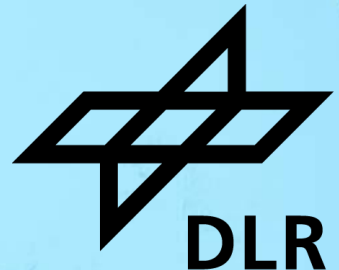


# LOCAL SURFACE TOUGHENING – IMPROVEMENT OF STRESS RESISTANCE BY USING TPU

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Prof. Dr. Oliver Völkerink<sup>1,2</sup>, Prof. Dr. Christian Hühne<sup>1</sup>

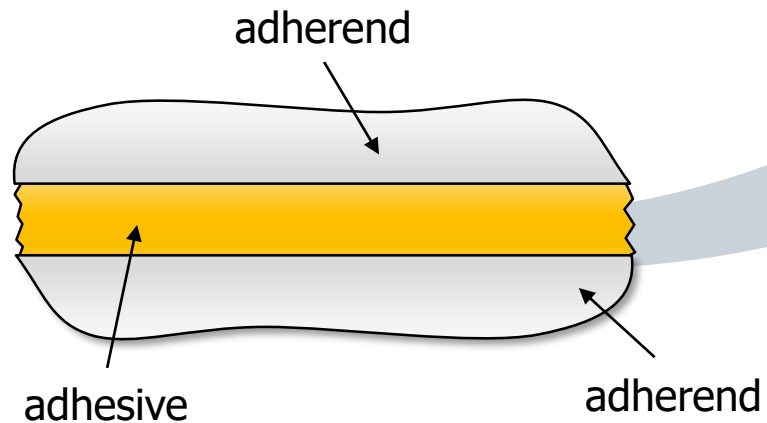
<sup>1</sup>Institute of Lightweight System DLR, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Mechanics and Adaptronics TUBS

8<sup>th</sup> ICEAF, 22.-25. June 2025, Kalamata Greece



# Bonding of primary structure in aviation

- Aim: Pure adhesive bonds (weight saving, tolerance, no corrosion, sealing, damping, ...)
- The joint strength must last over the hole operating time!
- Environmental condition  $-55^{\circ}\text{C} - 80^{\circ}\text{C}$

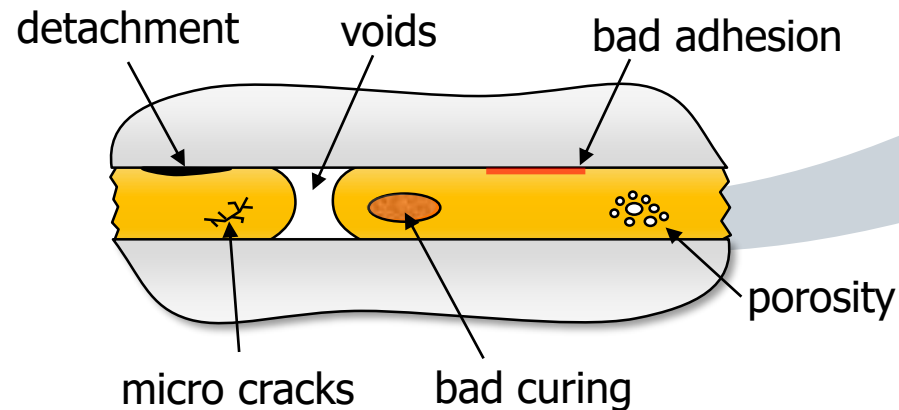


ideal bondline



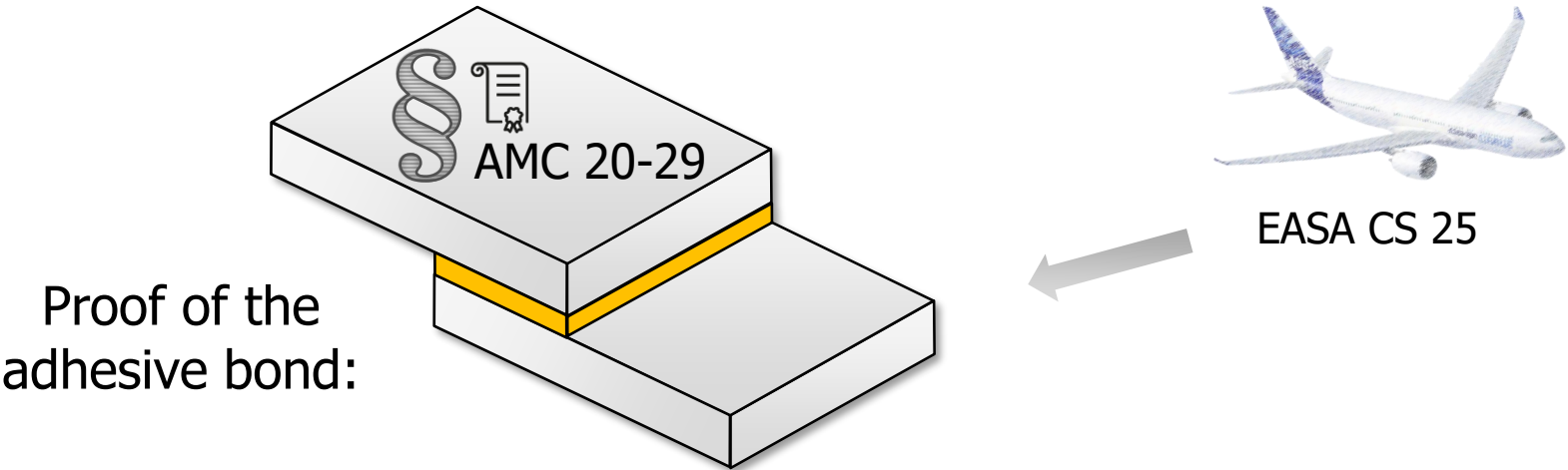
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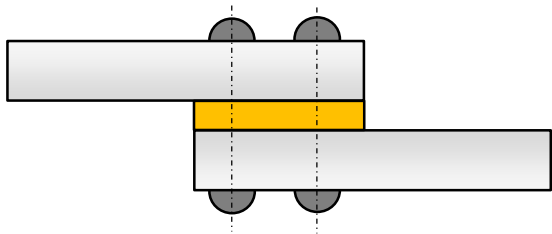


real bondline  
with defects

# Certification requirements for structural adhesive bonds in aviation

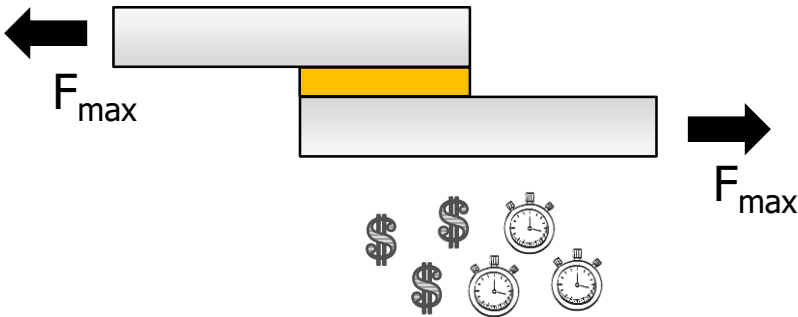


(i) Additional design elements



Disadvantage: 

