



UNIpace

Polymer Application Center





# THE ADHESION OF LSR AND POLYPROPYLENE TYPES AFTER STORAGE

Dipl.-Ing. A. Rüppel, M. Hartung, M. Sc., Dr.-Ing. R.-U. Giesen, Prof. Dr.-Ing. H.-P. Heim  
University of Kassel, Institute of Material Engineering





# Content

- ● ● Objectives
- ● ● Properties LSR-TP-Composite Materials
- ● ● Adhesion
- ● ● Experimental
- ● ● Results and Discussion

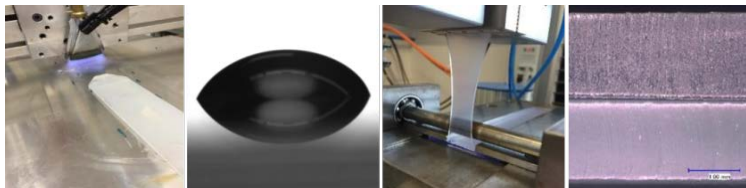


# Objectives

## Production of Liquid-Silicone-Rubber (LSR) - Polypropylene Composites

- ● ● Adhesion of LSR and Polypropylene only possible with surface activation of PP-component
- ● ● Self-bonding LSR types only suitable for PA and PBT
  - No self-bonding LSR-types für bulk plastics (PP, PE) currently on the market

- ➡ Generation of an Adhesion of LSR and Polypropylene
- ➡ Surface activation of thermoplastic component
- ➡ Long therm stability of the surface activation





# Properties of LSR-TP-Composite Materials

## ○ ● ● *LSR-Thermoplastic Composite Materials*

- hard-soft composites of thermoplastic and LSR
- sample production by multi-component injection molding

## ○ ● ● *Advantages by using LSR Thermoplastic Composite Materials*

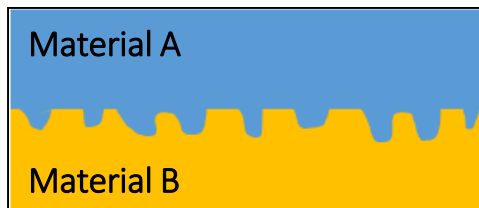
- cycle time saving production (LSR is direct overmoulded on TP)
- production is carried out in one step
- for production only one machine and one tool is needed
- merging of the materials to a synergetic component
- use of several positive properties by 2c-composites





# Adhesion

## Mechanical Adhesion



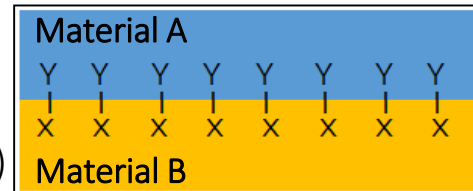
Mechanical adhesion by surface texture by

- Surface roughness
- Hollows
- Pores

## Specific Adhesion

### Chemisorption

Chemical primary valency bonds (covalent, ionic, metal)



### Diffusion Theory

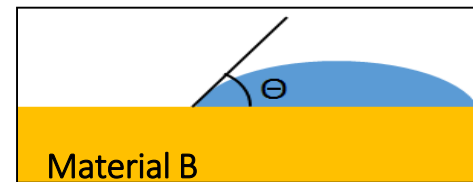
Diffusion of the molecular chains into the other component



### Adsorption Theory

Formation of secondary valence bonds

→ *good wettability necessary*



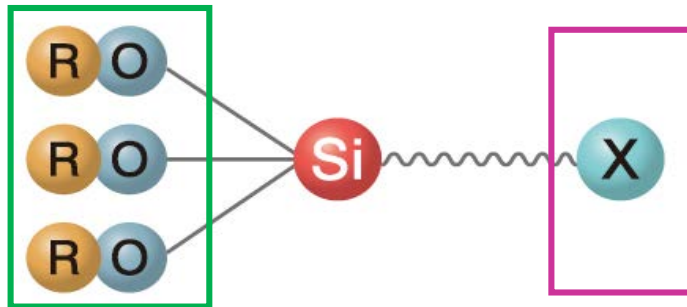


# Silane Coupling Agent

**Generation of Adhesion between LSR-TP: Selfbonding LSR** → compatible for PA and PBT

Reactive groups  
→ form chemical bond with inorganic material (silicone, glass, metal)

- Methoxy groups
- Ethoxy groups
- .....



