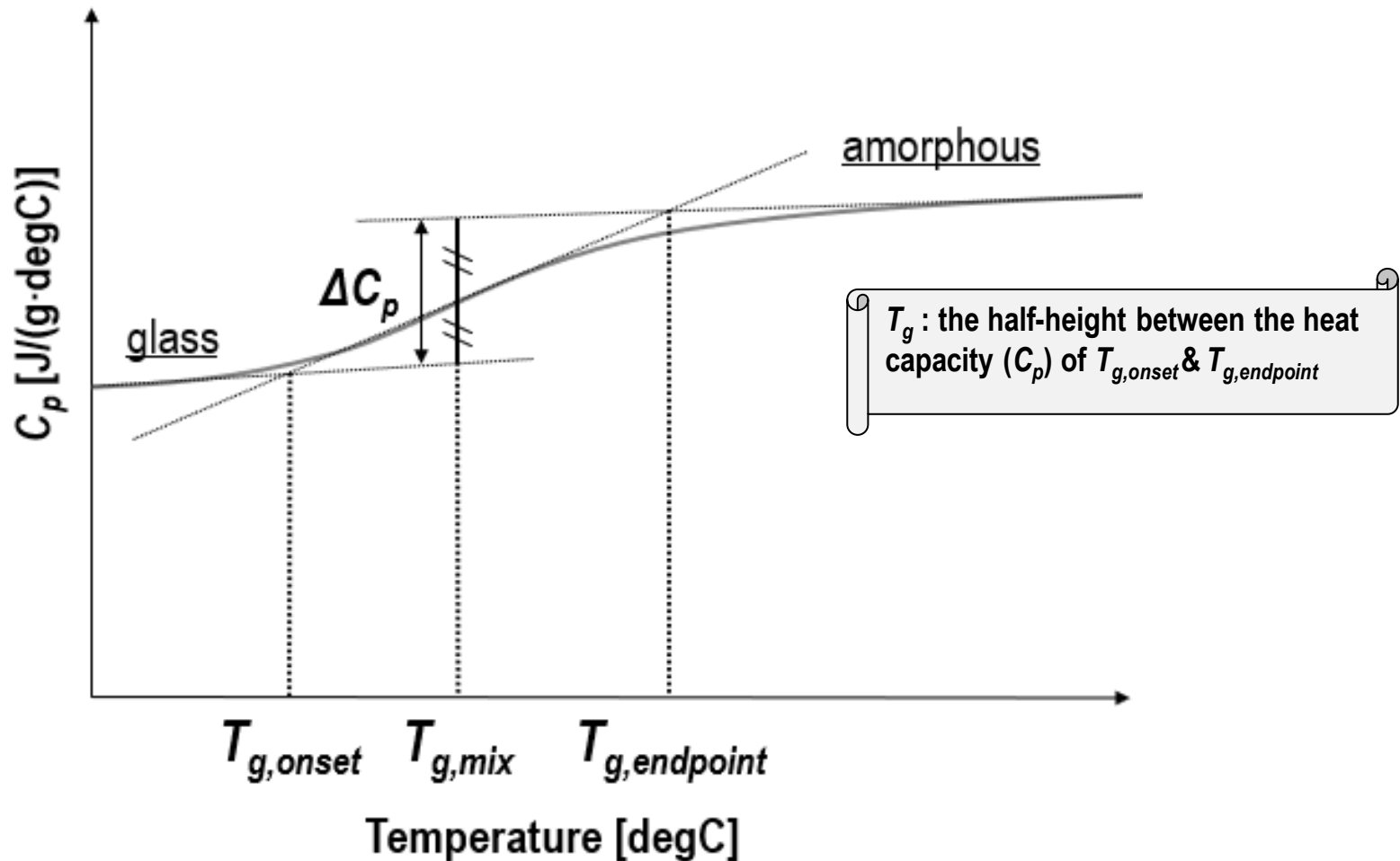
- 1 Isothermal | -60 degC | for 5 min
- 2 Modulation | 5 degC/min | to 300 degC
- 3 Isothermal | 300 degC | for 5 min
- 4 Modulation | 5 degC/min | to -60 degC