(ii) Load tests



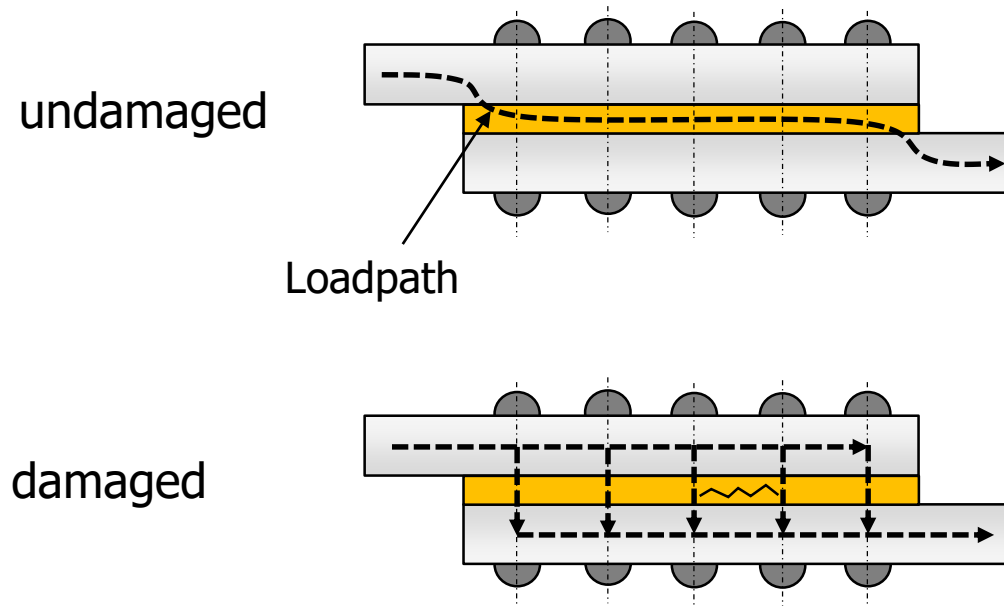
(iii) Inspection



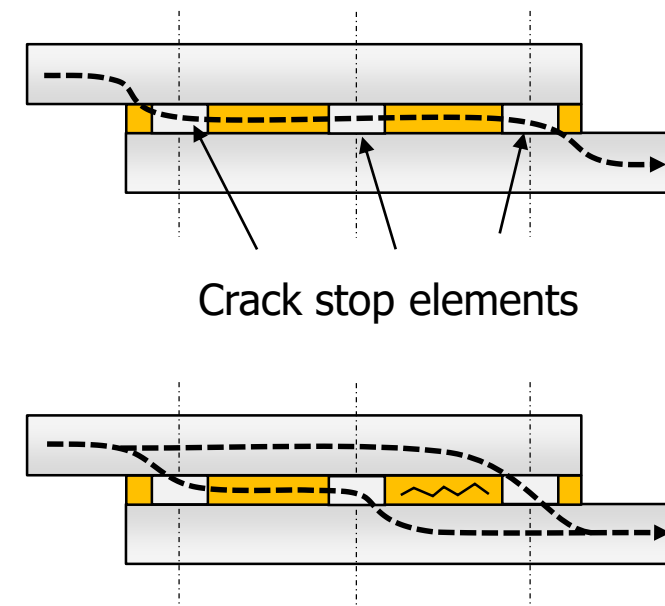
Does not exist.

# From the bolted to the bonded joint

Fail Safe Design

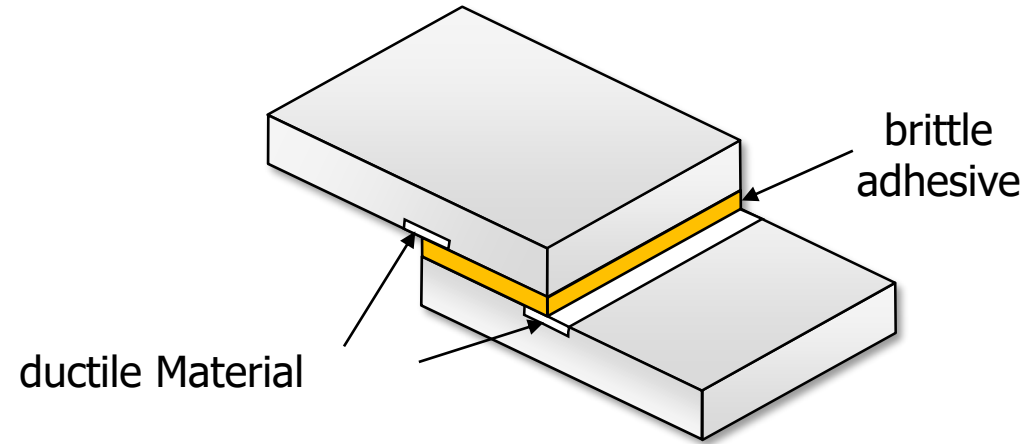


Maximum Disbond Design



**Aim: Robust pure adhesive bond with crack-stop effect!**

# Local Surface Toughening (ST) - Concept



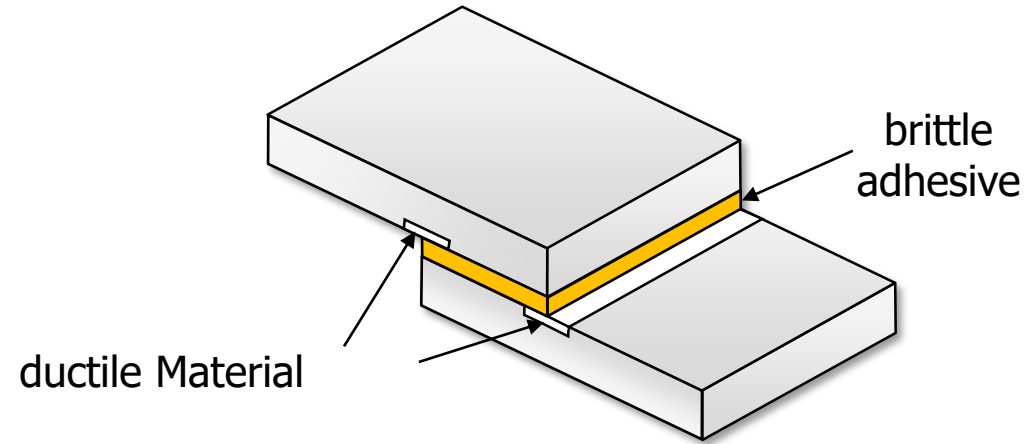
## **Increase in joint strength**

The targeted arrangement of the local surface modification in the bond improves the load distribution and thus increases the bond strength.

