



# *IMI-NFG Course on Processing in Glass*

*Spring 2015*

*(available online [www.lehigh.edu/imi](http://www.lehigh.edu/imi))*

## **Lecture 9: Annealing and Tempering**

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# *Outline of this lecture*

## 1. Annealing of glass

- Introduction - Principles
- Annealing in industrial glass production

## 2. Tempering

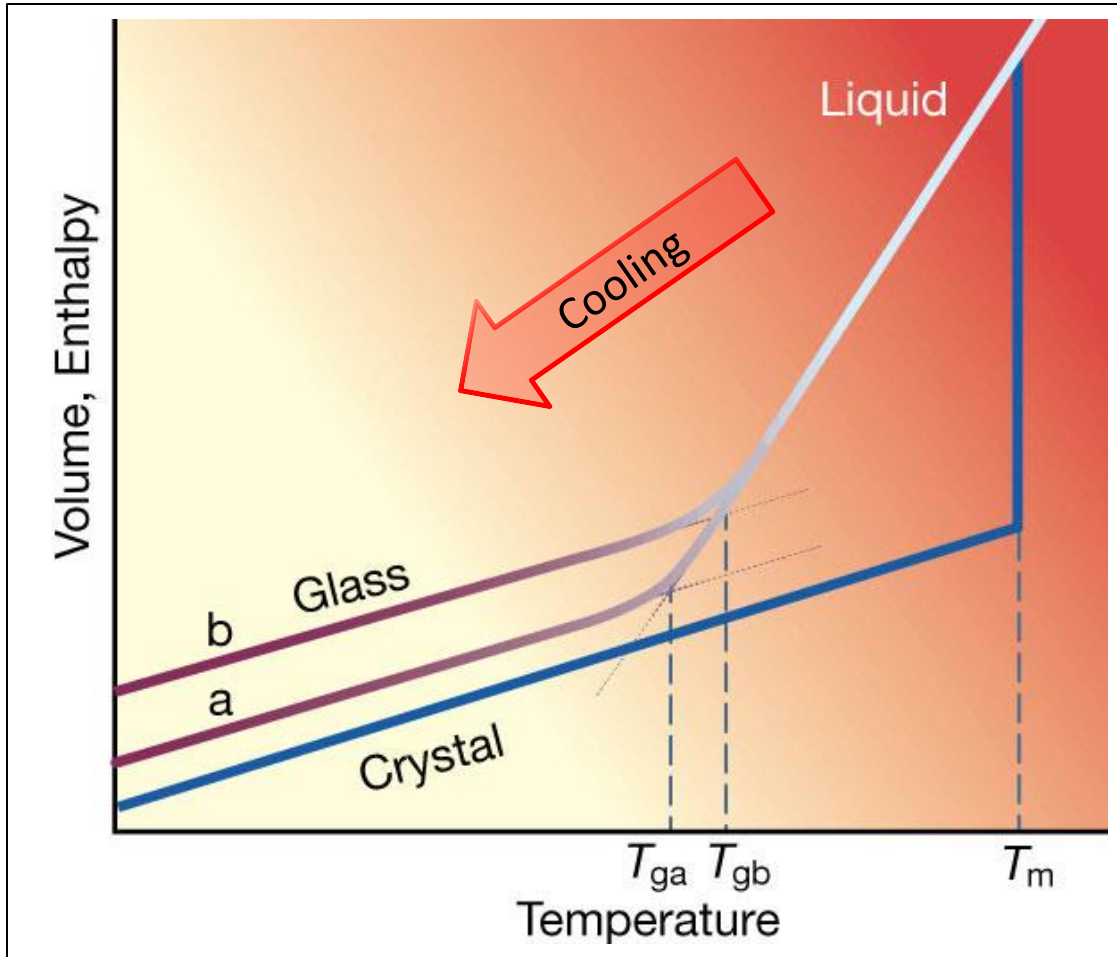
- Principles
- Tempering in industrial glass production
- Tempered vs. Heat strengthened glass

Photo: Erik Skaar



# Introduction

Just a word on glass science – The glassy state



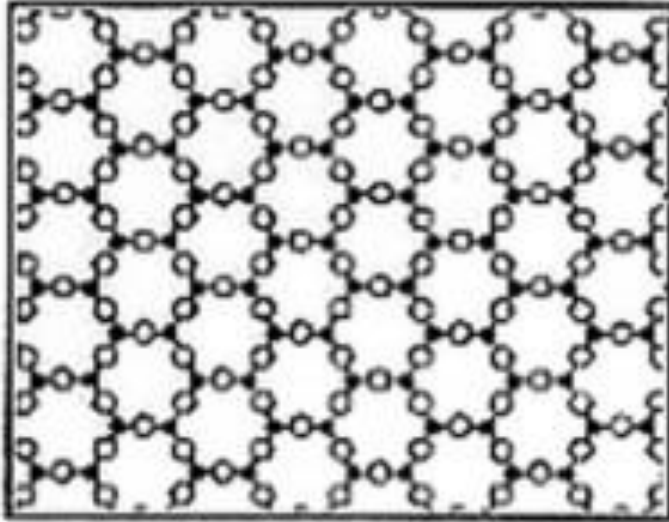
A: slower cooling rate,  $T_{ga}$

B: faster cooling rate,  $T_{gb}$

From P. Debenedetti and F. Stillinger, "Supercooled liquids and the glass transition", Nature 410, 259-267(March 2001)

# Introduction

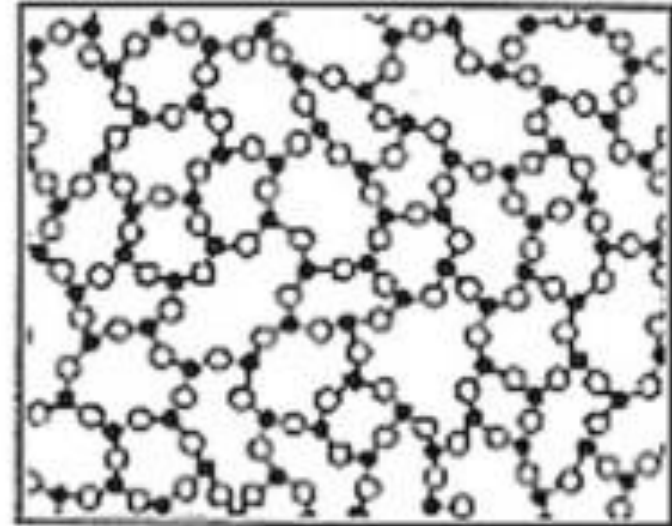
Just a word on glass science – The glassy state



**Crystal**  
(e.g. quartz)



Ordered structure



**Glass**  
(e.g. silica glass)



Disordered structure  
(liquid-like)

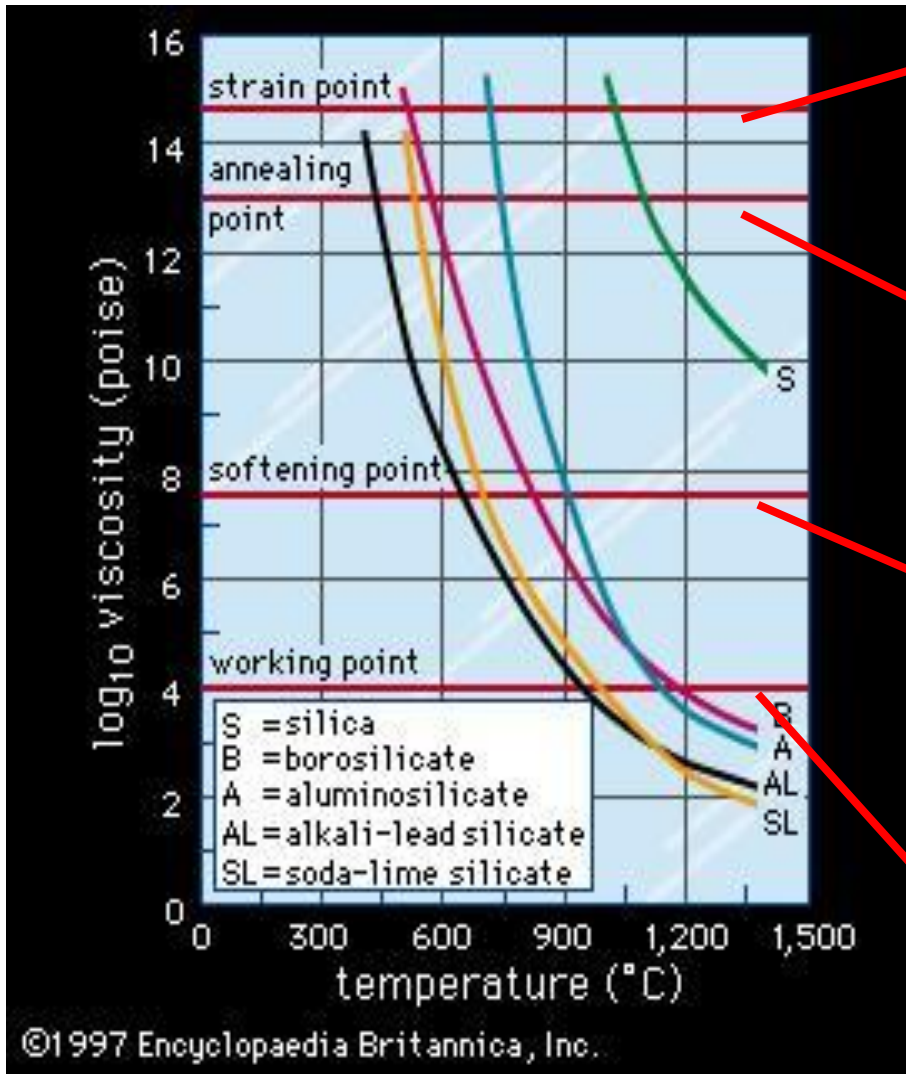
# Introduction

- **Rapid cooling** of the melt is necessary to obtain a glass (avoid crystallization)
- This rapid cooling will generate **constraints** within the glass, which will be detrimental for the mechanical properties
- These constraints can be **relaxed by careful thermal treatment**
- This relaxation of constraints is called **annealing** of the glass
- **Good annealing** is extremely important to produce good commercial glasses and for their durability
- **Non-annealed** or poorly annealed glasses will be subject to **low resistance** to cracks/failure under small thermal or mechanical shocks

# Annealing

- All along the cooling process, the **viscosity** of the glass increases, from a low-viscosity melt, to a rigid material with a higher viscosity
- A certain “degree of freedom” is necessary for the glass to relax the constraints caused by the rapid cooling (re-arrangements in the glass structure)
- **Good annealing** can only be obtained in a relatively **narrow range of temperatures** (thus of viscosity)
- For a good annealing of the constraints, the viscosity of the glass should be:
  - ✓ Not too high (constraints cannot be released anymore)
  - ✓ Not too low (the glass will not retain its shape)

# Characteristic temperatures vs. viscosity



- **Strain point**

$\eta = 10^{14.5}$  Poise ( $10^{13.5}$  Pa.s)

Internal stresses are relieved in ~ 15 h

- **Annealing point**

$\eta = 10^{13.4}$  Poise ( $10^{12.4}$  Pa.s)

Internal stresses are relieved in ~ 15 min

- **Softening point**

$\eta = 10^{7.65}$  Poise ( $10^{6.65}$  Pa.s)

Glass deforms under its own weight at a rate of 1mm/min

- **Working point**

$\eta = 10^4$  Poise ( $10^3$  Pa.s)

Source: <http://www.britannica.com>

# Annealing point and stress point

## Annealing point

$$\eta = 10^{12.4} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$$

- At this temperature, the internal thermal stresses present in the glass are relieved by **viscous relaxation** within 15 minutes. In order to relieve a glass product from its internal stresses the glass has to be heated to just above the annealing point and subsequently cooled down slowly.

## Strain point

$$\eta = 10^{13.5} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$$

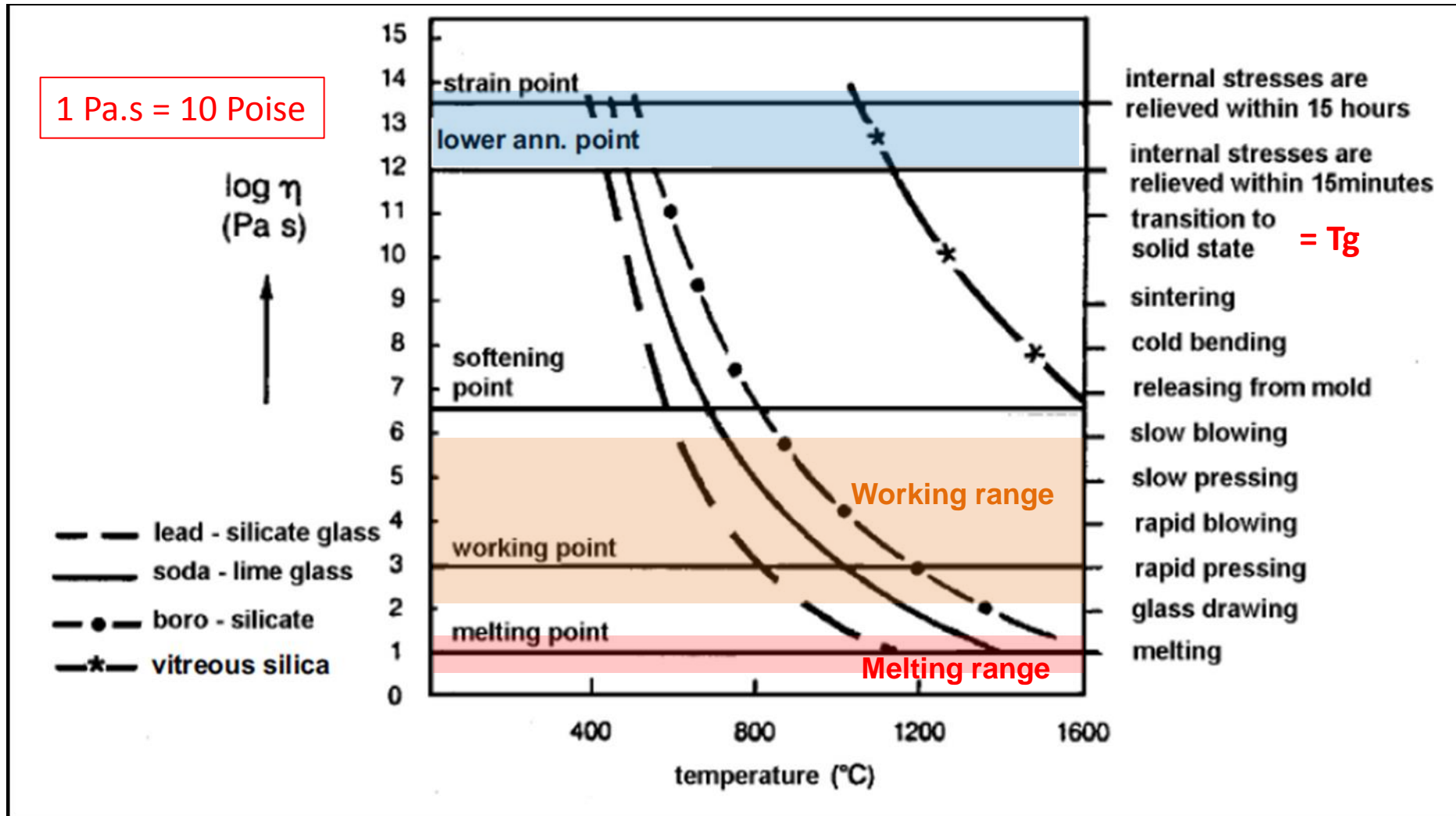
- Below this temperature relieving the internal stresses is practically impossible (at the strain point it may last about 15 hours)
- Between the annealing and the strain point glass products should be cooled down gradually, slowly and uniformly in order to avoid the formation of internal stresses, due to temperature gradients



# Temperature profile and stresses

- Stresses acquired during cooling and remaining from temperatures above the **strain point** are **permanent stresses** (unless annealed)
- Stresses acquired during cooling below the strain point are considered **temporary stresses** (but can still lead to failure in case of a too important thermal shock)
- The goal of the **annealing process** is to **relieve the permanent stresses** created by the fast cooling below the strain point which occurred during the forming process of the glass
- To avoid creation of permanent stresses, the cooling of the glass should be slow in the temperature (viscosity) range between the annealing point and the strain point

# Viscosity – Temperature profile of glasses



**In blue: Critical temperature range for annealing**

# Annealing in continuous glass furnaces

- Right after the forming process (e.g. molding for container glasses), a rigid glass article is obtained
- The article did not experience a homogeneous cooling and a lot of stresses are generated
- To reduce these stresses, the articles are brought to a temperature-controlled kiln, or **Lehr**, for annealing
- The process from the forming of the article to the annealing Lehr is **continuous**, the articles are conveyed on belts or rollers
- The **temperature profile** in the lehr must be **controlled** for an efficient annealing
- After annealing (at the end of the lehr), the articles are continuously conveyed to further processing steps (coatings, cutting,...)