Sample mass : between 5 and 10 mg



# Modulated Differential Scanning Calorimetry (MDSC)

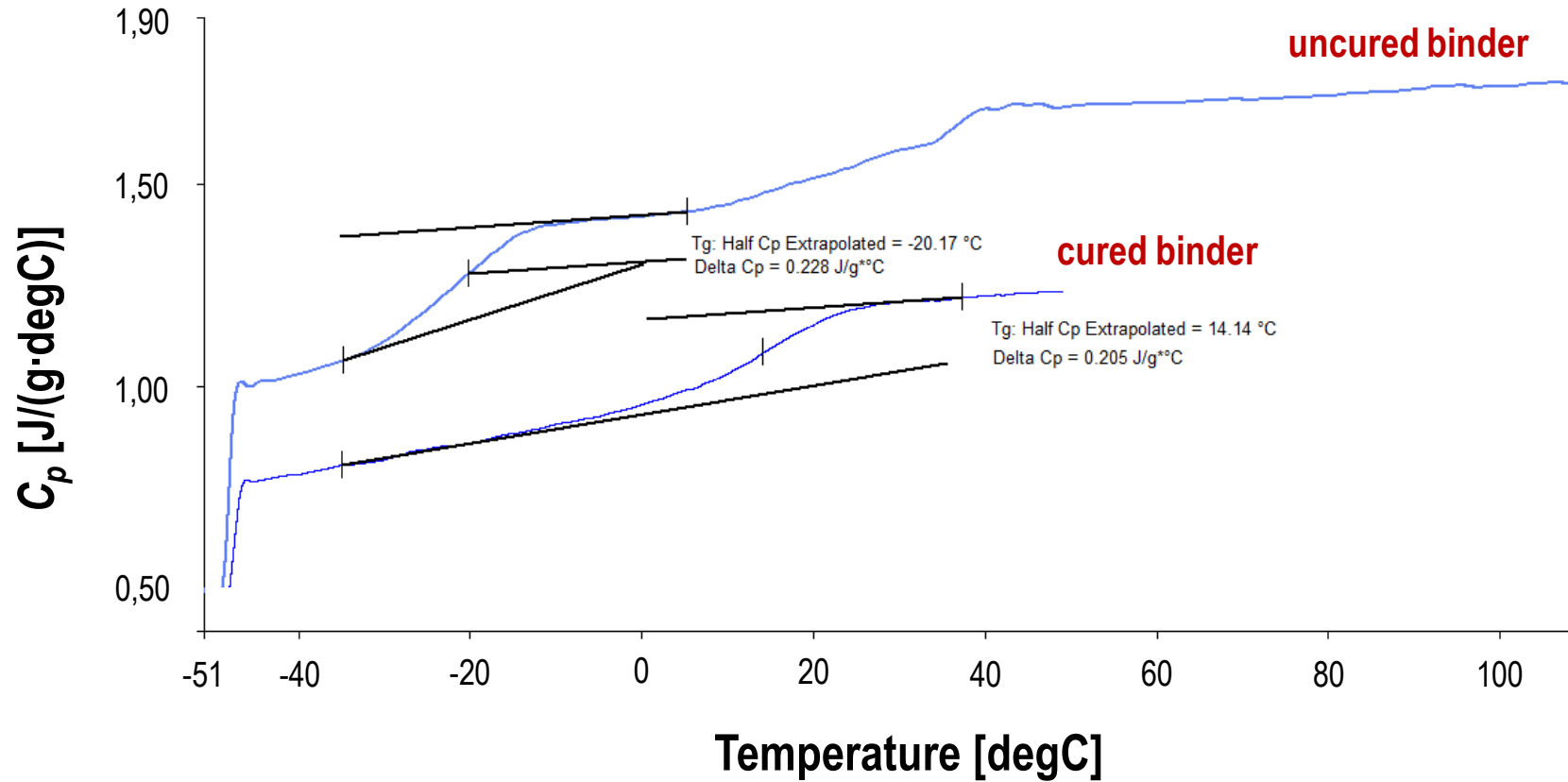
*to measure the glass transition of binders*



- Binders behave as glass below the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ), while above the  $T_g$  they behave as amorphous.
- The glass transition can assist on understanding the thermal cracking of binders.