## **Crack stop**

Crack growth in the bonded joint is stopped by means of localized surface toughening and the resulting reduction in stress concentrations.

# Local Surface Toughening (ST) - Concept



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The targeted arrangement of the local surface modification in the bond improves the load distribution and thus increases the bond strength.

Crack stop

Crack growth in the bonded joint is stopped by local surface toughening and the resulting reduction in stress concentration.

**Is not part of this presentation!**

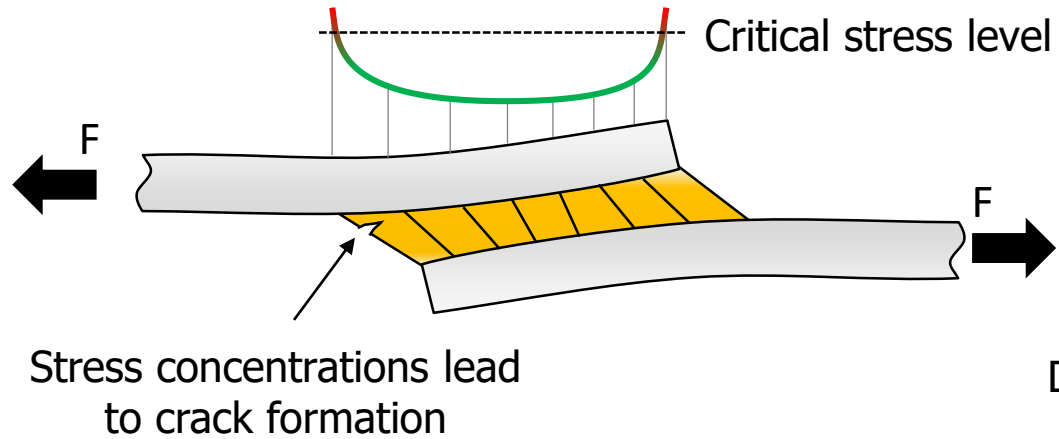


<https://elib.dlr.de/205164/>

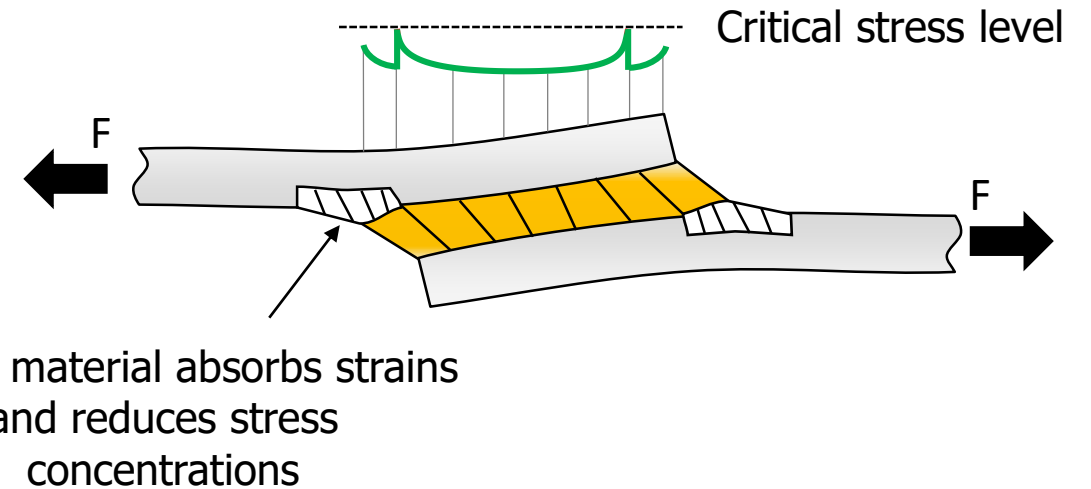


# Local Surface Toughening - How it works

Reference



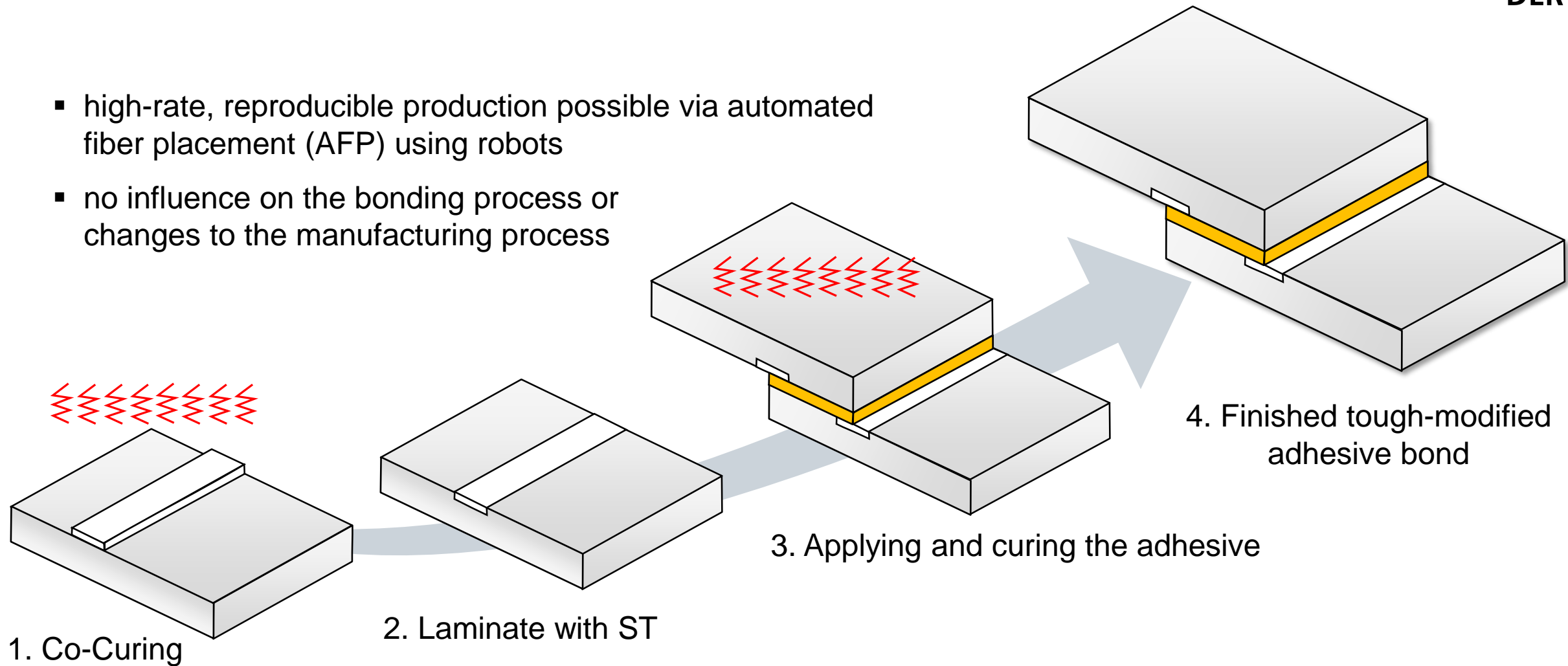
ST



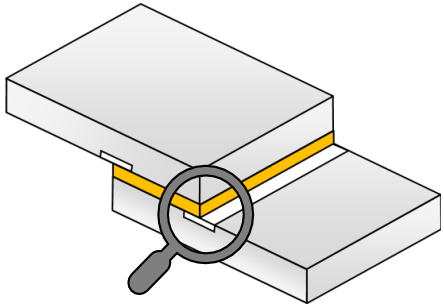


# Manufacturing using the prepreg process as an example

- high-rate, reproducible production possible via automated fiber placement (AFP) using robots
- no influence on the bonding process or changes to the manufacturing process