# Example: forming of glass bottles

## CONTAINER GLASS

Source: Eurotherm



**Melting tank**  
Melting, fining,  
conditioning of  
the glass melt

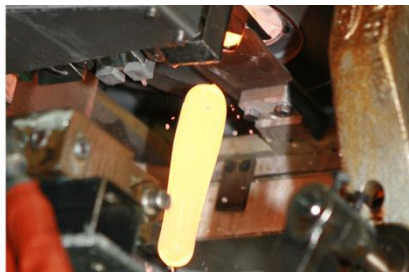
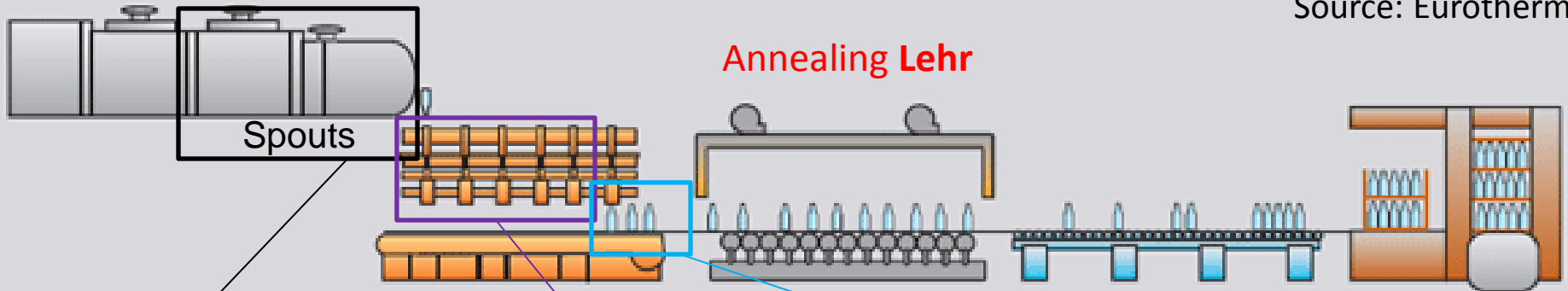
**Forming**  
In this example,  
molding of glass  
bottles

**Annealing, coatings,  
post-processing...**

# Example: forming of glass bottles

## CONTAINER GLASS

Source: Eurotherm



Source: BDF Industries

Molding



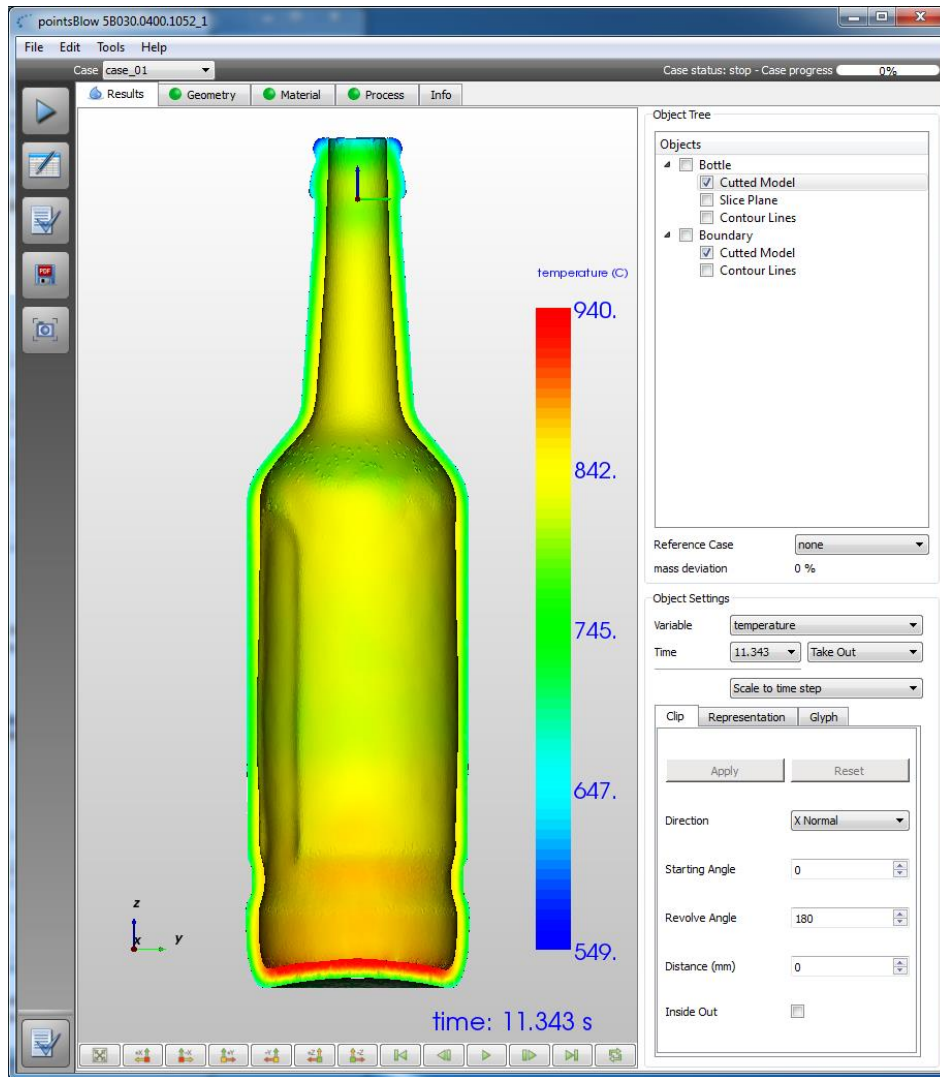
“Solid” glass

Conveying Belt



Further cooling during conveying

# Temperature distribution right after forming

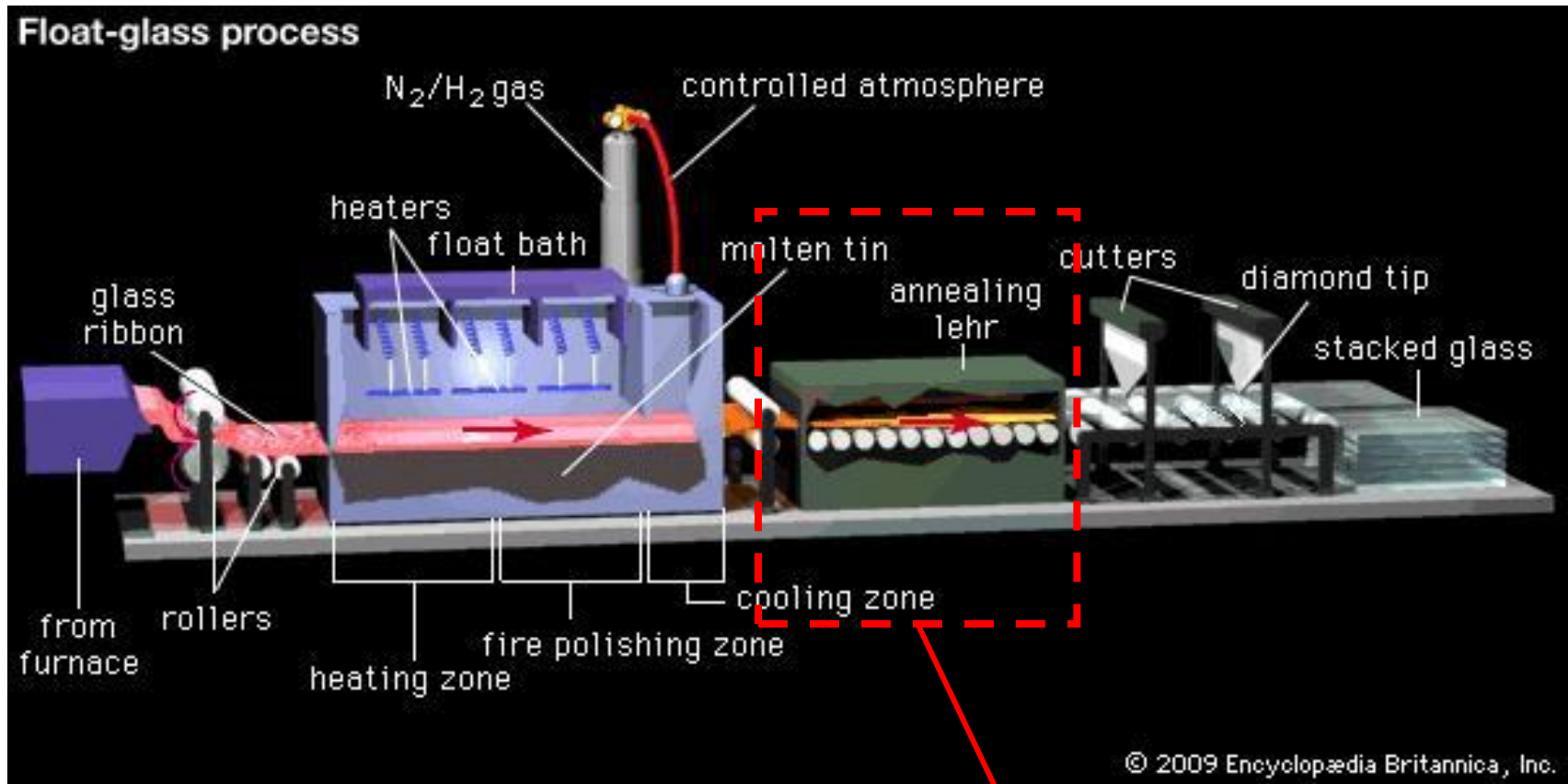


- Right after forming (and before annealing), the temperature distribution is not uniform throughout the glass article
- Different parts cooled down at different rates, which can result in constraints and residual stresses

Source: NOGRID, [www.nogrid.com/index.php/en/product/nogrid-points-blow1](http://www.nogrid.com/index.php/en/product/nogrid-points-blow1)

# Industrial annealing Lehr

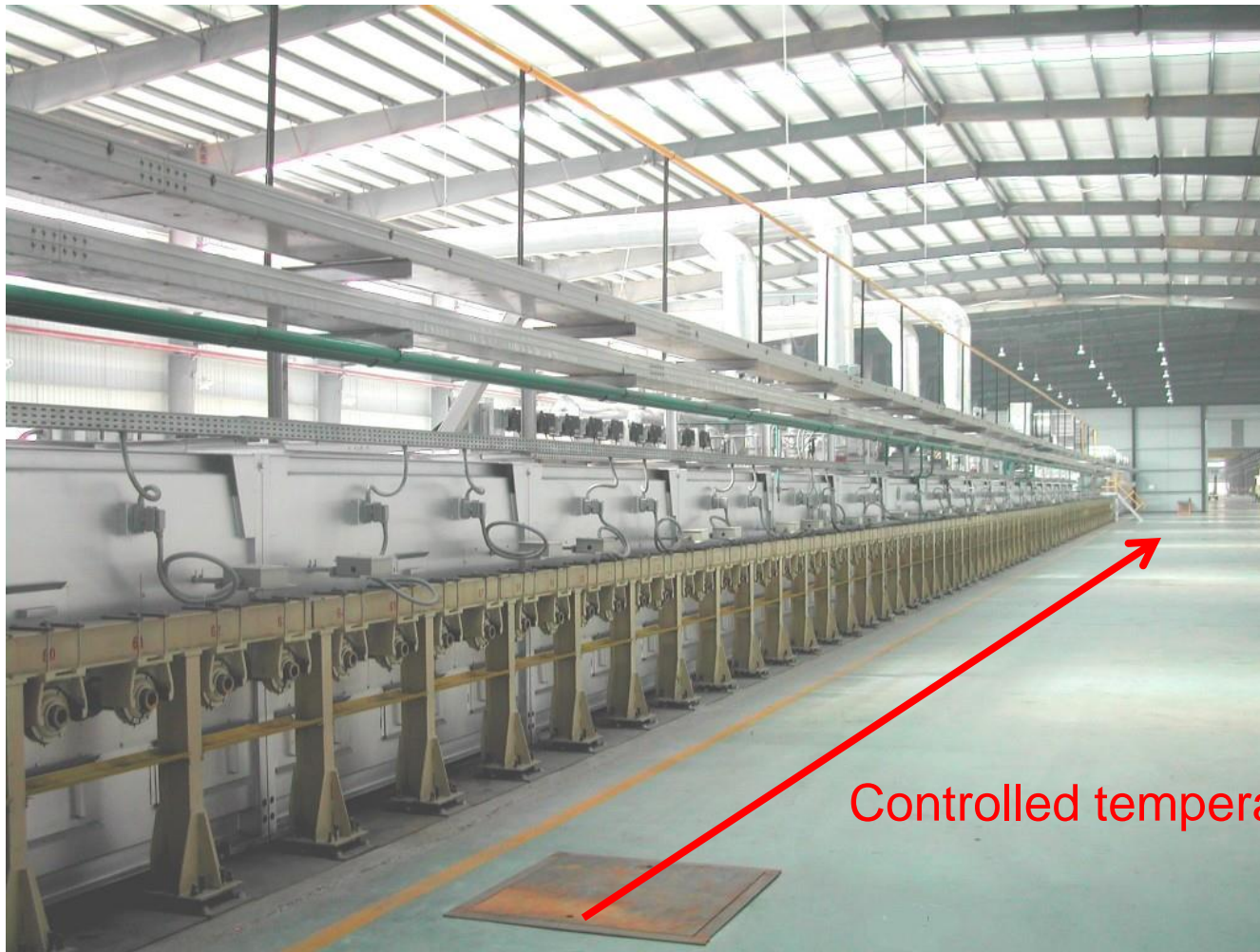
Illustration of the continuous process for flat glass