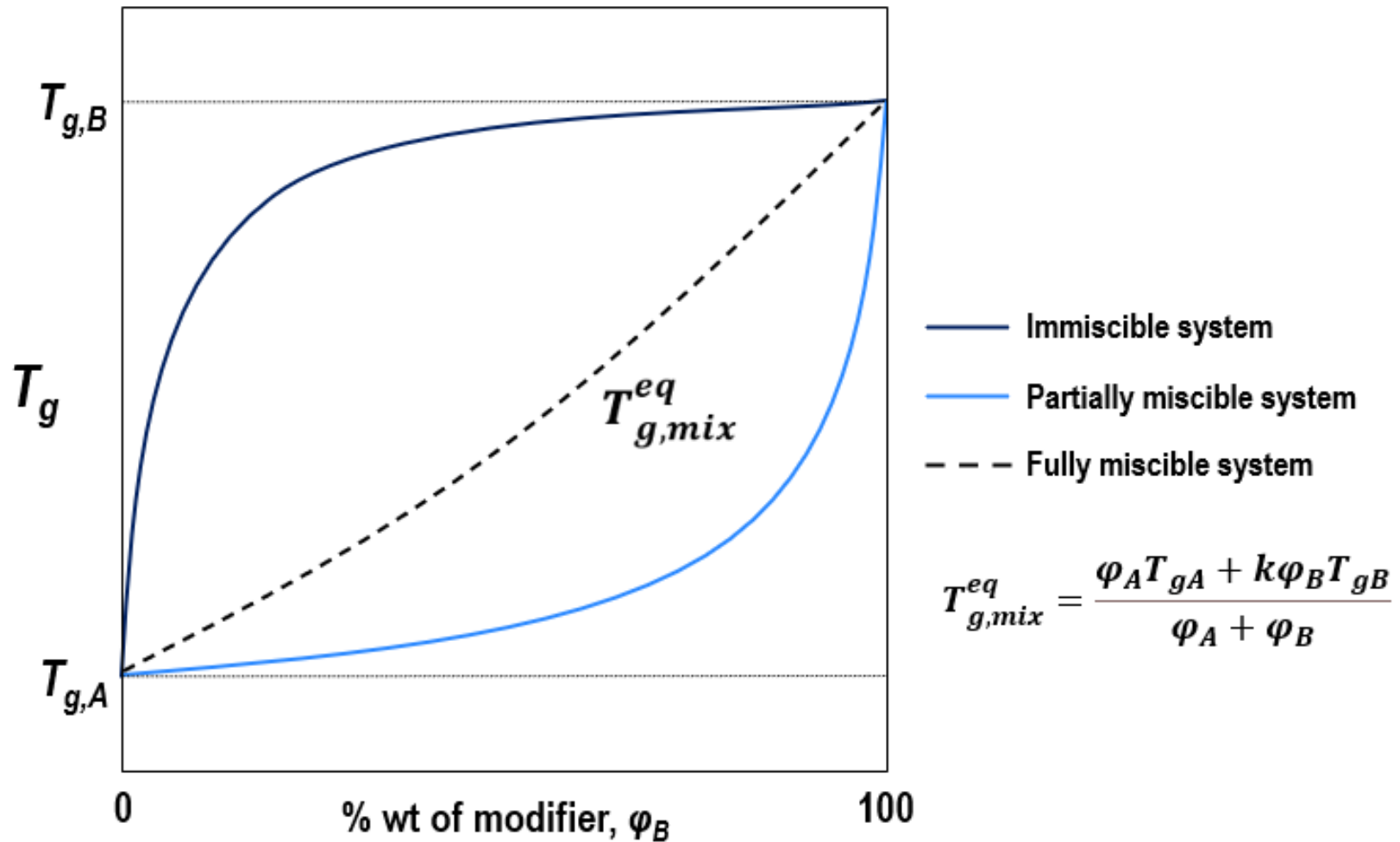
# Heat Capacity vs Temperature

*of uncured and fully cured epoxy-asphalt binder*

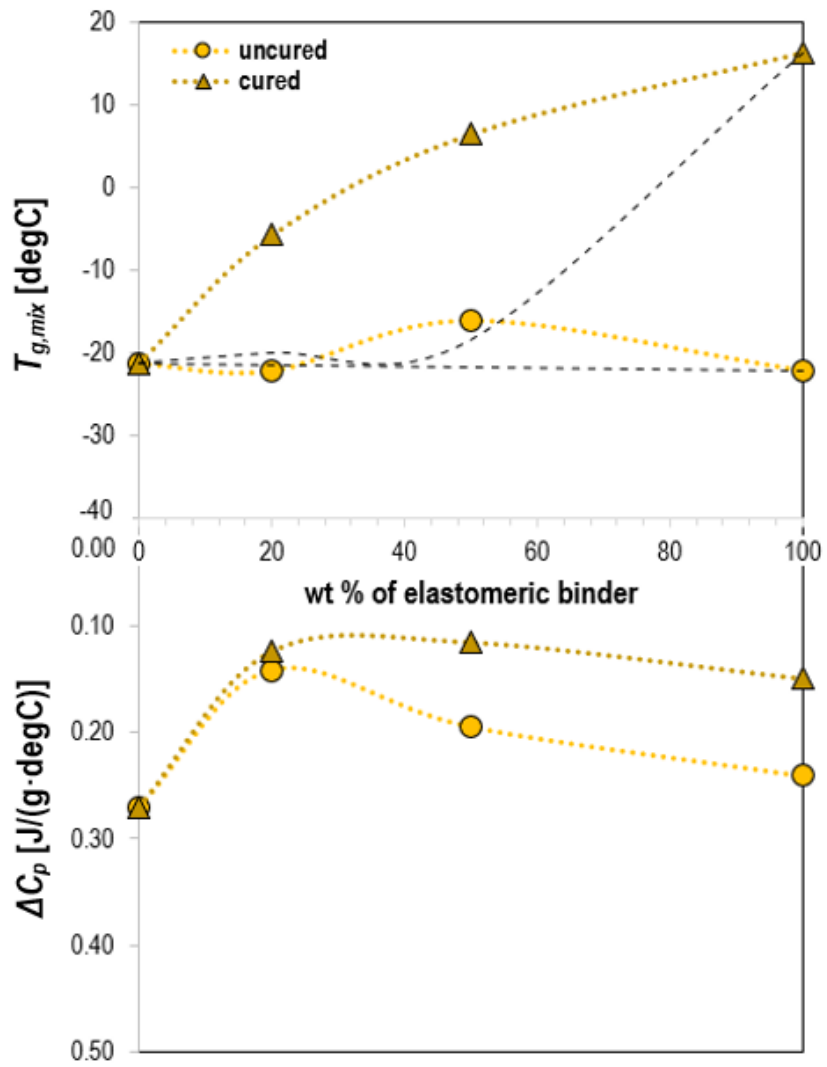