# Crosssection and materials



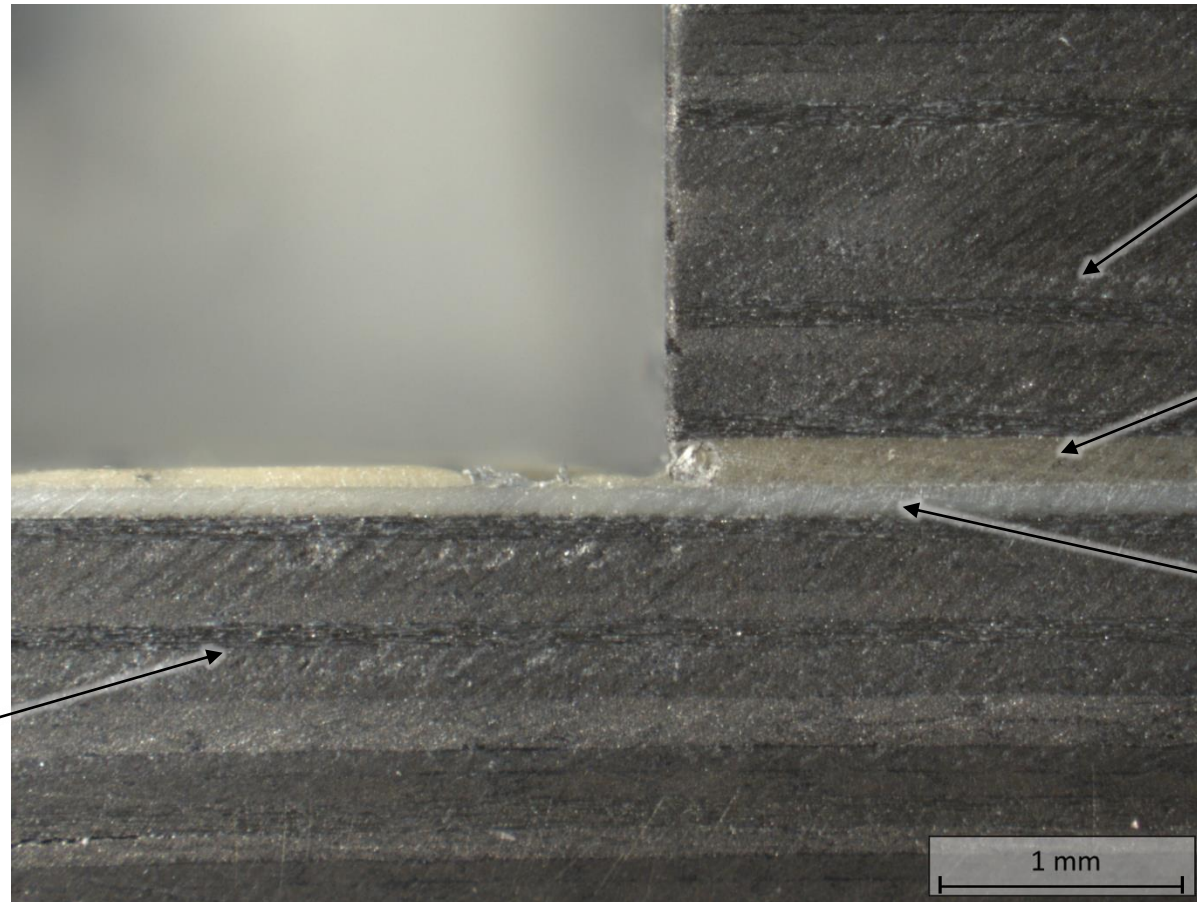
Young's modulus:

$$E_{8552 \text{ IM7}} = 60.600 \text{ MPa}$$

$$E_{\text{EA9695}} = 2.577 \text{ MPa}$$

$$E_{\text{PVDF}} = 1.716 \text{ MPa}$$

Adherend 1  
**8552 IM7**



Adherend 2  
**8552 IM7**

Film adhesive  
**EA9695 NW**  
 $t_{\text{KI}} \sim 0,12 \text{ mm}$

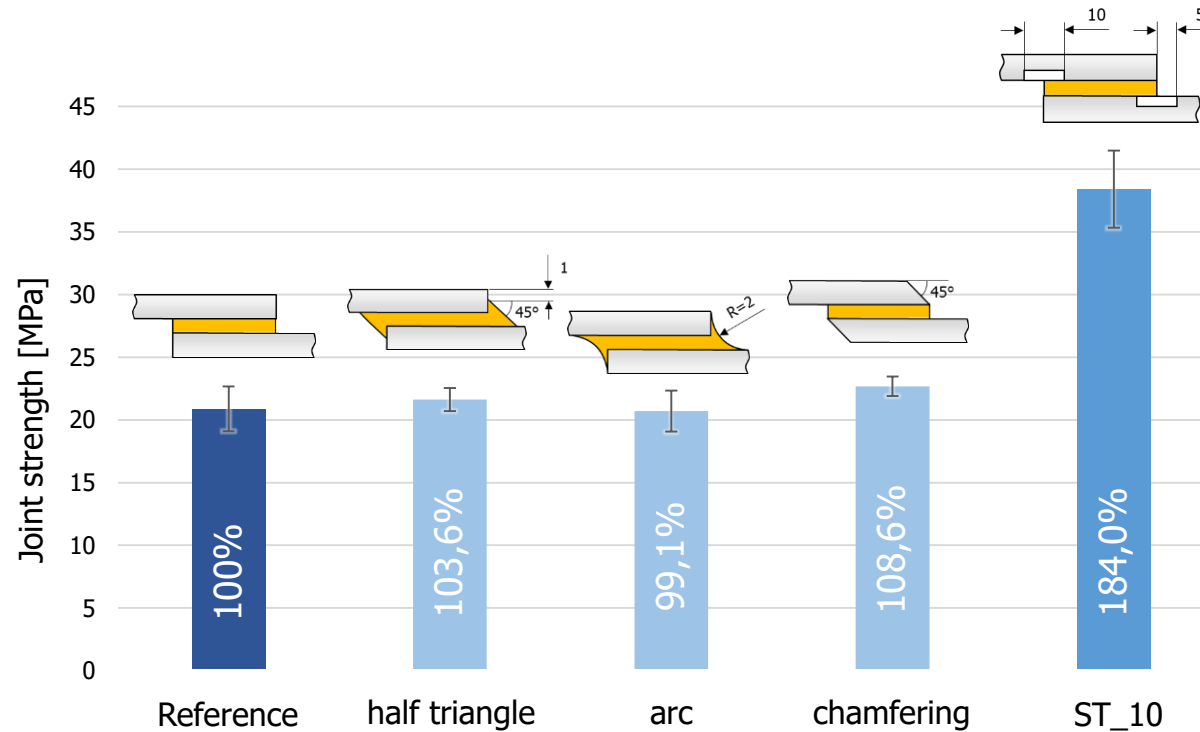
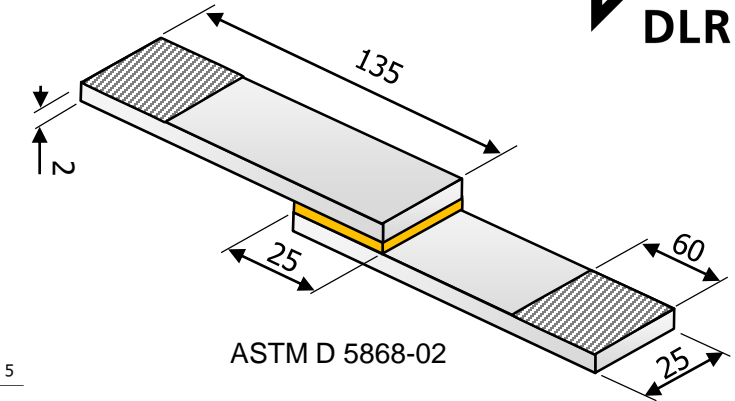
ST-Material  
**PVDF**  
 $t_{\text{ST}} \sim 0,1 \text{ mm}$

1 mm

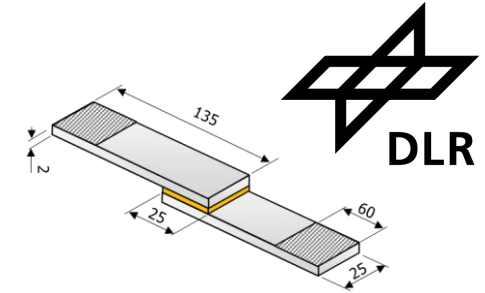
# Strength increase under quasi-static load



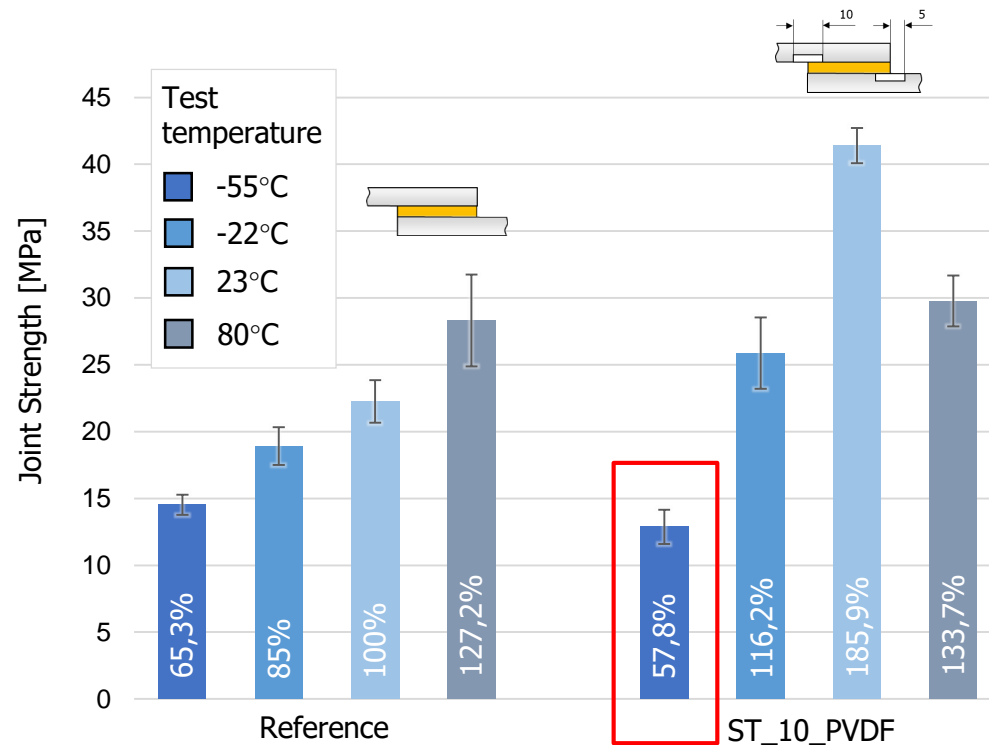
- strength-enhancing methods from literature without much effect
- increase in strength due to ST by 84%