Reactive groups  
→ form chemical bond with organic material (thermoplastics)

- Vinyl groups
- Epoxy groups
- Amino groups
- .....

→ connection of epoxy groups with functional groups of activated PP

→ connection of methoxy-functionalized silane group with the LSR



# Experimental

## Material selection

### *Selfbonding LSR*

Elastosil LSR 3071/40 (Wacker Chemie AG)



**component A:**  
contains platinum catalyst

**component B:**  
contains crosslinker &  
inhibitor

→ mixing ratio: 1:1



### *Polypropylene:*

Material	Brand Name	Company	Properties
Polypropylene	PP Sabic 575P	Sabic	Suitable for food contact application, toys and houseware articles
	PP Purell HP571P	LyondellBasell	Medical devices
	Altech PP-HA A 2020/100 GF 20	Albis Plastic	Glass-fiber reinforced PP, applications in furniture industry



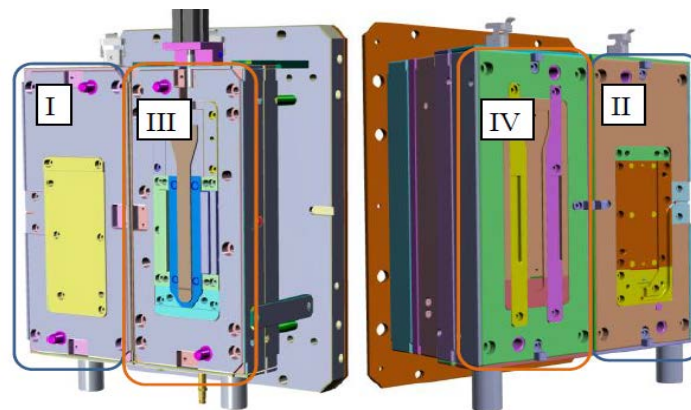




# Experimental

Production of polypropylene components by injection molding process

(full-electric Arburg 370A 600-70/70 Alldrive)



*Multicomponent TP-/LSR tool*

I & II: cooled areas for TP

III & IV: for LSR component

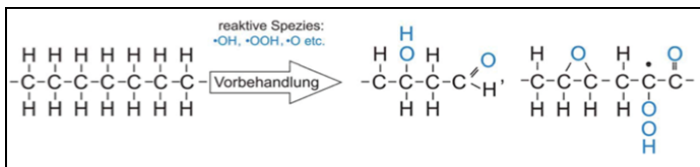
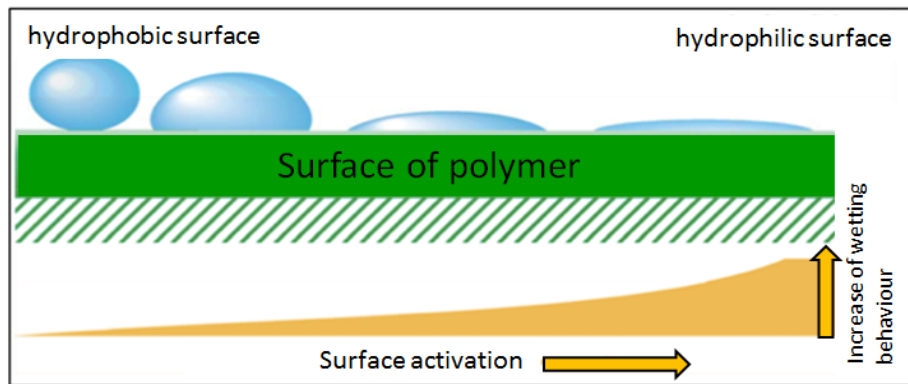
IV is changable