Source: <http://www.britannica.com>

Controlled temperature profile

# Industrial annealing Lehr

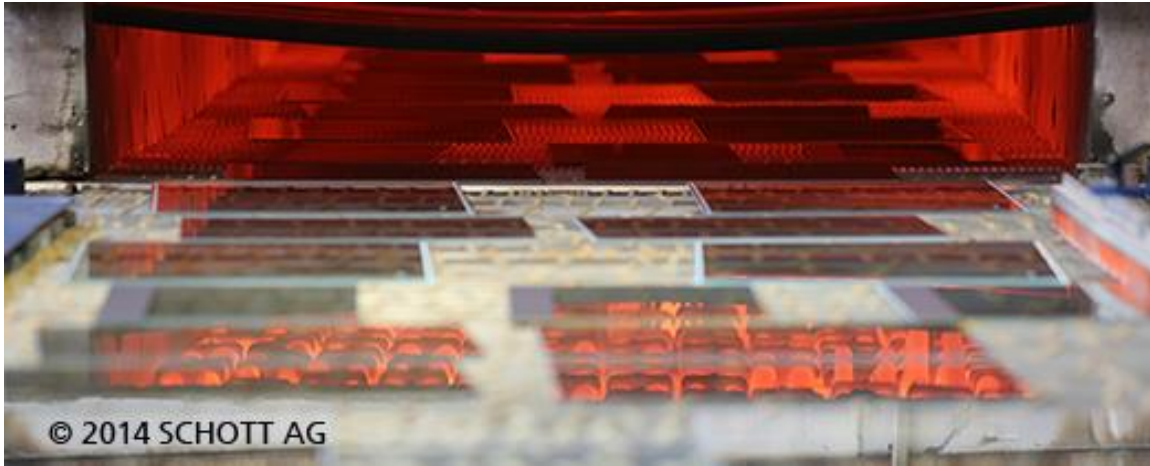


Controlled temperature profile

Source: <http://newhudson.com/>



# Industrial annealing Lehr



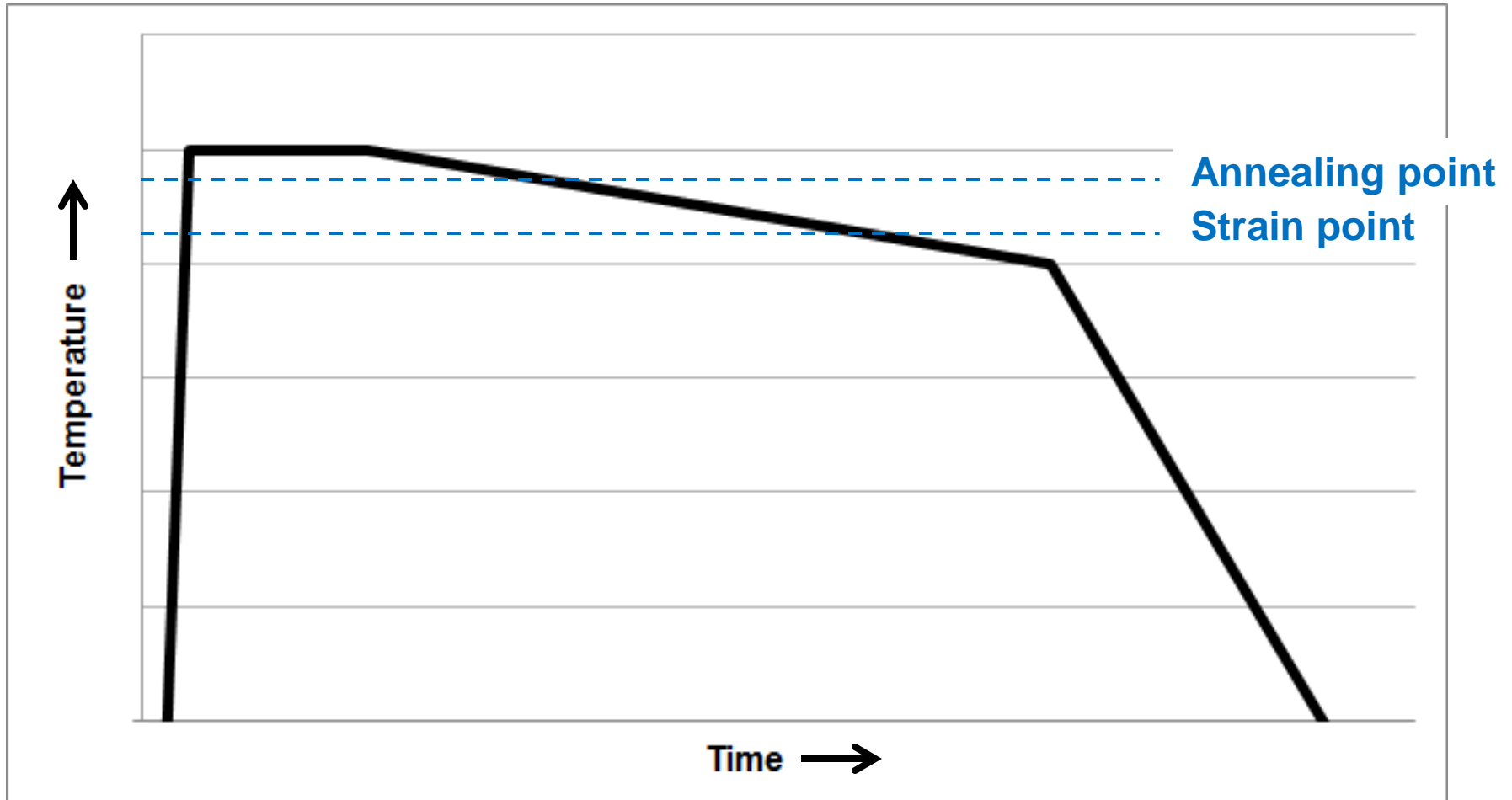
# Industrial annealing Lehr

- The **viscosity-temperature profile** for a glass depends on its **composition**
- Thus, the **annealing point** and **strain point** depend on the type of glass produced
- Different articles with **different shapes** (e.g. bottles, tubes, plates...) and **different characteristics** (e.g. thickness, diameter, ...) will have **different thermal behavior**
- All these parameters have to be taken into account when designing the annealing Lehr
- The goal for an annealing Lehr: it should be as short as possible while guaranteeing an efficient annealing
- Equations exist to calculate the best temperature profile for the Lehr

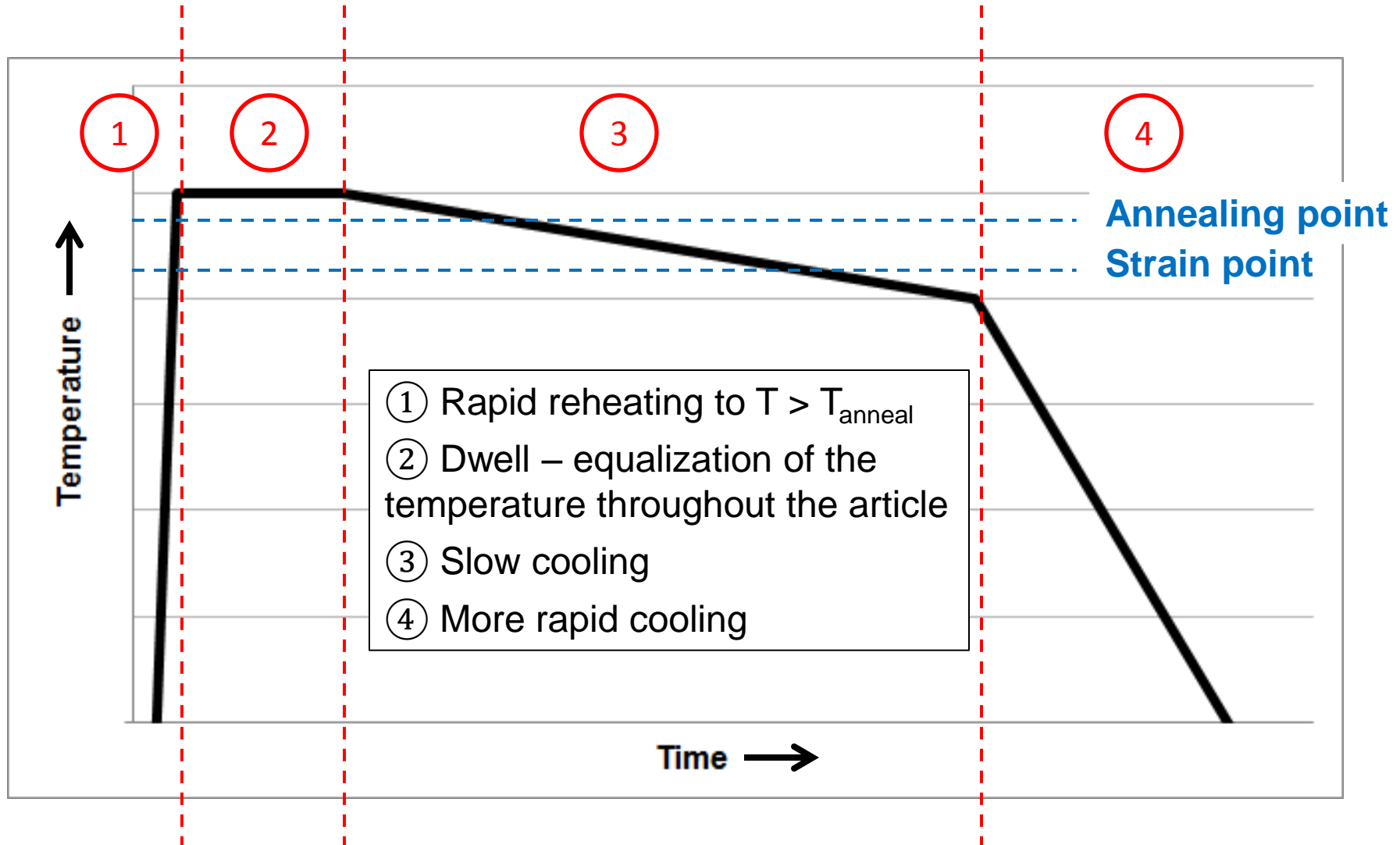
# Temperature profiles and stresses in glass

- During cooling of glass, **internal temperature gradients** develop, depending on **cooling rate & internal thermal equalization** within the glass
- The internal temperature gradients will eventually lead to **stresses**
- The stress in the glass can be calculated from the cooling rate, properties of the glass and shape of the article
- In return, the “best” cooling rate can be calculated for a maximum allowable residual stress in the glass article
- Keep in mind: the goal of (industrial) annealing is to minimize the stresses in the glass article in a duration as short as possible (annealing = heating = energy consumption = costs)

# Temperature profile in annealing Lehr



# Temperature profile in annealing Lehr



# Temperature profiles and stresses in glass

The relation for cooling rate  $h$  from above the annealing point to below strain point and generated permanent thermal stress is given by:

$$\sigma = \frac{E \cdot \alpha_{ex}}{1 - \mu} \cdot \frac{\rho \cdot c_p}{\lambda} \cdot h \cdot d^2 \cdot b \quad [\text{Pa}]$$

Article characteristics	$h$	= cooling rate	[K/s]
	$d$	= characteristic dimension	[m]
	$b$	= shape factor	[-]
Glass characteristics	$\lambda$	= thermal conductivity	[W/(m·K)]
	$\rho$	= density	[kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]
	$c_p$	= specific heat	[J/(kg·K)]
	$\alpha_{ex}$	= thermal expansion coefficient	[K <sup>-1</sup> ]
	$E$	= Young's modulus	[Pa]
	$\mu$	= Poisson's ratio	[-]

# Temperature profiles and stresses in glass

We have

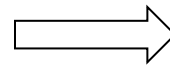
$$\sigma = \frac{E \cdot \alpha_{\text{ex}}}{1 - \mu} \cdot \frac{\rho \cdot c_p}{\lambda} \cdot h \cdot d^2 \cdot b \quad [\text{Pa}]$$
$$= M$$

With

$$M = \frac{E \cdot \alpha_{\text{ex}}}{1 - \mu} \cdot \frac{\rho \cdot c_p}{\lambda} \quad \text{in MPa} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$$

Thus

$$\sigma = M \cdot h \cdot d^2 \cdot b$$



$$h = \frac{\sigma}{M \cdot d^2 \cdot b}$$

( $\sigma$  in MPa)

( $h$  in K/s)

# Glass characteristics

Survey of the expansion coefficient  $\alpha_{ex}$  of some familiar glass types

	$\alpha_{ex} \text{ 0-300}^\circ\text{C} \text{ [K}^{-1}\text{]}$	$T_g \text{ [}^\circ\text{C]}$
<b>Soda-lime-silica glass</b>	$92 \times 10^{-7}$	520-580
<b>Pyrex borosilicate</b>	$33 \times 10^{-7}$	565
<b>E-glass</b>	$60 \times 10^{-7}$	670
<b>Vycor (97 SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3 B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)</b>	$8 \times 10^{-7}$	910
<b>Vitreous Silica</b>	$5 \times 10^{-7}$	1100

For a soda-lime-silica glass, the factor M is equal to  $1.2 \times 10^6 \text{ MPa.s.K}^{-1}.\text{m}^{-2}$   
which gives:

$$\sigma = 1.2 \times 10^6 \text{ h.d}^2.\text{b} \text{ [MPa]} \text{ with } d \text{ in m and } \sigma \text{ in MPa}$$



# Characteristic dimensions and shape factor

$$\sigma = M \cdot h \cdot d^2 \cdot b$$

With d: characteristic dimension  
b: shape factor

## Characteristic dimension “d ”

d = thickness for one-sided cooled plate

d = 0.5 thickness for double-sided cooled plate

d = radius for spheres and cylinders

d =  $\sqrt{d \cdot L}$  for pots and bottles with wall thickness d and bottom thickness L

d = L for pots and bottles with thick bottoms (L = bottom thickness)

# Characteristic dimensions and shape factor

$$\sigma = M \cdot h \cdot d^2 \cdot b$$

With d: characteristic dimension  
b: shape factor

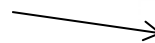
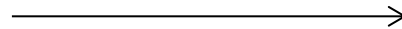
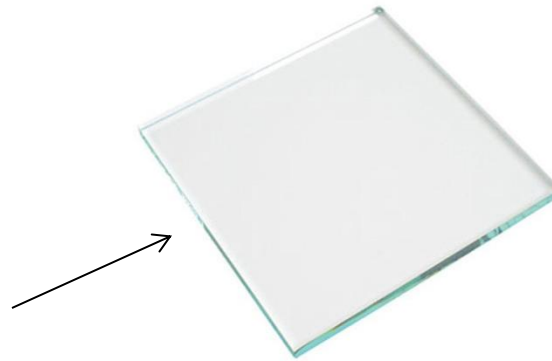
## Shape factor "b"

b = 0.336 for flat plates

b = 0.126 for massive cylinders

b = 0.066 for spheres

b = 0.3 for hollow products



## Example annealing (cooling) rate

When a maximal permanent stress of 1 MPa is permitted after cooling, the limit for the cooling rate  $h$  for a glass with  $M = 0.8 \text{ MPa}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$  becomes:

$$h \leq \frac{1}{0.8 \times 10^6 \cdot d^2 \cdot b} \quad [\text{K/s}]$$

$$h = \frac{\sigma}{M \cdot d^2 \cdot b}$$

$h \leq 6 \text{ K/min.}$  for 10 mm plate glass cooled double-sided

$h \leq 36 \text{ K/min.}$  for 4 mm plate glass cooled double-sided

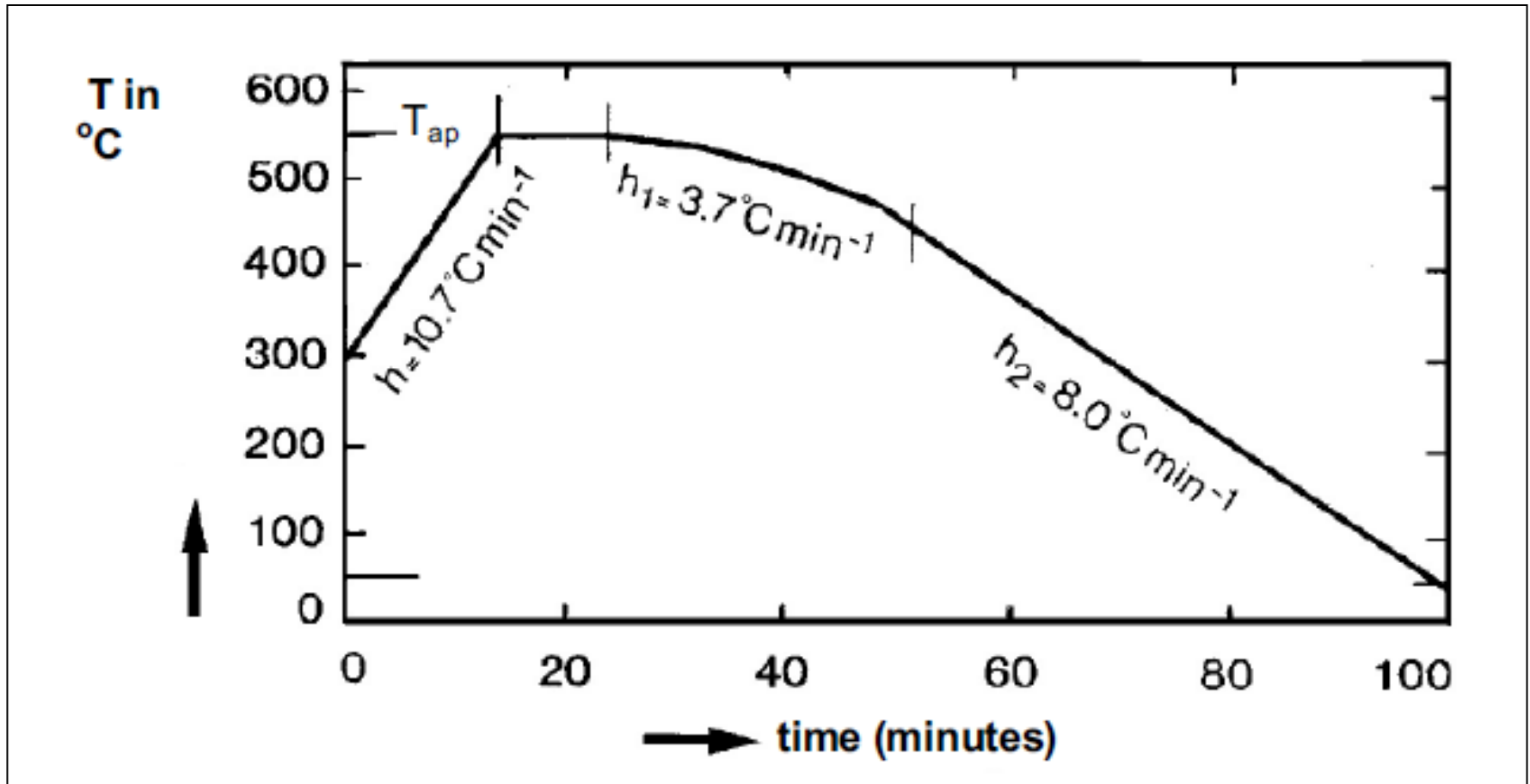
$h \leq 36 \text{ K/min.}$  for 2 mm hollow glass cooled one-sided

## Example annealing (cooling) rate

- The **cooling rate**  $h$  must be maintained (should not exceed the above given limits) in the critical annealing range between  $T_{ap}$  and  $T_{str}$ , because this is the determining range for the build-up of a permanent stress.
- Below this range a faster cooling rate is allowed, because this will cause only a temporary stress
- However fracture or crack formation during cooling, caused by too large value of  $\Delta T$  still to be prevented
- The limitations on the cooling rates will determine the needed length and temperature profiles in the annealing lehr
- As an example: the annealing range for soda-lime-silica glass is about 20-30°C ( $\pm 515 - 545^\circ\text{C}$ ).