# Phase Behavior Analyses with DSC

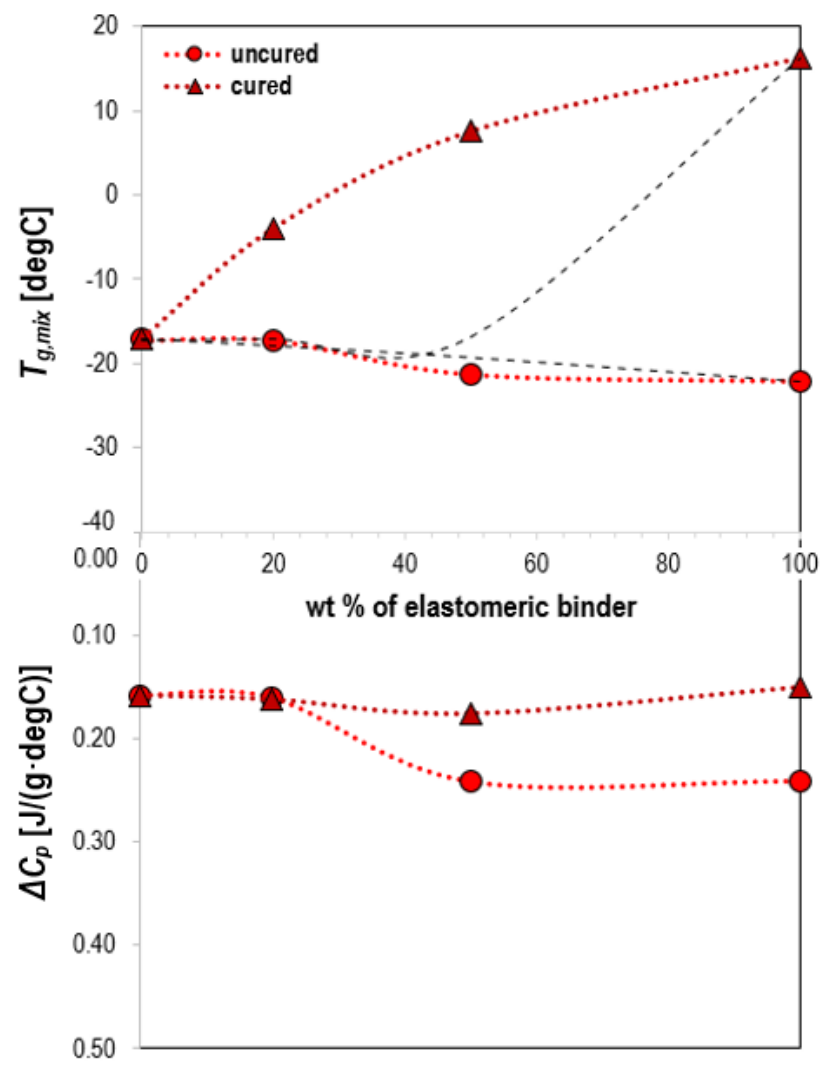
*composition dependence of glass transition in a binary binder*