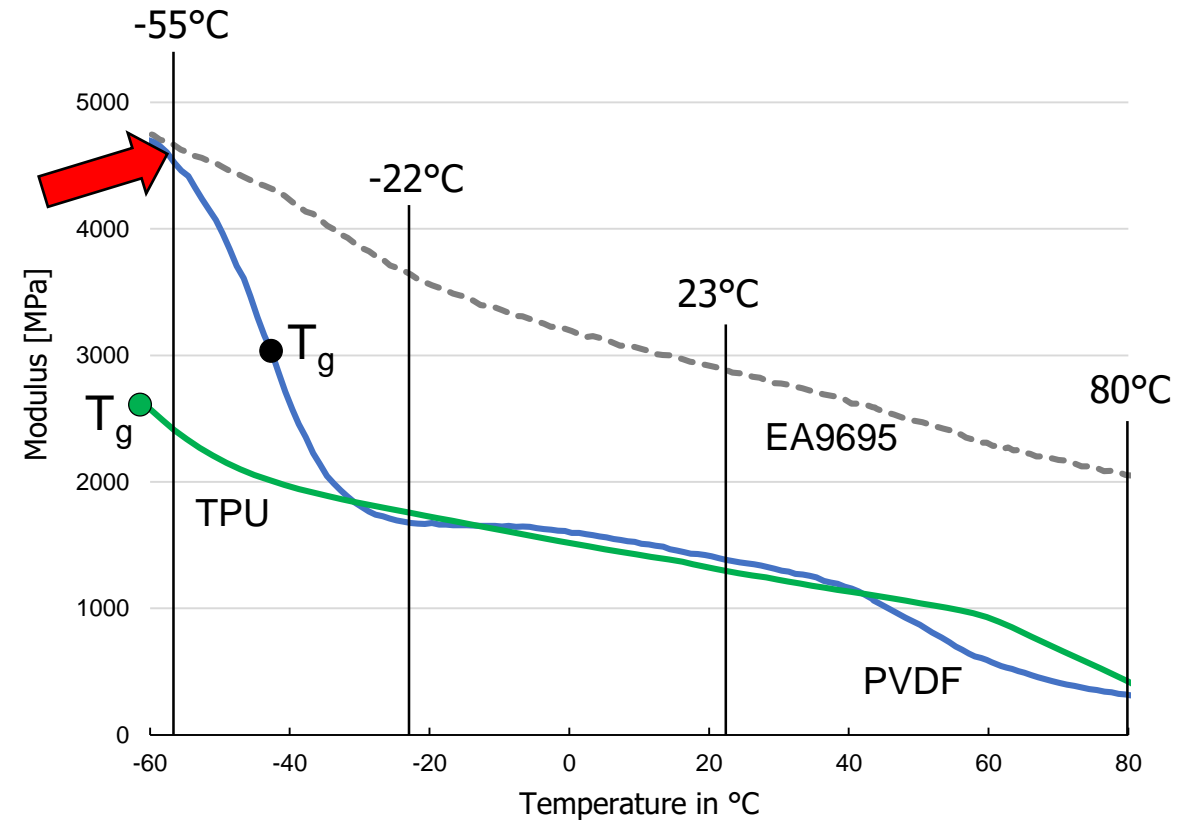
# Problem with PVDF



## SLS tests PVDF



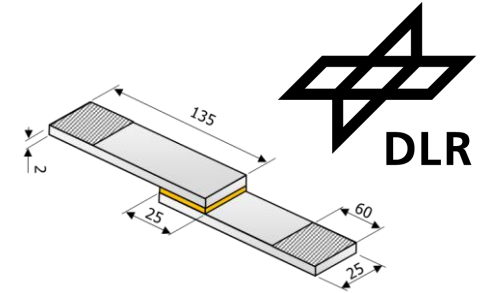
## DMA



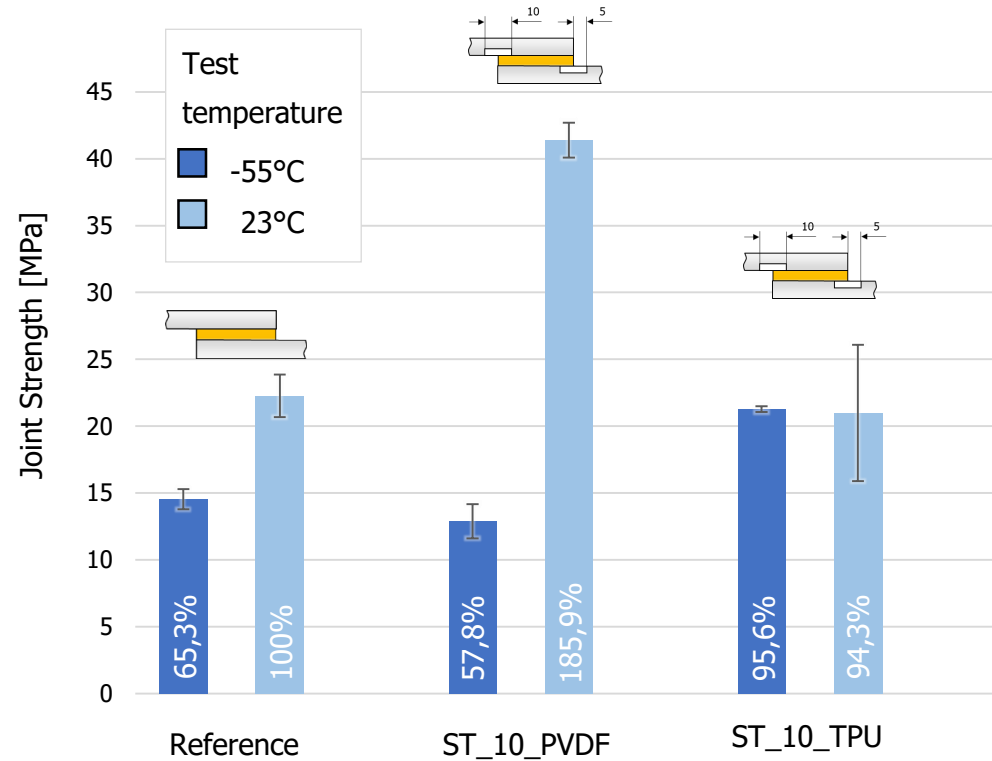
→TPU for next trials!