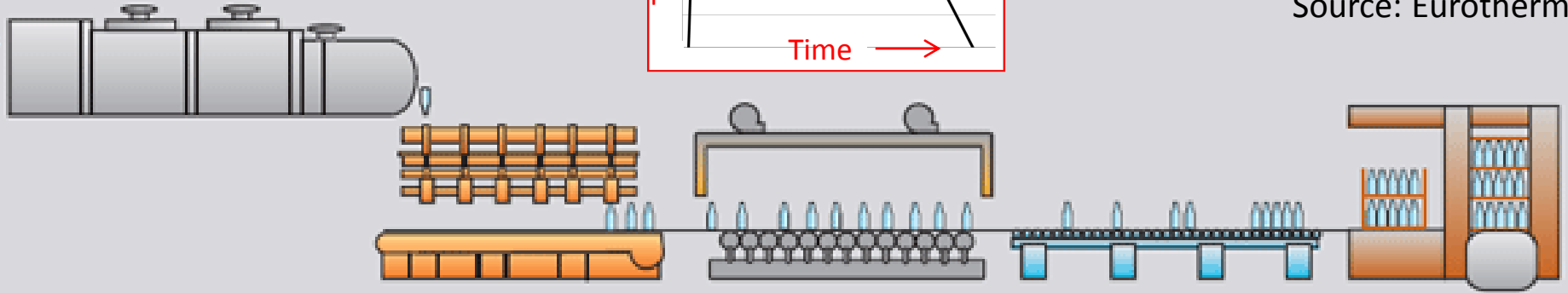
# Temperature profile in annealing Lehr

Example: annealing curve for tube glass, 10 cm diam. & 1 cm wall thickness



# Example: forming of glass bottles

## CONTAINER GLASS



- At the exit of the annealing lehr, the glass article is (continuously) conveyed to further steps, including coatings, cutting, inspection...

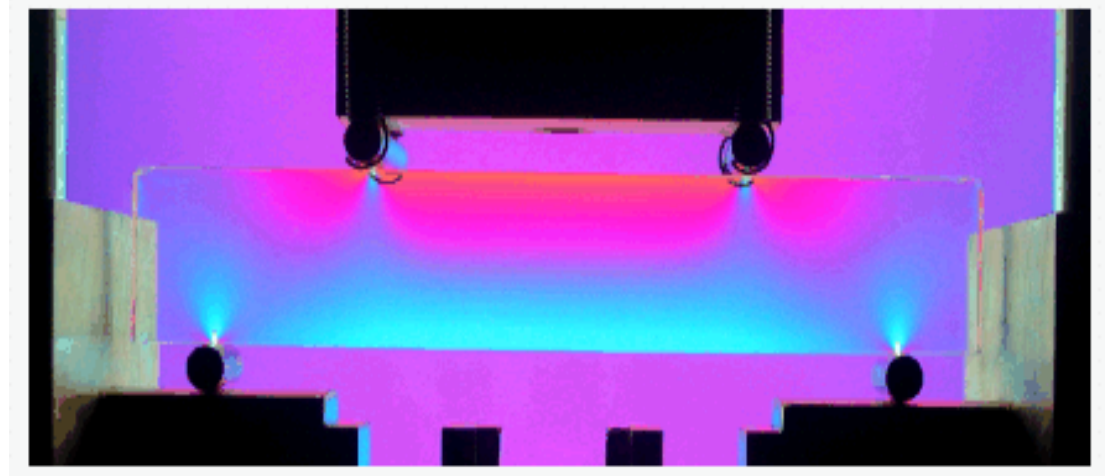
# *Inspection – residual stresses in the glass*

- Perfect glass is **optically isotropic**, its refractive index is the same in all directions
- **Mechanical stresses** causes deformations in the glass that lead to (local) **changes in the refractive index** within the material
- A difference in the refractive index within the glass article will lead to **birefringence**
- This birefringence can be analyzed and quantified with a **polarimeter** (or polariscope), in which the angle of rotation of the polarization direction of linearly polarized light passing through the sample is determined
- Thus, polariscopes can be used to determine the presence of residual stresses within the glass article
- Automated devices based on this principle are used in the glass industry for systematic inspection of the articles produced

# *Polariscopes and stresses in glass*



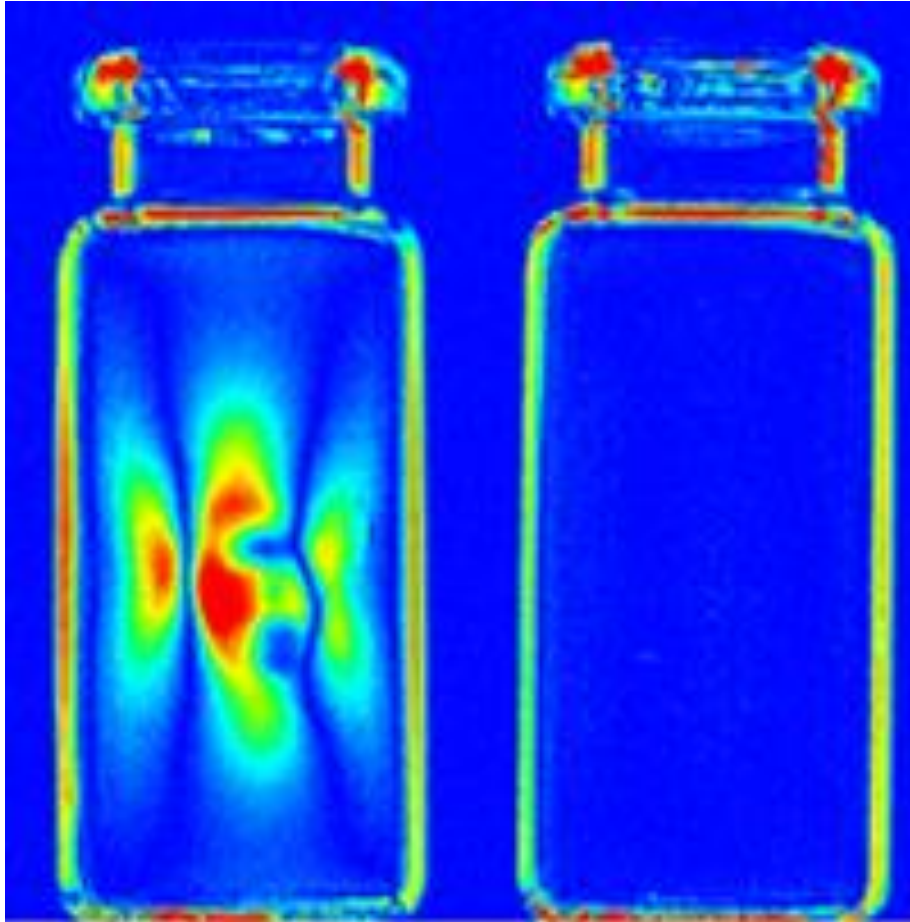
Example of polariscope



Example of stress distribution in glass  
(university Erlangen, Germany)



# Polariscopes and stresses in glass



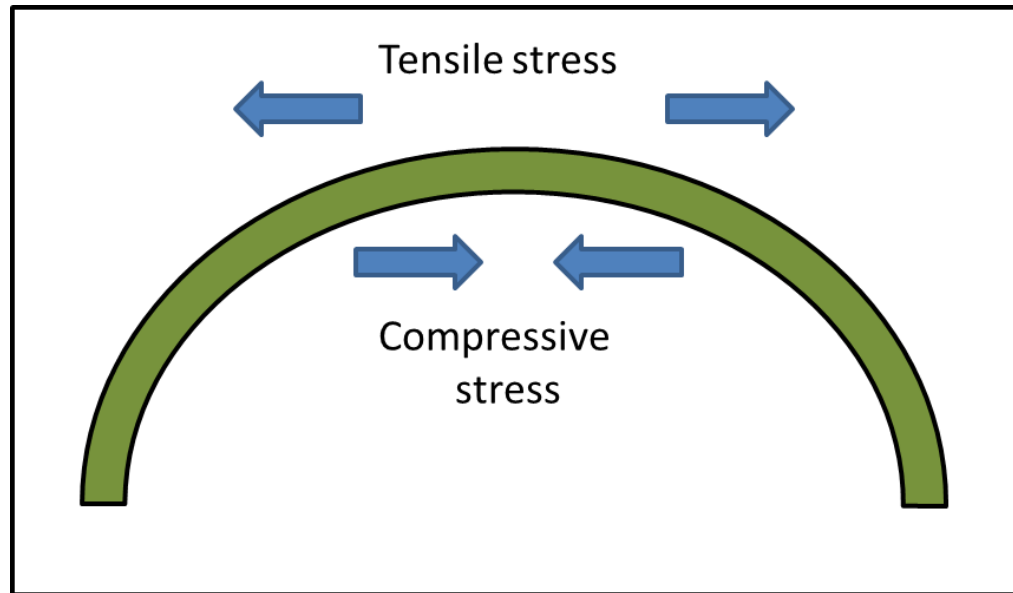
<http://www.vision-systems.com>

- Articles with a too high amount of residual stress (e.g. jar on the left of the picture) are rejected (automatic process)
- The rejected product are (often) collected and re-injected in the furnace as raw material (internal cullet)

# *Tempering*

# Introduction – what is tempered glass?

- Glass is stronger in compression than in tension (compressive strength ~10 times higher than tensile strength)
- Glass failure almost invariably originates from flaws at the surface (stress multipliers for local tensile stresses)
- A compressive stress at the surface of the glass can thus increase glass strength



# Introduction – what is tempered glass?

- Tempered glass is a glass that has been subjected to an **additional heat treatment after annealing** in order to increase its mechanical strength
- The tempering process lies on the **controlled creation of permanent stresses** in the glass
- The surface is under compressive stress while the core is under tensile stress
- Tempered glass can be as much as **4 to 5 times stronger than annealed glass** (without tempering)
- When fracturing, tempered glass breaks into small fragments. It is often referred to as “**safety glass**”

# Introduction – what is tempered glass?

- Tempering of glass is mostly applied to articles with relatively simple geometries, e.g. windows, windshields...
- The tempering process involves **reheating of the glass** article to a critical temperature (typically above 600-650°C) and **subsequent rapid cooling** of the surface to create a desired **stress profile** within the material
- NB: tempering of the glass is performed on an already well annealed glass
- The following slides will illustrate the principle of tempering for a flat glass plate

# Principle – Tempering of glass

- $t_0$ : Temperature  $T > T_g$

**Uniform** temperature throughout the sample



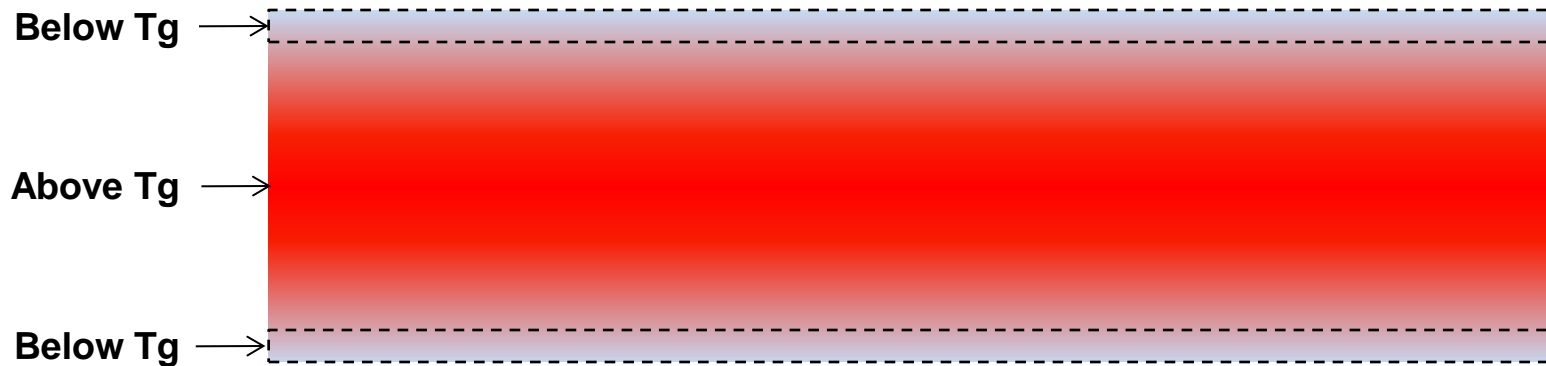
NB: The temperature  $T_0$  (at  $t_0$ ) should not be too high to avoid deformation of the glass plate

# Principle – Tempering of glass

- $t_1$ : surface of the glass piece cooled down rapidly to a  $T < T_g$

Surface temperature below  $T_g \Rightarrow$  “frozen”

Core still above  $T_g$ , relaxing under viscous flow



At  $t_1$ : Surface tries to shrink while the inner part acts as a counterforce:

$\Rightarrow$  Surface under tensile stress

$\Rightarrow$  Inner part under compressive stress

# Principle – Tempering of glass

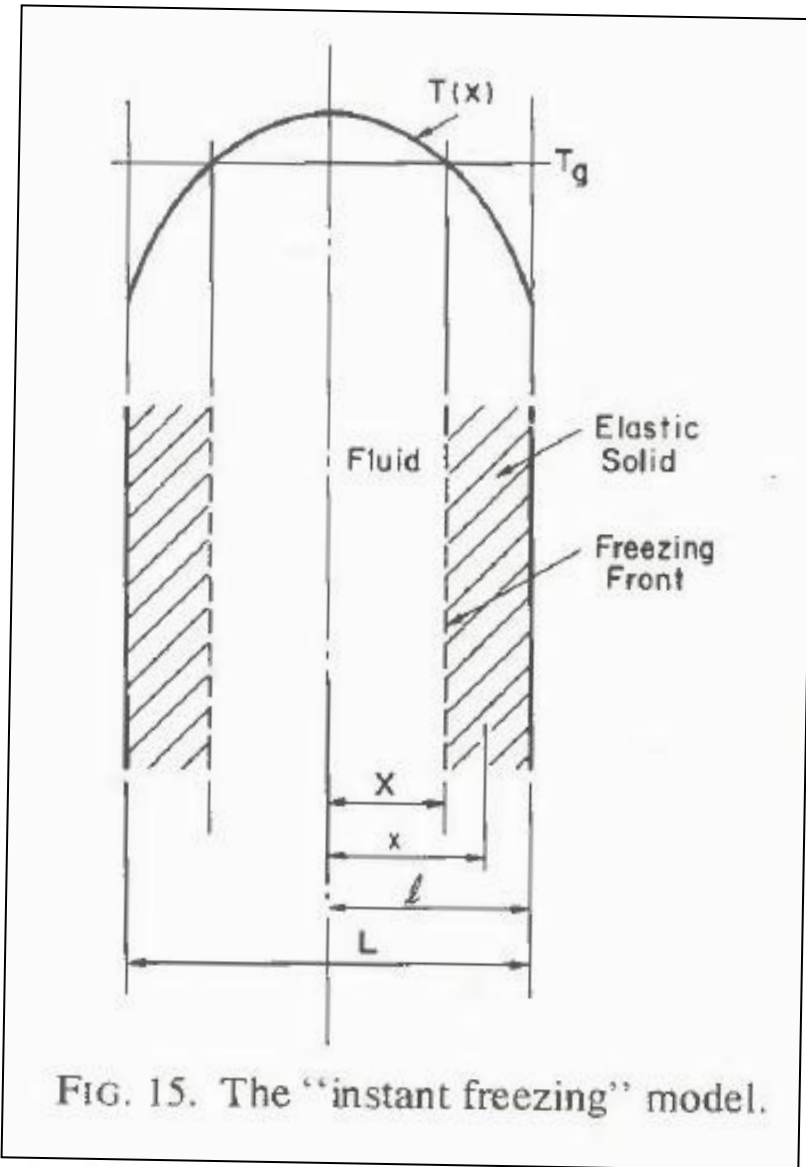


FIG. 15. The “instant freezing” model.

cooled down rapidly to a  $T < T_g$

temperature below  $T_g \Rightarrow$  “frozen”

relaxing under viscous flow

$$\alpha_{liq}(T > T_g) \approx 3 \alpha_{sol}(T < T_g)$$

From R. Gardon, “*Thermal tempering of glass*”, in “*Glass: Science and Technology, Vol.5, Elasticity and Strength in Glasses*”, Ed. D. Uhlmann and N. Kreidl, Ac. Press, 1980