# Composition Dependence of $T_g$ and $\Delta C_p$

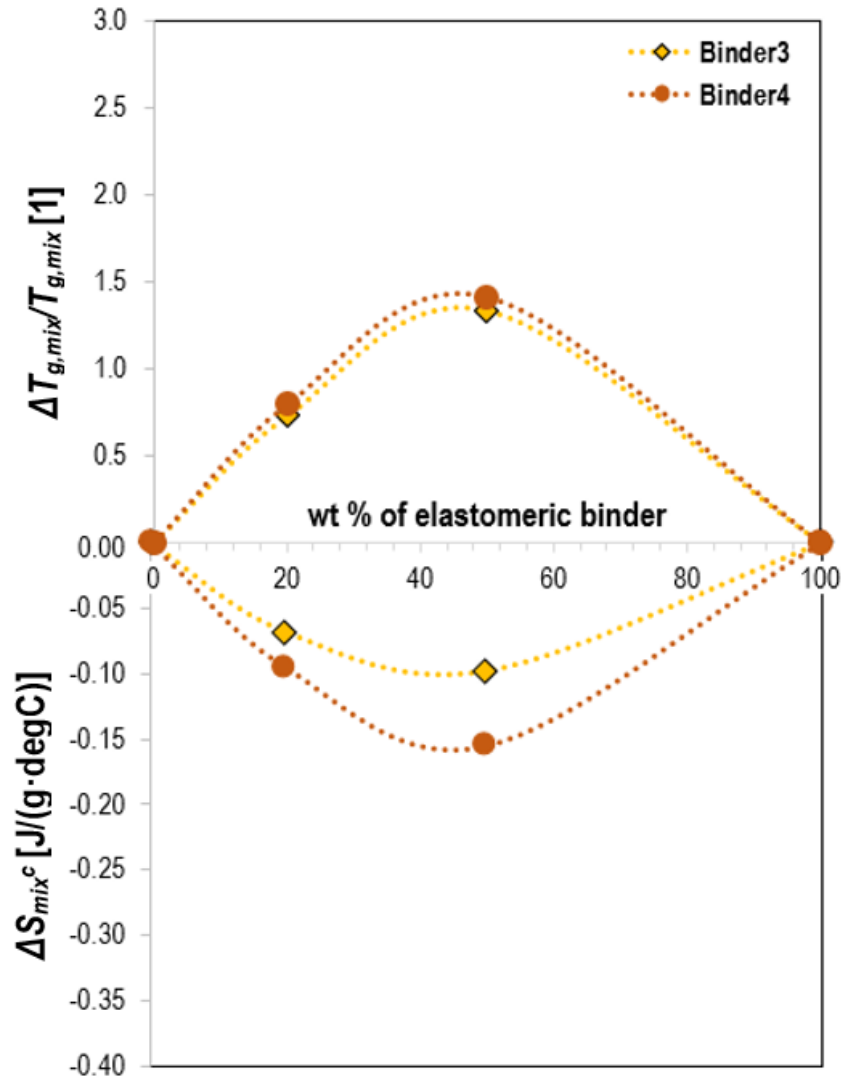


PG 67-22 [FLO], or Binder3

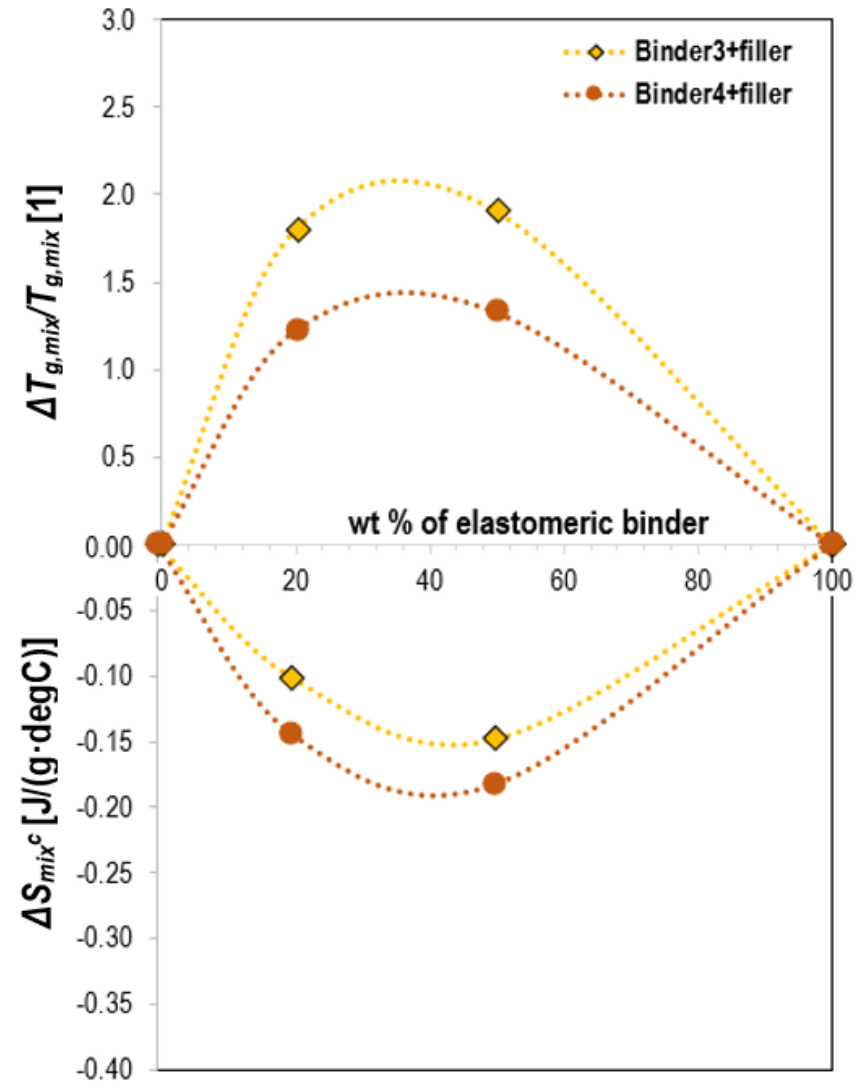


PG 64-22 [VA], or Binder4

# Composition Dependence of $\Delta T_{g,mix}/T_g$ and $\Delta S_{mix}$

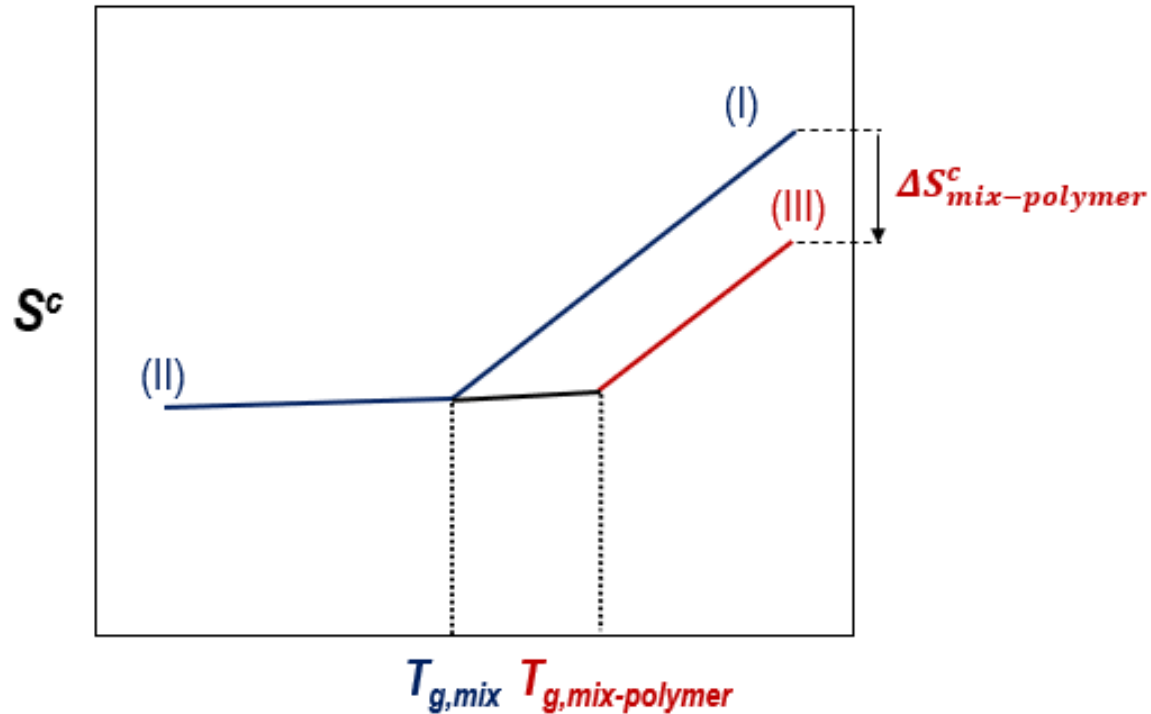


Binders



Binders with filler

# Epoxy in Asphalt Binders



(I) neat asphalt binder at amorphous state

(II) neat asphalt binder at glass state

(III) epoxy asphalt binder at amorphous state



# Summary

*the main findings are:*

