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- > Attempt to understand the effects of curing on sample shape
- Look at changes in geometry of a sample after curing
- > Modern instrumentation allows:
  - Curing of photo-initiated samples in DSC and DMA
  - Measurement of residual cure by DSC
  - Measurement of even highly cured samples by HyperDSC
  - Tracking of sample distortion during cure in DMA

### **Photo-initiated Systems**



- Commonly used
  - Dental materials
  - Electronic adhesives
  - Orthopedic applications
  - Coating for low VOC
- Traditionally Studied by Photo-DSC
  - Allows measure of energy of cure
  - Study of cure kinetics
  - Development of cure profiles









- Sample rerun under conditions that are known to get complete cure.
- Percent cure calculated:
  - $\Delta H_{\text{complete cure}} \Delta H_{\text{second cure}}$
  - Divided by  $\Delta H_{\text{complete cure}}$
  - Times 100
  - {(-339) (-37)/(-339)} \* 100
  - = 89.1 %



# Advantages of UV-DMA



- Measurement of modulus and viscosity as function of cure
- Physical measurements more meaningful for actual production
- Ease of determining gelation and vitrification
- Distortation of the specimen during can be tracked
- Samples can be prepared so
   DSC can be used afterward
   to estimate percent of cure



**UV-DMA** Data





#### **Experimental concerns**



- UV light generates heat. Cooling is a must so that temperature remains fairly constant in run
  - True for both DSC and DMA
  - Advantage of power compensation DSC is it controls temperature and measures energy.
- Light Intensity must be measured in both systems.
  - DSC energy can be measured using graphite targets.





## Calculations



- > Curing:
  - Gelation E' = E"
  - Virtification where E' levels off
  - Slope of cure used to estimate kinetics
    - See Roller et al for details



# **Light Sources**



- Hg Lamp
- > LEDs













LED System from Digital Light Labs allows programming of cure cycles



- > Associated with curing is a shrinkage in the material
- Often exploited in bulk polymerizations by dilatometry to obtain initial rates.
- > Shrinkage cause problems in manufacture:
  - Distortion of shapes
  - Gaps and spaces inside parts
  - Bending and twisting
- Known problem in thermal cures
- Also exists in photocures





### Samples contract on curing





- First Set of Experiments
  - A factorial design to look at amount of cure and degree of distortion as a function of light intensity, exposure time, and temperature.
- Then develop a cure profile to minimize distort for reasonable curing times.
- > Finally
  - Development of the equivalent of a TTT diagram for timeintensity-transformation relationship





## **Experimental Design results**

| Temperature C | Intensity<br>(w/cm2) | Time<br>min | T gel | T vif | Delta Y | Percent<br>Cure |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| 25            | 110                  | 30          | 0.1   | 11    | 0.019   | 95.4            |
| 50            | 110                  | 30          | 0.1   | 10    | 0.016   | 96.3            |
| 25            | 40                   | 30          | 0.4   | 14    | 0.003   | 89.1            |
| 50            | 40                   | 30          | 0.4   | 13    | 0.004   | 90.3            |
| 50            | 40                   | 10          | 0.4   | 13    | 0.004   | 90.8            |
| 25            | 40                   | 10          | 0.5   | 15    | 0.003   | 90.1            |
| 25            | 110                  | 10          | 0.1   | 15    | 0.013   | 96.7            |
| 50            | 110                  | 10          | 0.1   | 10    | 0.015   | 97              |
| 37.5          | 75                   | 20          | 0.3   | 12    | 0.006   | 94.6            |

- > Crunching the numbers:
  - Temperature has minimal affect over the range studied
  - Intensity of the light has the greatest
  - The cure continues after the light is turned off
  - Higher intensities are needed for fuller cures.



- > 15 minutes of UV at low intensity to create gel-glass
- > 5 minutes of high intensity UV to finish the cure
- > Work is ongoing with a new experimental design for this.
- After a method is developed in the DMA, test specimens will be run.



- > Run a series of isothermal cures at a single intensity.
- > Measure the time needed to  $T_{gel}$  and  $T_{vit}$
- Graph data as done for Gilham-Enns Diagram









> The chemistry of curing may not match perfectly with the rheology.



Tracking conversion as the change in absorbance at 6165 cm<sup>-1</sup> is also used



Newman et al., Proceeding Acad. Dental Materials., 2008, in prep.





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