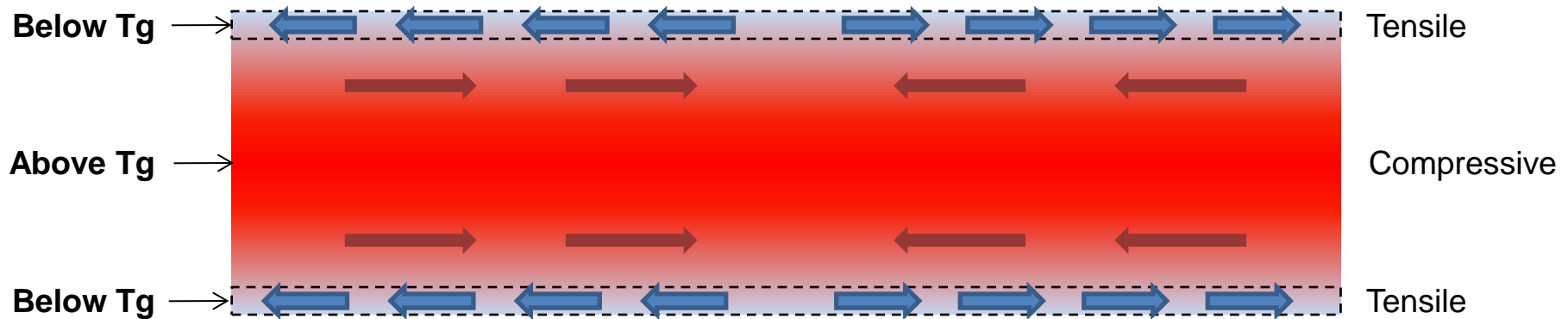


# Principle – Tempering of glass

- $t_1$ : surface of the glass piece cooled down rapidly to a  $T < T_g$

Surface temperature below  $T_g \Rightarrow$  “frozen”

Core still above  $T_g$ , relaxing under viscous flow



*At  $t_1$ : Surface tries to shrink while the inner part acts as a counterforce:*

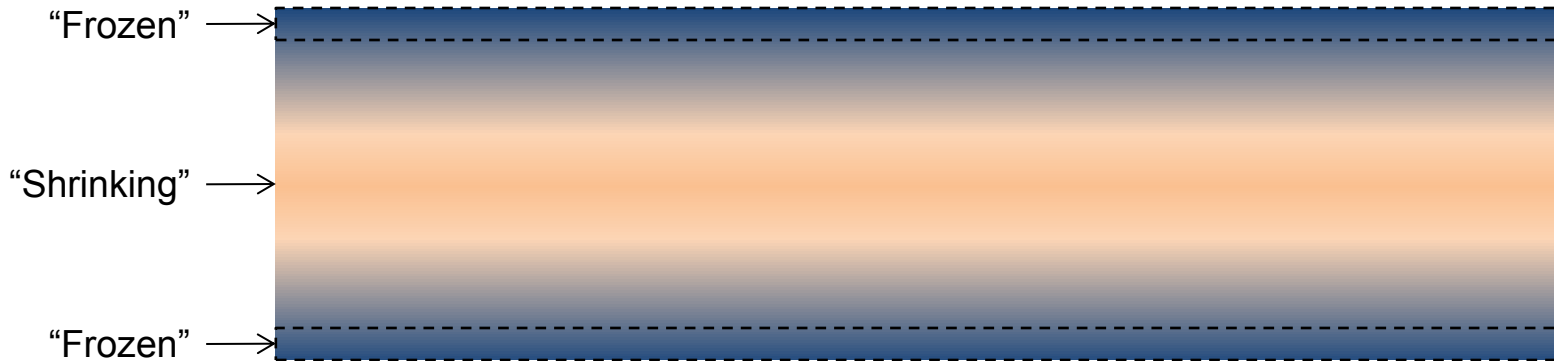
*$\Rightarrow$  Surface under tensile stress*

*$\Rightarrow$  Inner part under compressive stress*

# Principle – Tempering of glass

- $t_2$ : further cooling, inner part cooled down to a temperature  $T < T_g$

Inner part of the glass piece contracting (“shrinking”)  
Surface temperature already “frozen”, shrinking less



*At  $t_2$ : Inner part tries to shrink while the surface acts as a counterforce:*

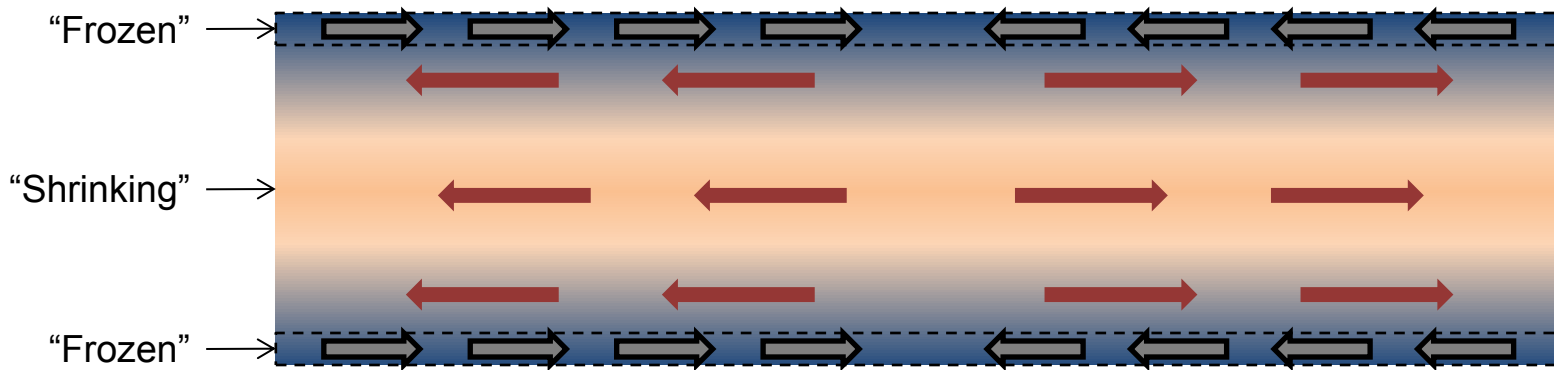
*⇒ Surface under compressive stress*

*⇒ Inner part under tensile stress*

# Principle – Tempering of glass

- $t_2$ : further cooling, inner part cooled down to a temperature  $T < T_g$

Inner part of the glass piece contracting (“shrinking”)  
Surface temperature already “frozen”, shrinking less



*At  $t_2$ : Inner part tries to shrink while the surface acts as a counterforce:*

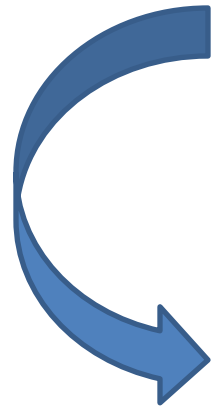
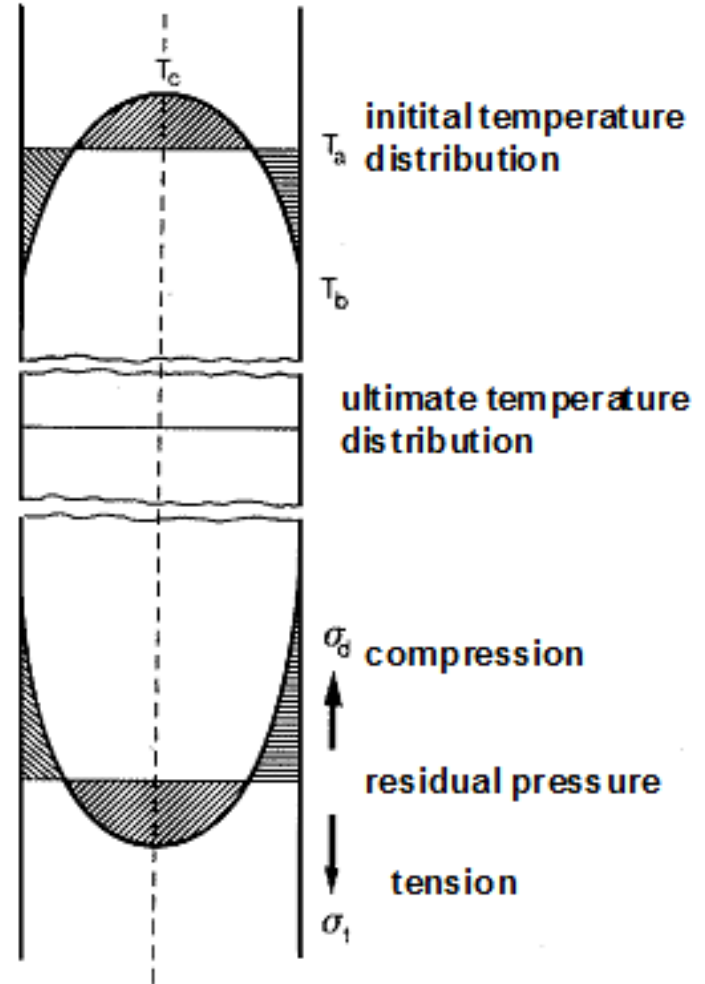
*⇒ Surface under compressive stress*

*⇒ Inner part under tensile stress*

# Principle – Tempering of glass

$t_1$ : Surface in tension and core in compression

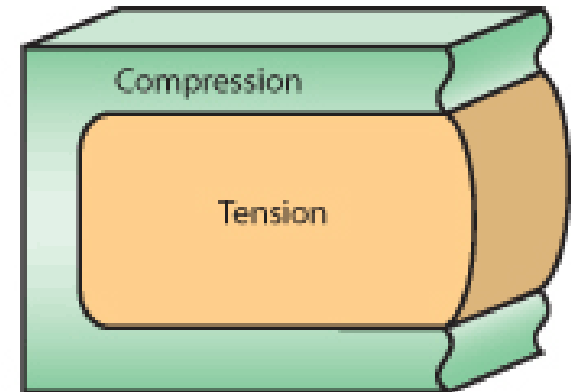
$t_2$ : Surface in compression and core in tension



# Principle – Tempering of glass

- After further cooling, the glass article is left with a permanent stress profile with:

- ✓ Surface in compressive stress
- ✓ Core in tensile stress

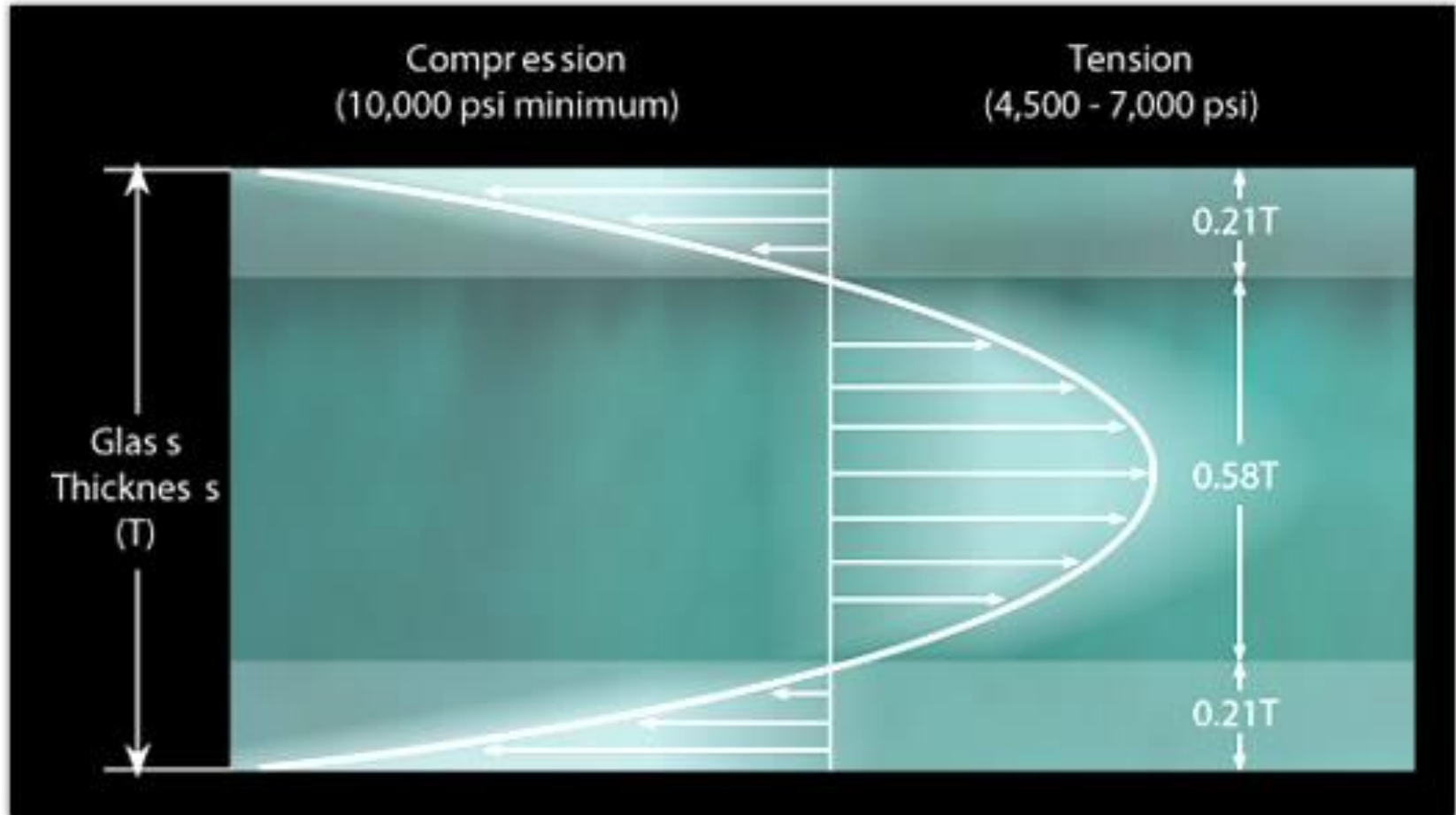


- For a crack to propagate from the surface of the glass article, it must overcome the usable strength of the material + the extra compressive force at the surface
- For this reason, tempered glass is more resistant to failure than a glass which is simply annealed (without compressive layer at the surface)

Picture from: <http://www.na.en.sunguardglass.com>

# Principle – Tempering of glass

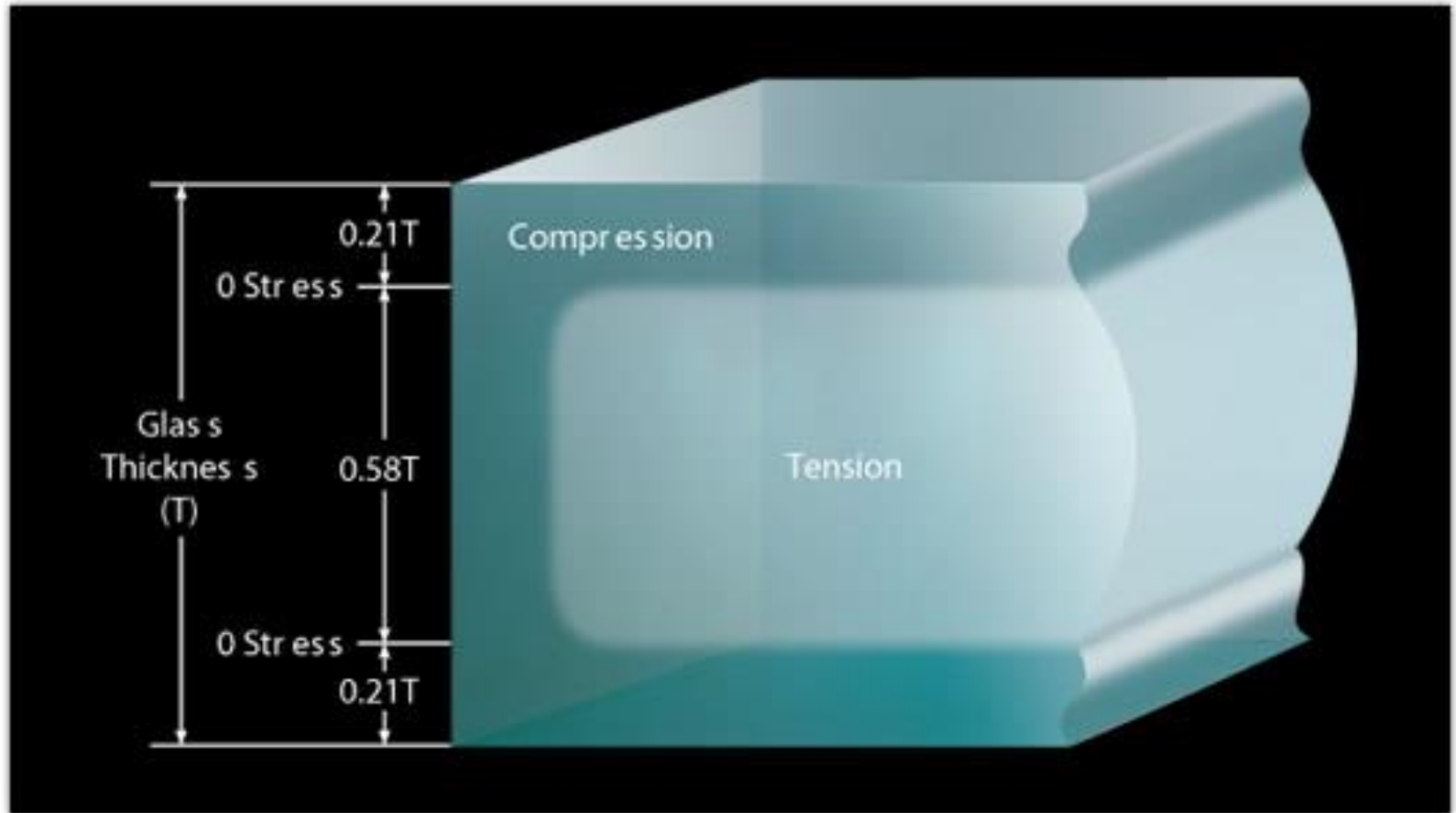
Example stress distribution in solar (flat) glass