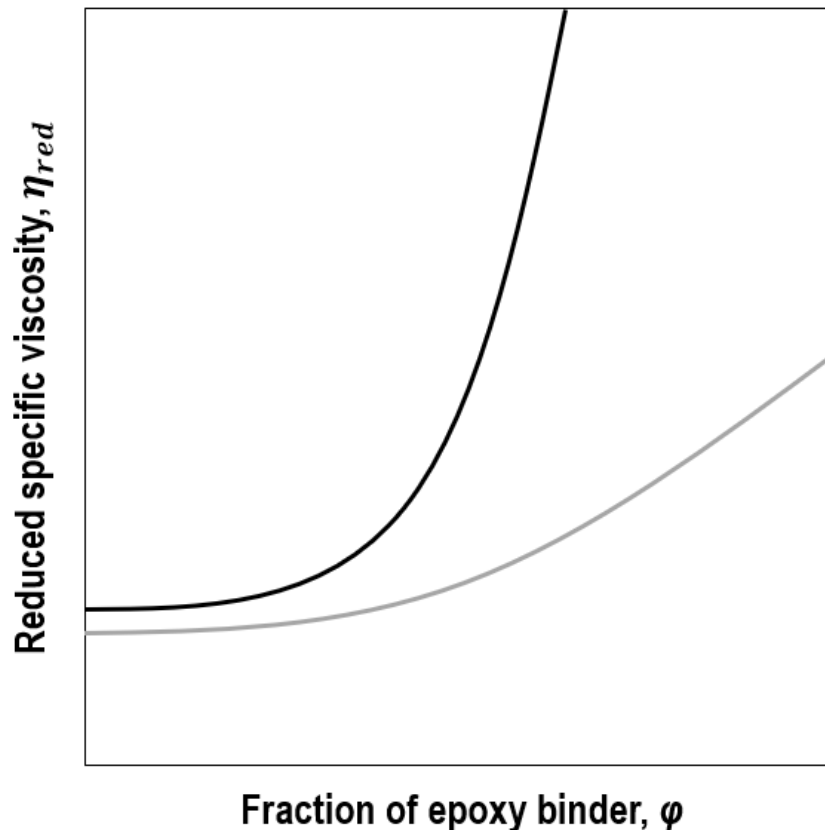
- ❑ The  $T_g$  increased with the increase of polymer in base asphalts,
- ❑ Similar composition dependence of  $T_g$  was observed in cured binders but with variations in  $T_g$ s based on the base asphalts,
- ❑ The positive deviations of  $T_g$ s from the ideal mixing, or  $\Delta T_{g,mix}$ , led to negative  $\Delta S_{mix}^c$  values, dictating the presence of internal repulsive forces between polymer and base asphalt binder,
- ❑ The soft in properties or sol type base asphalts are associated with low and