# Experimental

## Surface activation

No adhesion between PP and selfbonding LSR → functional groups for interaction



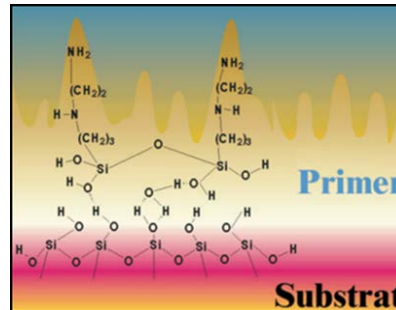
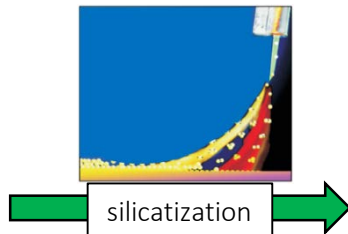
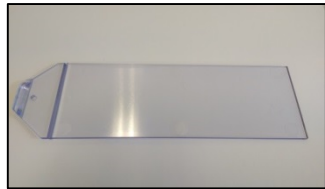
due to surface activation  
 → functional groups for interactions  
 → allow hydrogen bonds for adhesion



# Experimental

## Surface activation by flame treatment (silicatization)

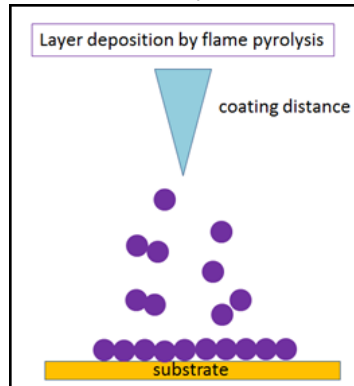
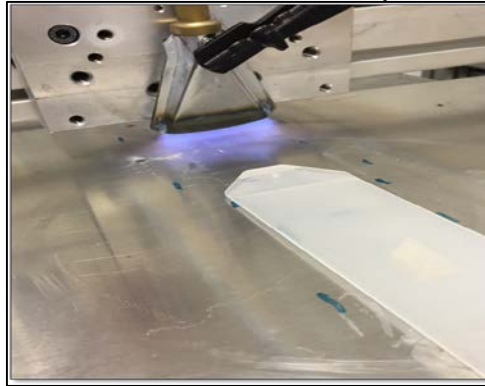
- ● ● Flame pyrolytic deposition of amorphous silicate
- ● ● Layer thickness 20-40nm
- ● ● Precursor (silicon-containing substances)
- ● ● Formation of Si-OH groups
  - Connection of functional groups (e.g. amino groups) to increase the adhesion
- ● ● Formation of a very thin, chemically highly reactive layer (glass layer)





# Experimental

## Surface activation by flame treatment (silicization)



*Used Parameters: Flame distance: 15mm;  
activation speed: 0,4m/s*

With increasing flame distance  
→ aggregation of coating particles  
→ less reactivity of larger particles  
→ removal of particles in gas flow  
→ no involvement in layer deposition

- ● ● Mobile table to control flame distance and speed of activation
- ● ● Partial storage of thermoplastics before further overmolding with LSR
- ● ● Direct overmolded with LSR → Composite storage at room temperature of LSR-PP



# Experimental

Experimental Plan → 2 ways

After surface activation → storage of PP and examination of:

- ● ● Wetting behavior by Contact Angle Measurement (DSA-Method)
- ● ● Surface roughness by Confocal Scanning Laser Microscopy
- ● ● Formation of chemical bonds by FTIR-Spectroscopy

No activation	0 days	1 day	7 days	14 days	28 days

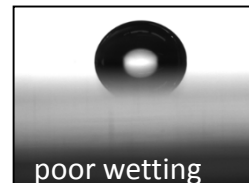
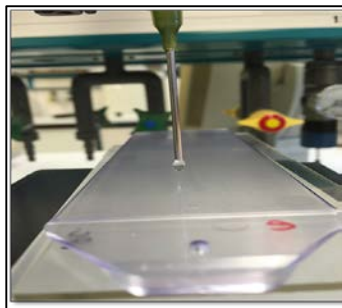
After surface activation → overmolding with LSR and storage of compound