PVDF: Nowoflon Copo FL2608, Nowofol  
TPU: Elastollan 1165D13U, BASF

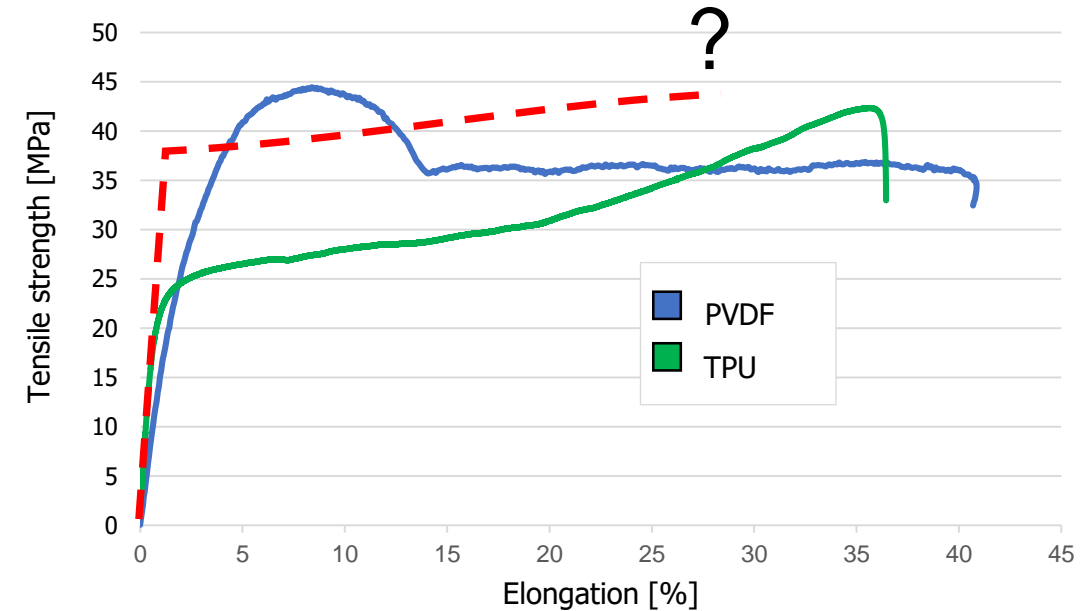
# Comparison of PVDF and TPU - SLS



## SLS tests PVDF and TPU



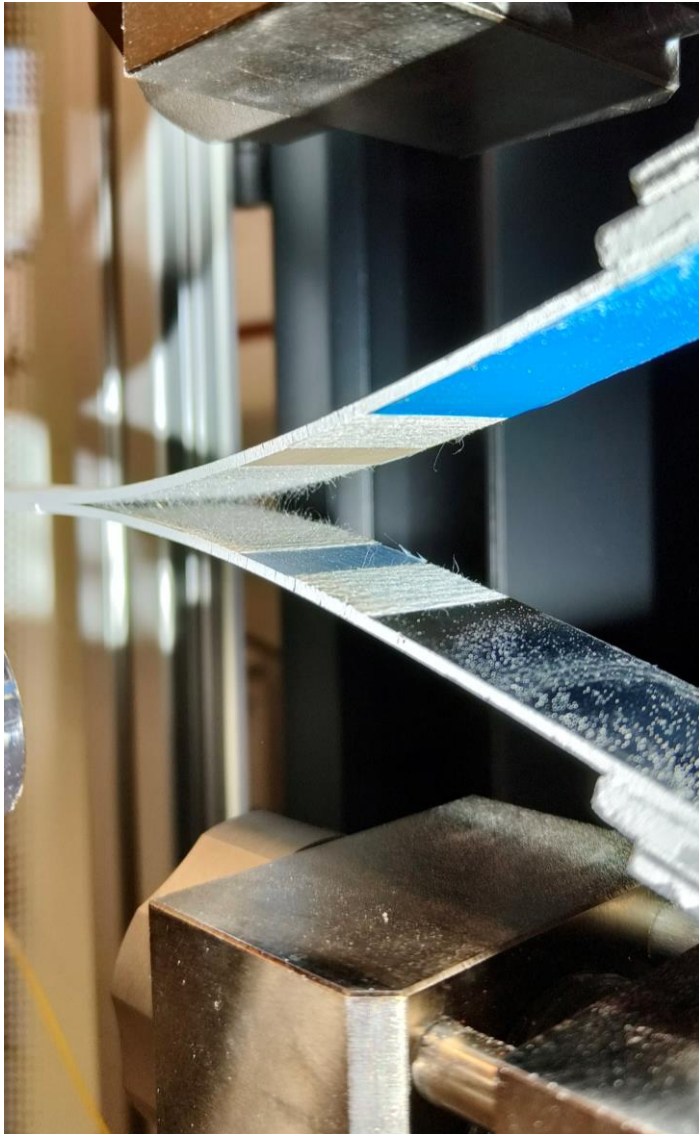
## Tension test



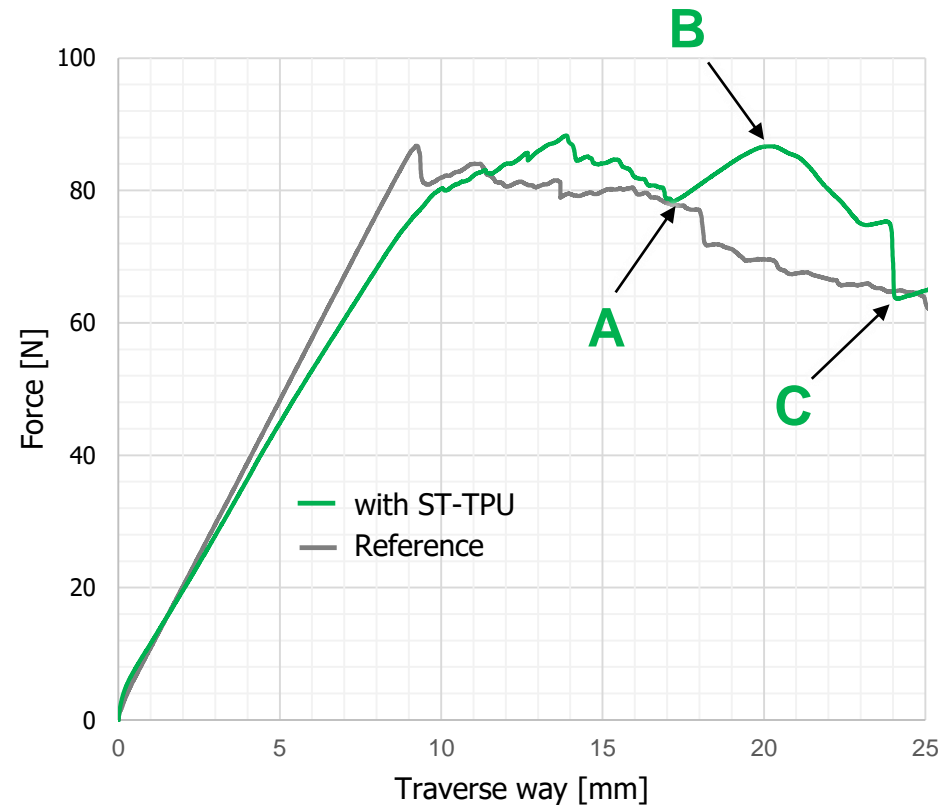
→ Thesis: Strength of yield point increase at -55°C?

→ Use specimen design with higher internal strain of the ST-material?

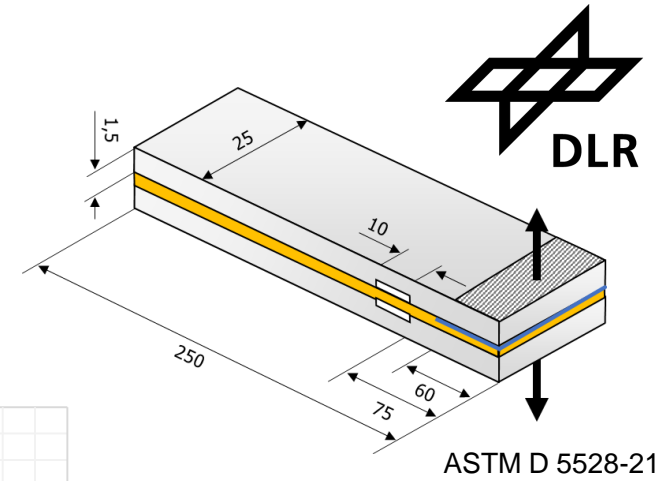
# Double Cantilever Beam tests with TPU



DCB test with TPU



Increase of  $G_{IC}$  by ~30% (MBT)