Source: <http://www.cardinalst.com/products/solartemp/>

# Principle – Tempering of glass

Example stress distribution in solar (flat) glass



Source: <http://www.cardinalst.com/products/solartemp/>

# Fracture pattern of tempered glass



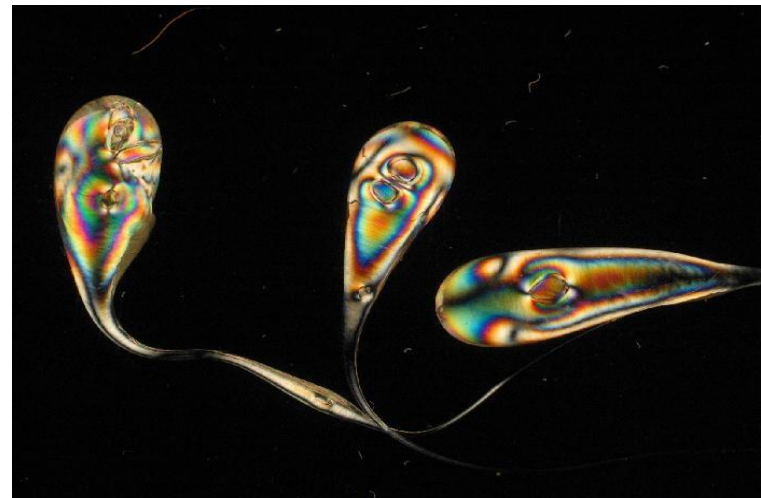
Source: <http://www.graysci.com/chapter-seven/shattering-the-strongest-glass/>



# Illustration – Prince Rupert's drops



Taken from: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



## Illustration – Prince Rupert's drops

Dropping molten glass into cold water creates a tadpole-like shape called Prince Rupert's Drop.



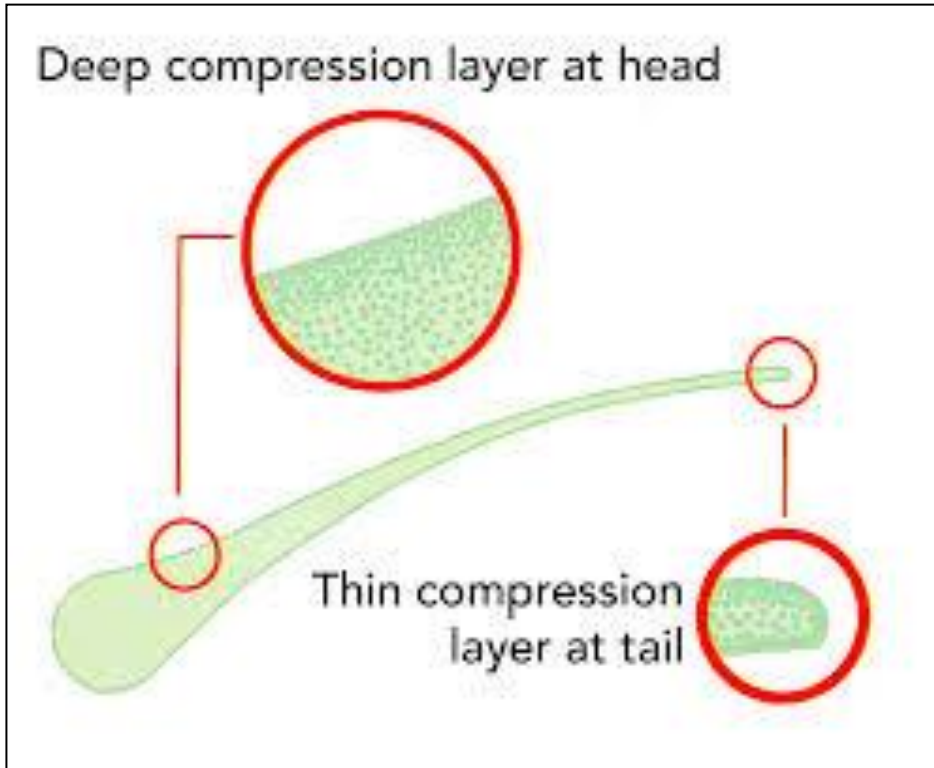
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe-l4gokRBs#t=29>

The head is very strong and can withstand blows from a hammer, but if the tail is damaged at all the whole structure will disintegrate explosively.

RandomInterestingFacts.com

# Illustration – Prince Rupert's drops

- What does it mean?



Pictures © Smarter everyday

## Illustration – Prince Rupert's drops

- When damaging the tail => creation of a flaw which propagates to the core, in tensile stress
- All the strain energy stored in the glass (stress-strain relationship) is released, leading to the catastrophic failure of the glass article
- This is similar to what is observed in tempered glass



≈

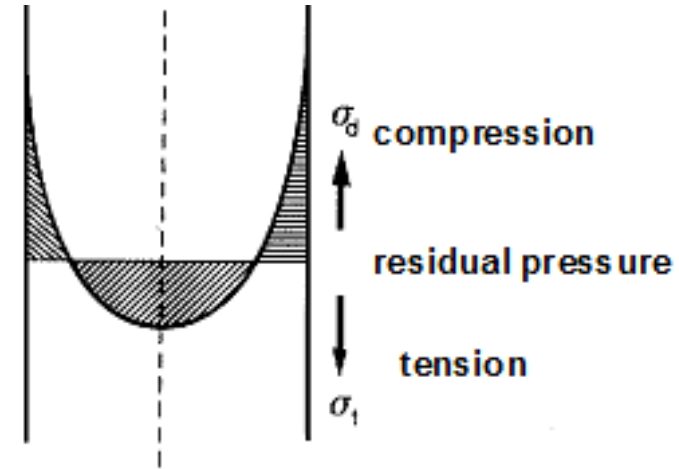


- More on Prince Rupert's drops? Check out these videos:
  - ✓ Video “Smarter everyday - [Mystery of Prince Rupert's Drop at 130,000 fps](#)”
  - ✓ Video “Corning- [The glass Age, Part 2: Strong, Durable Glass](#)”

# Important parameters for glass tempering

- Permanent stress profile generated  $\sigma_p$

$$\sigma_p = \frac{\alpha \cdot E \cdot \Delta T_{MS}}{1 - \mu} = \frac{\alpha \cdot E}{1 - \mu} \times \left(1 + \frac{2\lambda}{hd}\right)^{-1} \times T_E$$



With:

$\alpha$  = thermal expansion coefficient [ $K^{-1}$ ]

$E$  = Young's modulus [MPa]

$\mu$  = Poisson's ratio

$\lambda$  = thermal conductivity [ $W/m^2.K$ ]

$h$  = heat transfer coefficient [ $W/m^2.K$ ]

$\Delta T_{MS} = T_M - T_S$  = Temp. middleplane – Temp. surface [K]

$T_E$  = “freezing temperature”  $\approx T_g$  [K]

$d$  = thickness of the glass plate [m]

**Glass characteristics**

**Process related**

# Thermal history in a tempered glass plate

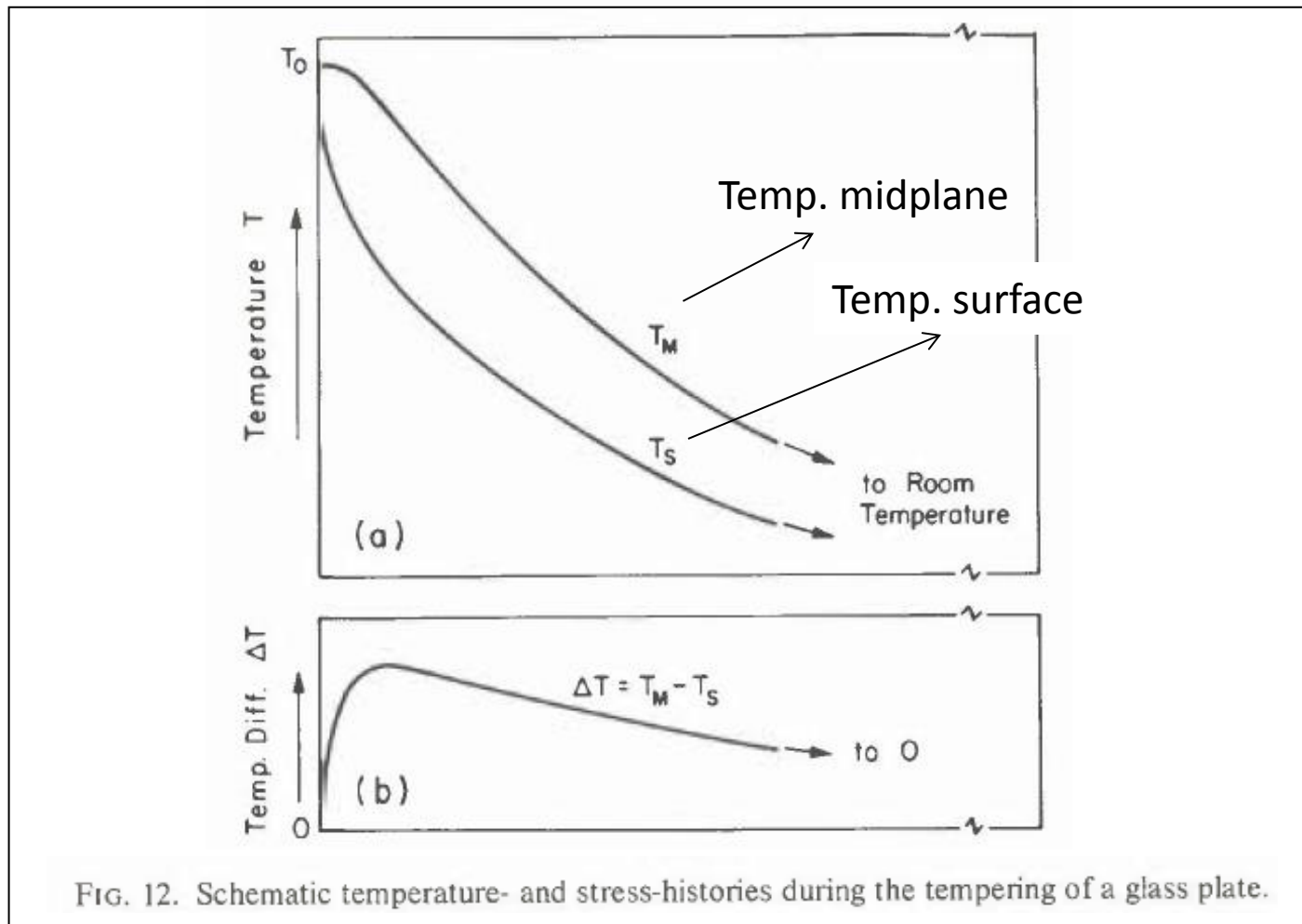


FIG. 12. Schematic temperature- and stress-histories during the tempering of a glass plate.

Adapted from R. Gardon, "Thermal tempering of glass", in "Glass: Science and Technology, Vol.5, Elasticity and Strength in Glasses", Ed. D. Uhlmann and N. Kreidl, Ac. Press, 1980

# Effect of glass thickness

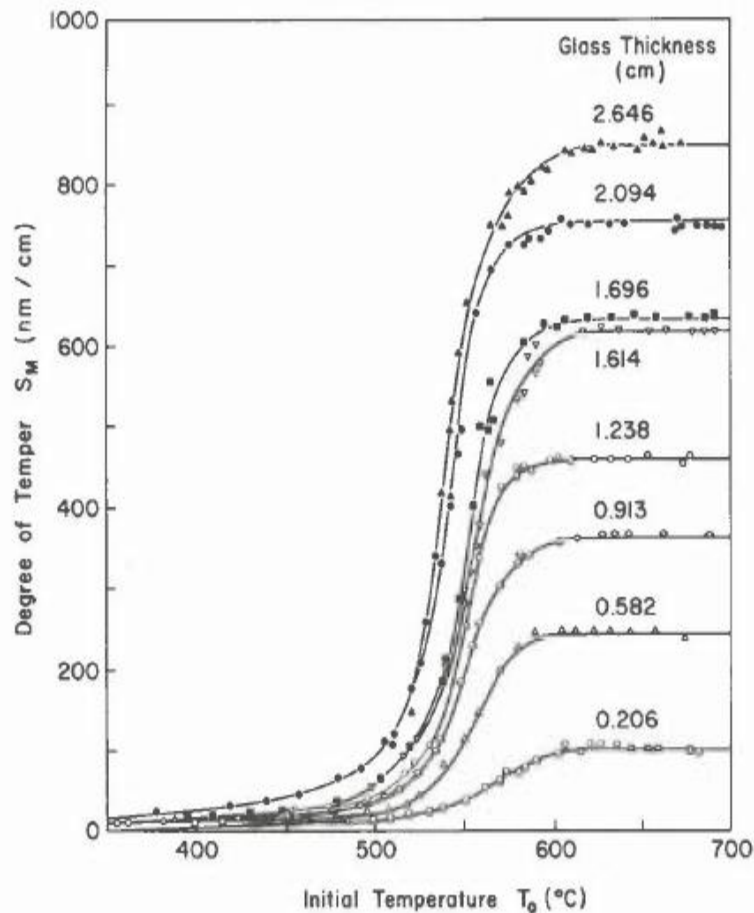
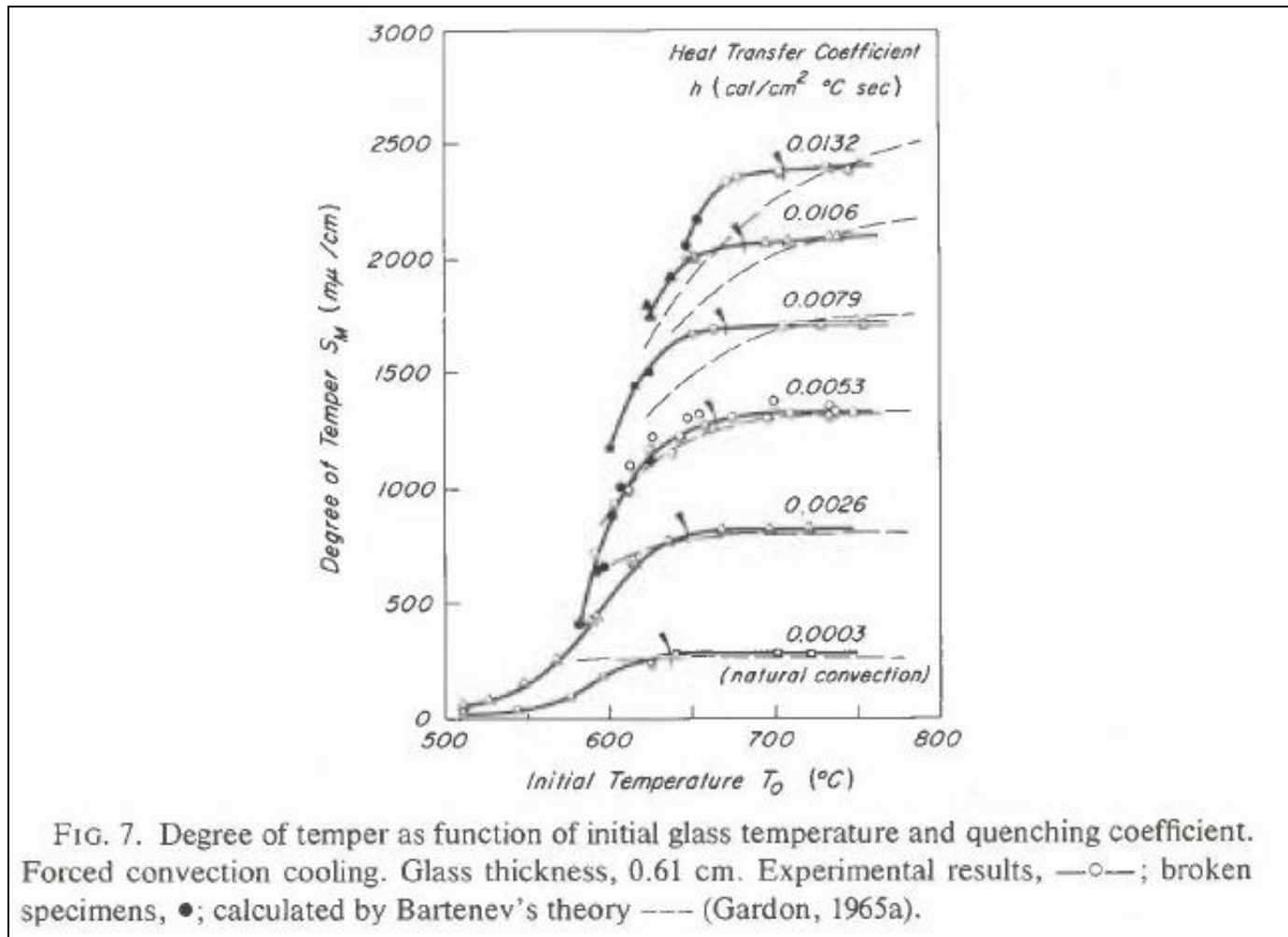


FIG. 6. Degree of temper as function of glass thickness and initial temperature. Natural convection cooling (Bartenev, 1949).