No activation	0 days	1 day	7 days	14 days	28 days

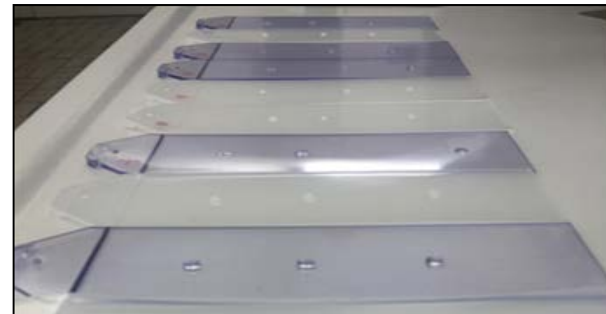
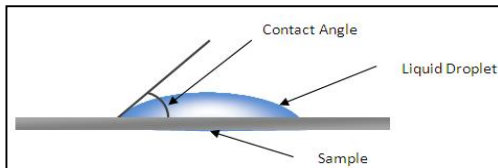


# Experimental

Contact angle measurement by Drop Shape Analysis (DSA-Analysis) → Wetting Behaviour of PP



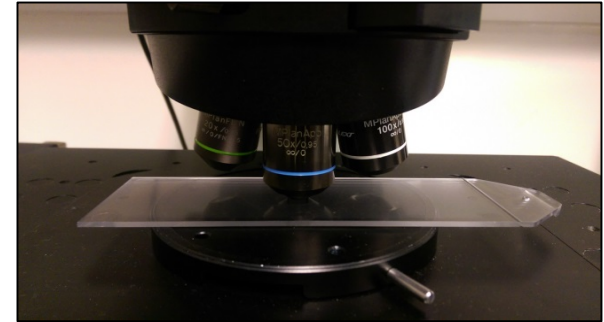
- a drop of water is applied on the PP surface
- measurement of contact angle
- 4 samples and 3 drops every batch were measured



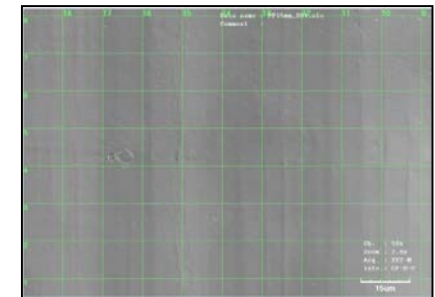
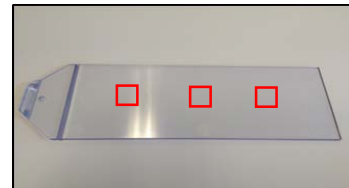


# Experimental

Confocal Scanning Laser Microscopy (LEXT, OLS 3100/OLS3000) → Surface Roughness of PP



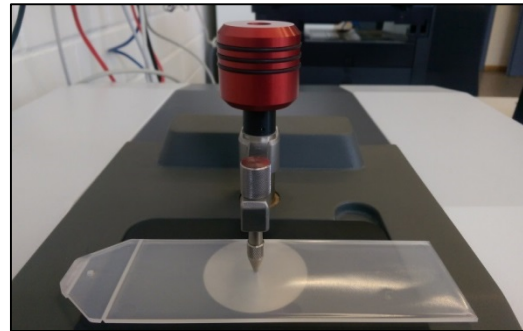
- ● ● Scanning of the sample by focusing laser
- ● ● Investigation of stored and direct activated samples
- ● ● No sample preparation needed
- ● ● Magnification: 500x
- ● ● 3 samples per batch



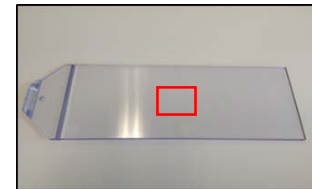


# Experimental

FTIR Spectroscopy (Schimadzu, IRAffinity -1S) → Chemical Bonds



- ● ● Investigation of stored and direct activated samples
- ● ● Examination by Attenuated Total Reflection (ATR)
- ● ● Total reflection at the boundary between two optically different media (crystal and specimen)
- ● ● Crystal: Zinc selenide (ZnSe, 45°)