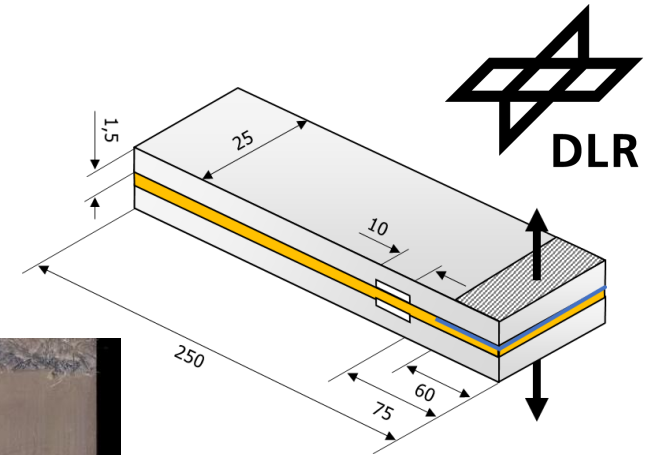
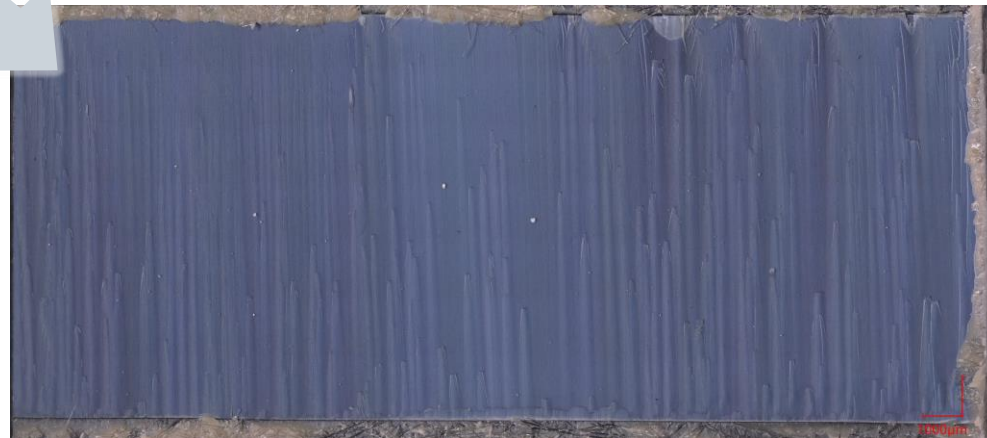
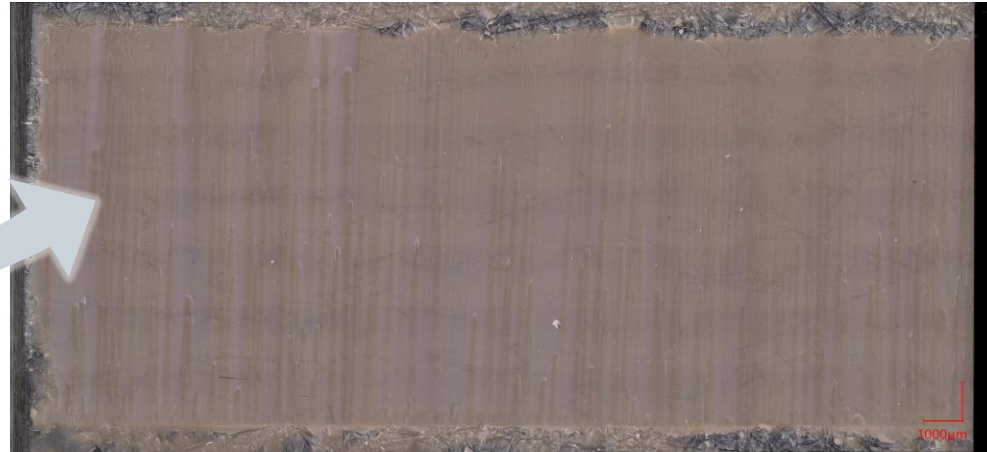
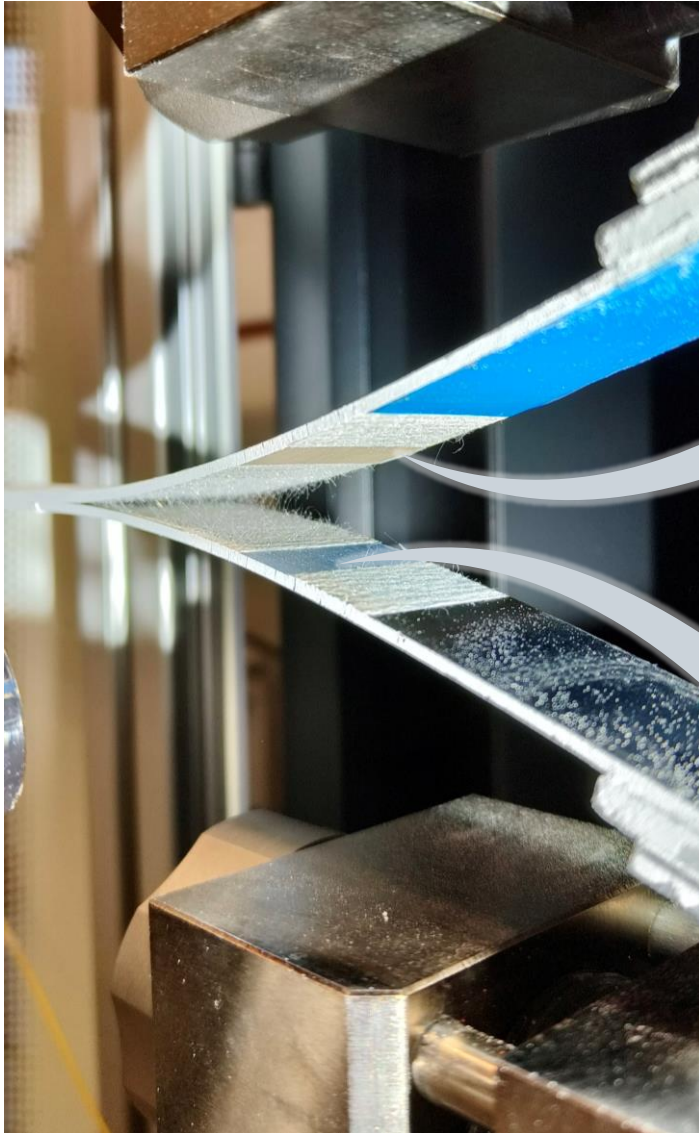
A: Crack stop

B: Crack starts again

C: Crack jumps to the pure adhesive (end of crack stop element)



# Double Cantilever Beam tests with TPU



**Surface near  
cohesive failure  
in TPU**



# Conclusion and Outlook



- ...increases the joint strength by up to 84% or until the joint component breaks
- ....is easy, quick and inexpensive to use.
- **...is a robust and pure adhesive bonded joint with a crack-stop effect!**
- but PVDF is not a suitable material for industrial applications...

→TPU can work as a ST-material but need a higher yield strength for Mode II load at RT

→TPU works at RT under Mode I direction with an increase of  $G_{IC}$  by ~30%

→Proof SLS-thesis with tension tests performed at -55°C

→Iterate material composition to increase the yield strength for better performance



Topic: Local Surface Toughening – Improvement of Stress Resistance  
by using TPU

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Author: Dr. Martin J. Schollerer

Institute: Institute of Lightweight Systems



**Consulting and  
support of TPU**

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