- With thicker plates, higher degrees of temper are achieved (larger stress profiles)
- Above a certain temperature, a plateau is reached
- Below a certain thickness, tempering becomes inefficient

From R. Gardon, "Thermal tempering of glass", in "Glass: Science and Technology, Vol.5, Elasticity and Strength in Glasses", Ed. D. Uhlmann and N. Kreidl, Ac. Press, 1980

# Effect of temperature and quenching coefficient



From R. Gardon, "Thermal tempering of glass", in "Glass: Science and Technology, Vol.5, Elasticity and Strength in Glasses", Ed. D. Uhlmann and N. Kreidl, Ac. Press, 1980



## Examples for a glass plate of thickness = 8mm

- Initial viscosity of the glass  $\eta_i = 10^8$  Pa.s

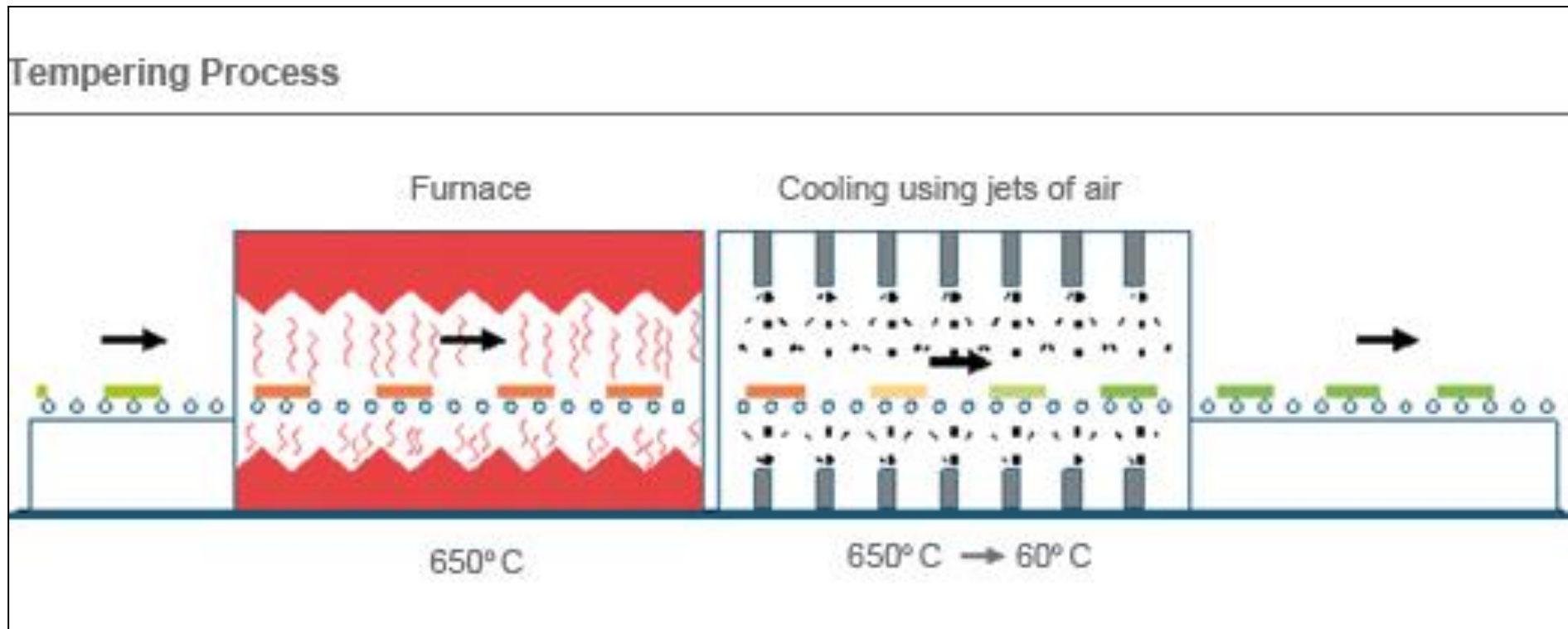
	$H_{\max}$ (W/m <sup>2</sup> .K)	Initial temp. $T_i$ (°C)	$\sigma_{\max}$ midplane (MPa)	$\sigma_{\max}$ surface (MPa)
<b>Soda-lime-silicate</b> $\alpha = 9 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$	4500	650	105	235
<b>Borosilicate</b> $\alpha = 3 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$	>5000	730	32	70

- Initial viscosity of the glass  $\eta_i = 10^9$  Pa.s

	$H_{\max}$ (W/m <sup>2</sup> .K)	Initial temp. $T_i$ (°C)	$\sigma_{\max}$ midplane (MPa)	$\sigma_{\max}$ surface (MPa)
<b>Soda-lime-silicate</b> $\alpha = 9 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$	470	630	65	135
<b>Borosilicate</b> $\alpha = 3 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$	1500	680	25	50

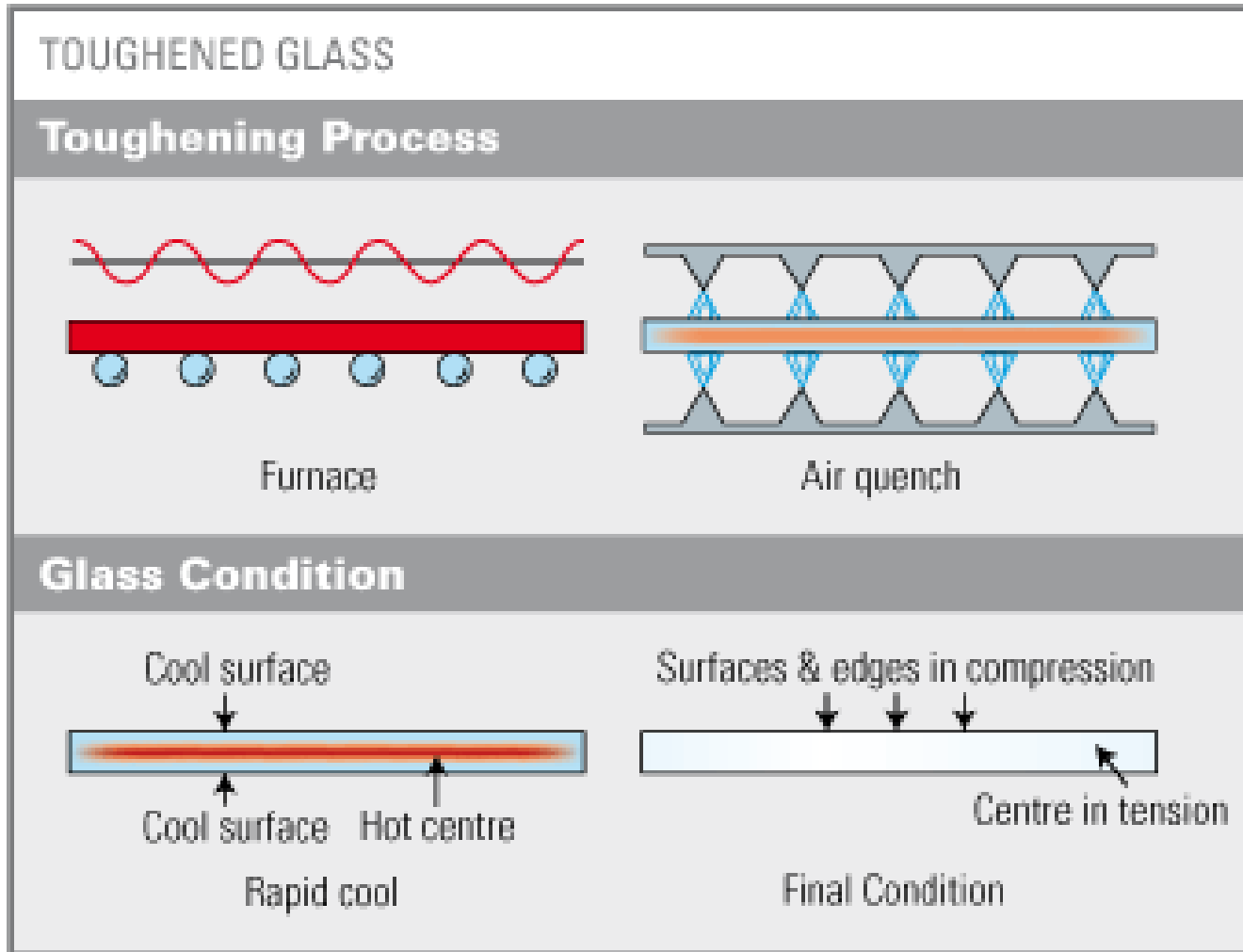
# Industrial tempering of glass

Illustration of the a glass tempering unit for a soda-lime-silica glass



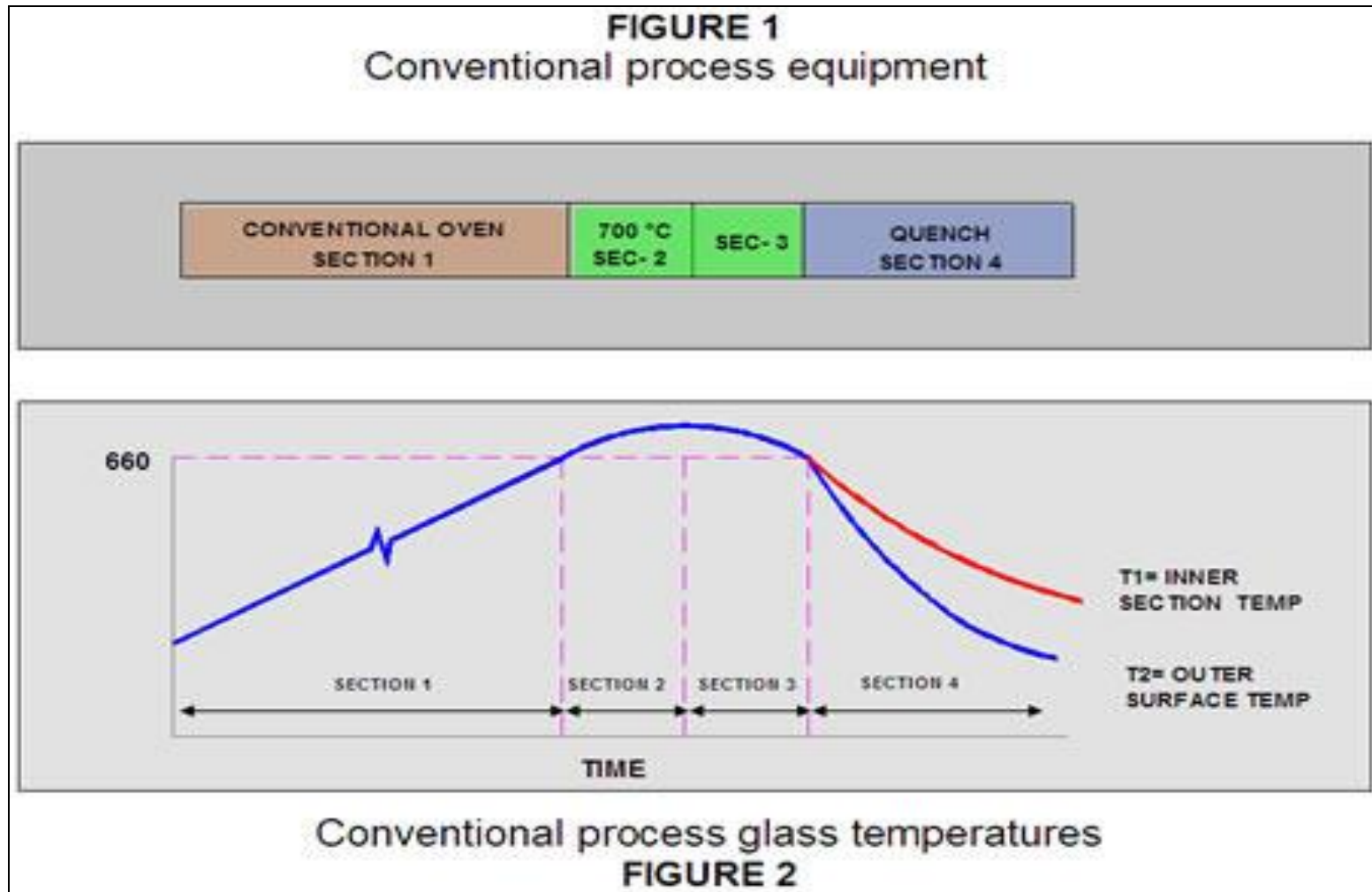
From: <http://us.agc.com>

# Industrial tempering of glass



Source: <http://www.metroglasstech.co.nz/catalogue/038.aspx>

# Industrial tempering of glass



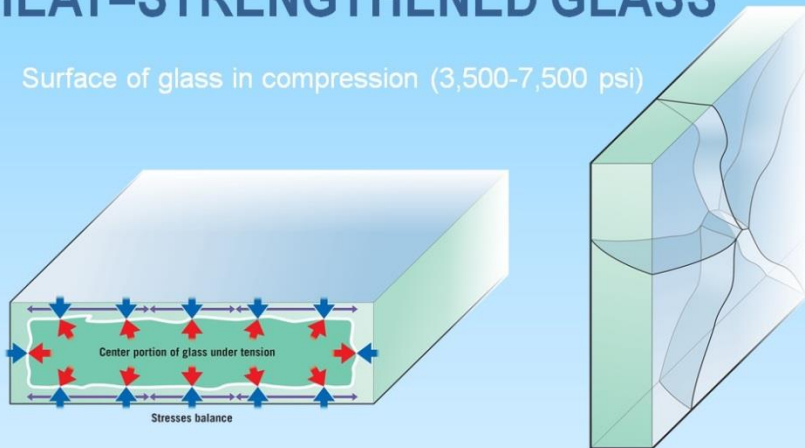
From P. Boaz "Thin glass processing with radio wave assist", [www.glassonweb.com/articles/article/561/](http://www.glassonweb.com/articles/article/561/)

# Heat-strengthened vs tempered glass?

- Heat-strengthened glass: the **cooling process is slower**, which means the **compression stress is lower**
- In the end, heat-strengthened glass is approximately twice as strong as annealed glass but less strong than tempered glass

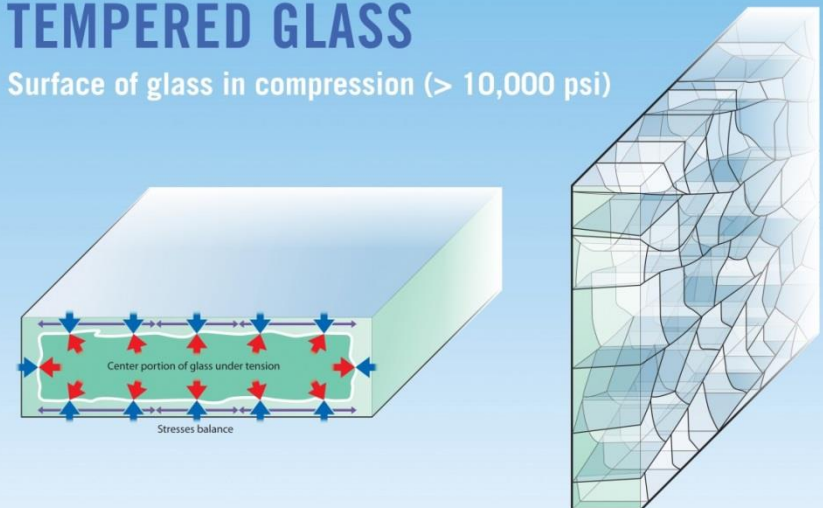
## HEAT-STRENGTHENED GLASS

Surface of glass in compression (3,500-7,500 psi)