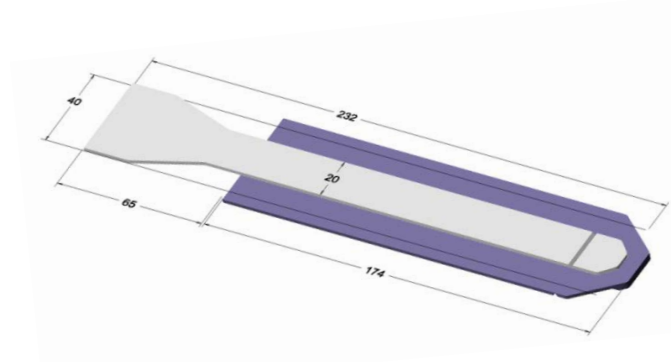






# Experimental

After Storage → Overmoulding of TP with selfbonding LSR

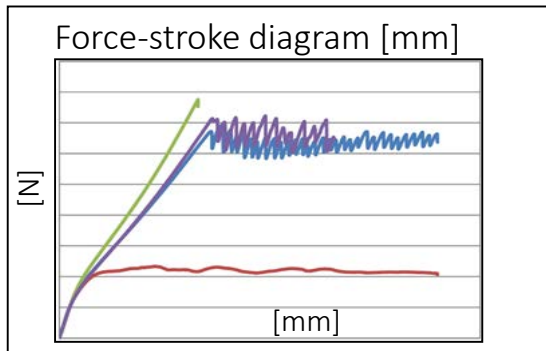
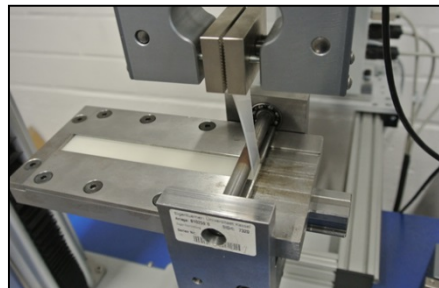


- ● ● PP was inserted into the machine by hand → overmolding with LSR
- ● ● Temperature of 140°C for 60s during injection molding process for both components



# Experimental

Peel-Test according to VDI 2019 (Hegewald & Peschke, 5kN, testing speed: 100mm/min.)



- curve with force peaks
- wavy curve
- cohesive failure at LSR
- cohesive failure at LSR after peeling (50%)

**A:** peeling of the LSR component without residue (adhesive peeling)

**B:** residue (1 -50%) of LSR on thermoplastic component (cohesive peeling)

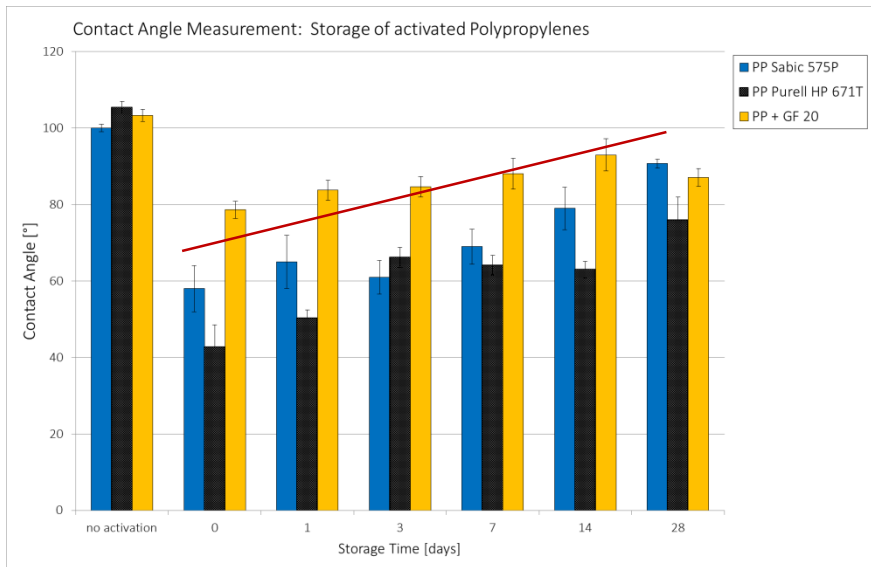
**C:** residue (51-99%) of LSR on thermoplastic component (cohesive peeling)