positive  $\Delta T_{g,mix}$  values, and to a less phase-separated epoxy asphalt binders.

*in the future ...*

# Future: Phase Behavior Analyses

*new methods can be developed using:*

- infrared spectrometers (e.g., FTIR)
- viscometers (e.g., Brookfield)



— Strongly reactive asphalt binder  
(*gel-type binder*)

— Weakly reactive asphalt binder  
(*sol-type binder*)

$$\eta_{red} = \frac{1}{\varphi} \left( \frac{\eta - \eta_0}{\eta_0} \right)$$

$\eta_0$ : viscosity of asphalt  
binder (*solvent*)

$\varphi$ : fraction of epoxy  
binder (*solute*)

# Future: Embrittlement Analyses

*to link glass transition with fracture mechanics parameters*

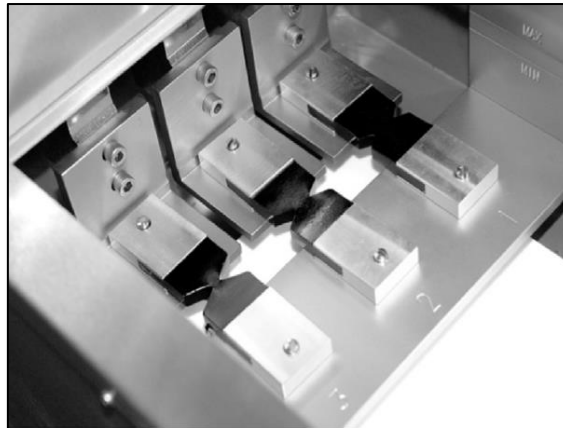
## Glass transition

- Glass transition temperature
- Specific heat capacity

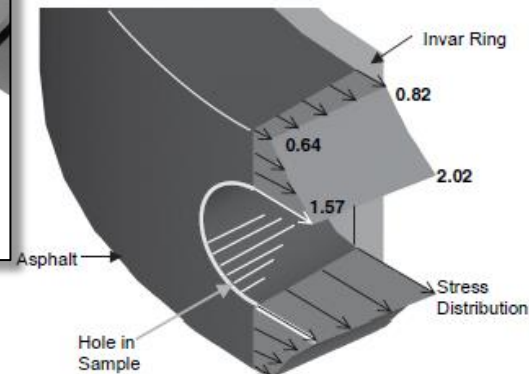


## Fracture mechanics

- Parameters from DENT, or
- Parameters from ABCD
- ...



Andriescu, A., & S.A.M. Hesp. 2009  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10298430802169440>



Highway IDEA Project 99, 2007

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**Thank you**