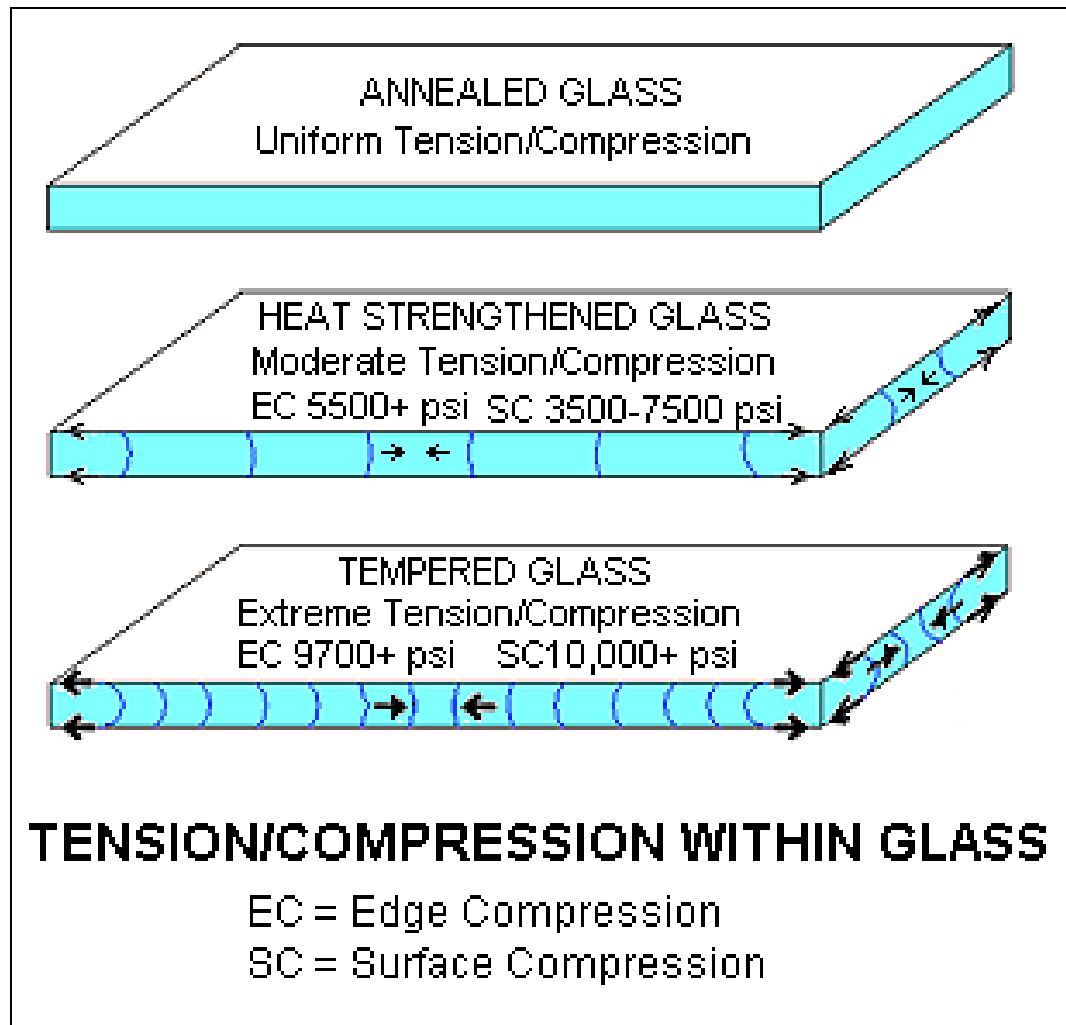
## TEMPERED GLASS

Surface of glass in compression (> 10,000 psi)



Pictures from: <http://educationcenter.ppg.com>

# Heat-strengthened vs tempered glass?



Source: [www.chicagowindowexpert.com](http://www.chicagowindowexpert.com)

# Processing of tempered glass

- **Tempered glass cannot be cut nor drilled!** It would lead to release of the strain energy and thus catastrophic failure of the glass
- How are the tempered glass articles made (for instance the windshields?)



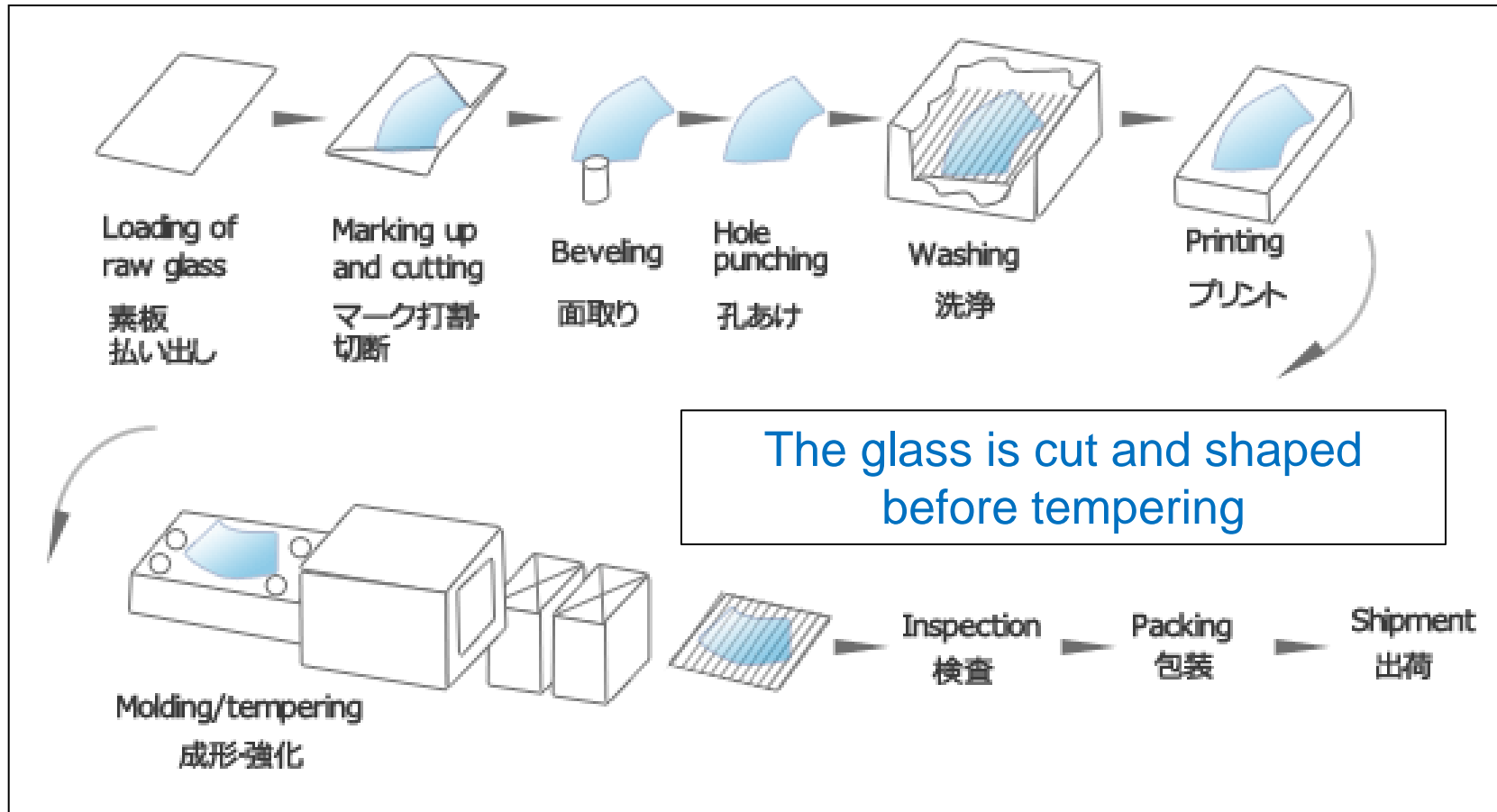
<http://glassdepotny.com>



<http://www.grandsportautobody.com>

# Processing of tempered glass

- Example of fabrication of tempered windshields

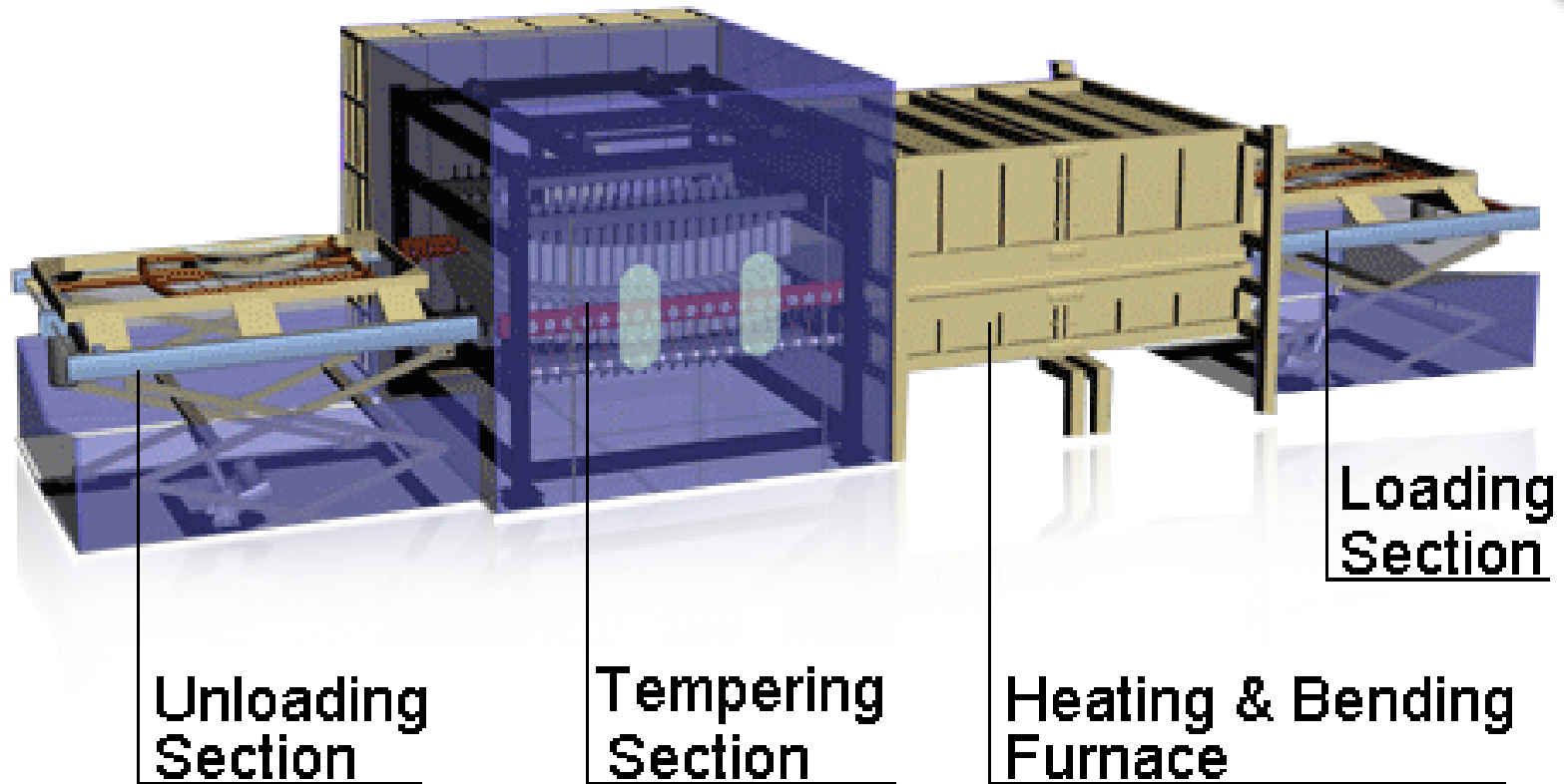


From: [www.agc-automotive.com/english/products/temper.html](http://www.agc-automotive.com/english/products/temper.html)



# Industrial tempering of glass

Example of a glass tempering furnace



Picture from [www.xinology.com/Glass-Processing-Equipments-Supplies-Consumables/glass-tempering/glass-tempering-furnace/feature/bending-tempering.html](http://www.xinology.com/Glass-Processing-Equipments-Supplies-Consumables/glass-tempering/glass-tempering-furnace/feature/bending-tempering.html)

## *Other technical considerations*

- A certain thickness is necessary for obtaining an efficient strengthening of the glass by tempering
- For thin glass articles with a thickness below 2mm (typically), thermal tempering becomes much less efficient
- Also, tempering requires a uniform cooling from both sides of the glass article (e.g. both surfaces of a glass plate)
- It is thus complicated to temper glass articles with complex or uneven geometries (such as bottles)
- For these types of products, strengthening (when applied) can be performed using ion-exchange technique (chemical strengthening)

# Chemical strengthening

- Chemical strengthening of glass also relies on the formation of a compressive stress on the surface, with the core in tensile stress
- The way to achieve this stress profile is however very different (ion-exchange instead of thermal treatment)
- Chemical strengthening of glass will be presented by A. Varshneya in this series of IMI-NFG lectures

Picture from: R. Gy, "Ion exchange for glass strengthening", Materials Science and Engineering B 149 (2008) 159–165

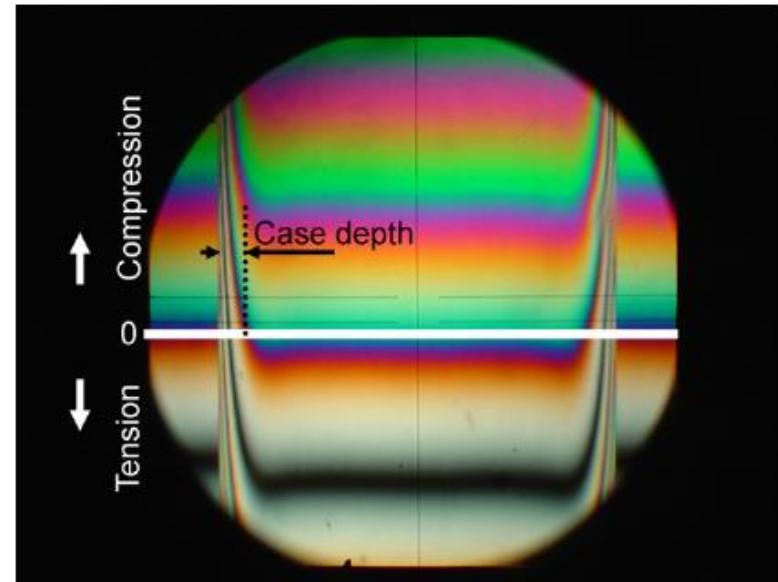


Fig. 3. Stress pattern in a chemically tempered glass: side view in a polariscope equipped with a Babinet compensator.

# Conclusions – 1/2 - Annealing

- **Annealing** of the glass articles after the forming process is crucial for **relaxing the stresses** due to inhomogeneous, rapid cooling
- The annealing consists in reheating the glass above the annealing temperature and perform a **controlled, slow cooling** between the annealing point and the strain point
- The **cooling rate between  $T_{\text{anneal}}$  and  $T_{\text{strain}}$**  is crucial and will depend on the type of glass (composition) and the type of article produced (shape, thickness...)
- At industrial scale, annealing is a continuous process, and is performed in **annealing lehrs**
- The **temperature profile** in the lehr should be optimized to obtain a well-annealed product in the shortest possible time

## Conclusions – 2/2 - Tempering

- **Tempering** of glass is a thermal treatment performed on annealed glasses to create **controlled** stresses in the glass
- The glass is **reheated** at a critical temperature and then **rapidly cooled**, leaving the **surface in compressive stress** and the **core in tensile stress**
- Tempered glasses can be **5 times stronger** than annealed glass
- If broken, tempered glass will shatter in small fragments (securit glass)
- Tempered glass cannot be cut or drilled, and the glass article must be shaped before the tempering process
- Tempering is **limited to relatively thick** products ( $> 2\text{mm}$ ) and **relatively simple geometries** (windows, windshields...)

# Home assignment

- A multiple choice questionnaire (MCQ) including questions on industrial glass annealing and tempering processes is provided with this lecture
- The MCQ will be available online on IMI's website

# References and further reading

- “The glass tempering handbook” by Jonathan Barr, available online (free) at <https://dl.orangedox.com/IOM4ukrFcunESCW2Yh/TheGlassTemperingHandbook.pdf>
- Book “Strength of Inorganic Glass”, Ed. C. Kurkjian (Plenum, 1985)
- R. Gardon, “Thermal tempering of glass”, in “Glass: Science and Technology, Vol.5, Elasticity and Strength in Glasses”, Ed. D. Uhlmann and N. Kreidl (Academic Press, 1980)
- CelSian’s glass course e-learning trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pID0PYsBlbQ&feature=youtu.be>

# *Thank you for your attention*



## Questions ?

*Visit us in Eindhoven*

*Contact me via email:*

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