**D:** no peeling of the LSR component  
→ cohesion crack (Ws max)

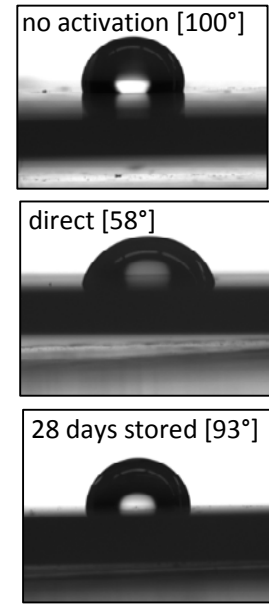


## Results and Discussion





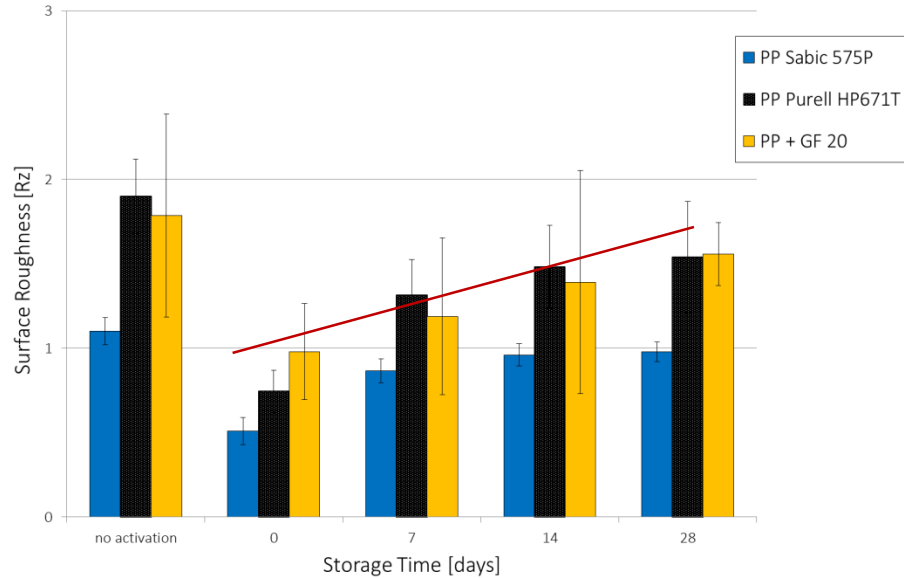
Contact Angle after silicatzation



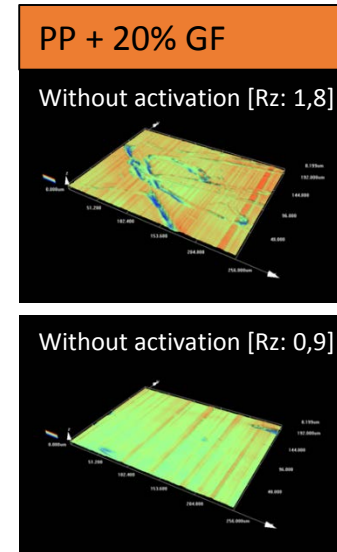
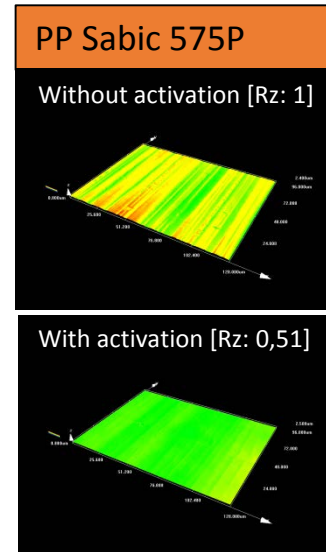
- ● ● significant reduction of the values after surface activation for all materials
- increase of the contact angle after storage time
- reversible process of flame treatment, but lower values of contact angle than materials without surface activation



Surface Roughness after Storage Time (PP + LSR 3071)



## Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy



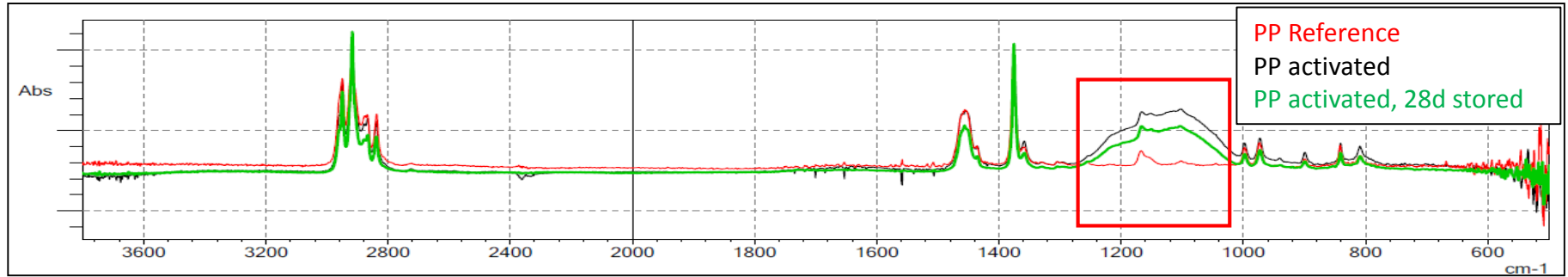
○ ● ● reduction of surface roughness after silicatization → increase of the values after storage

○ ● ● But lower values than materials without surface activation



# FTIR-Spectroscopy

Example: PP after silicization



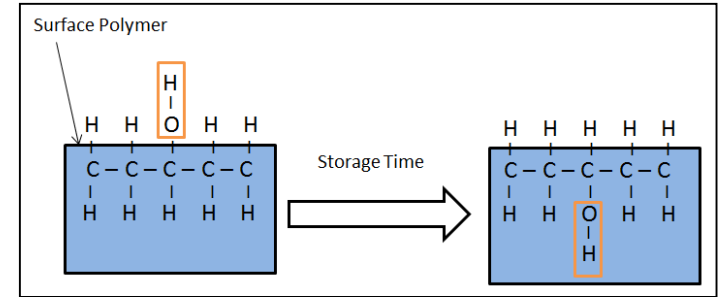
○ ● ● Significant changes after silicization visible

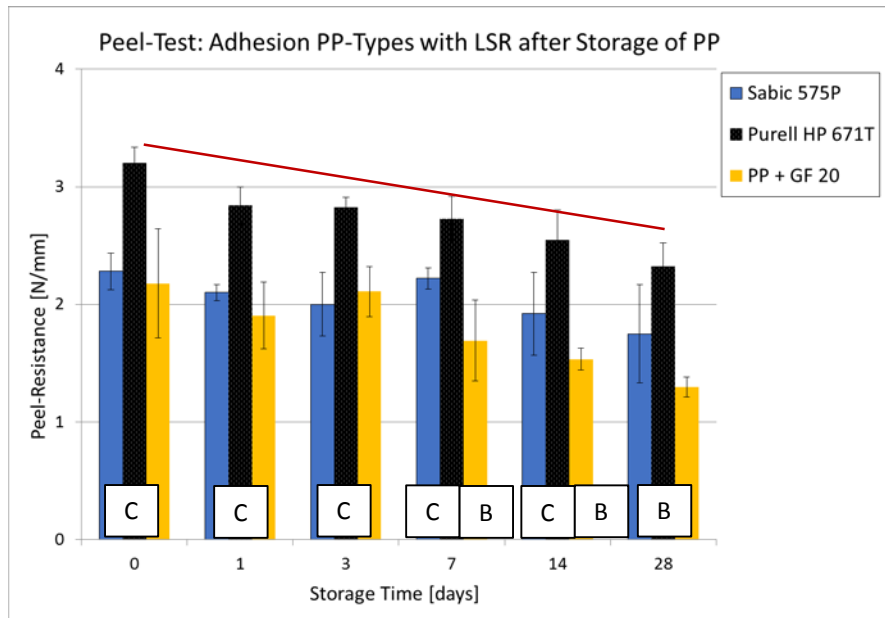
→ Formation of silicon bonds (Si-O-Si, area 1090-1030)

→ Si-NH<sub>2</sub> bonds in the range of 1250-1100 (Amino-group)

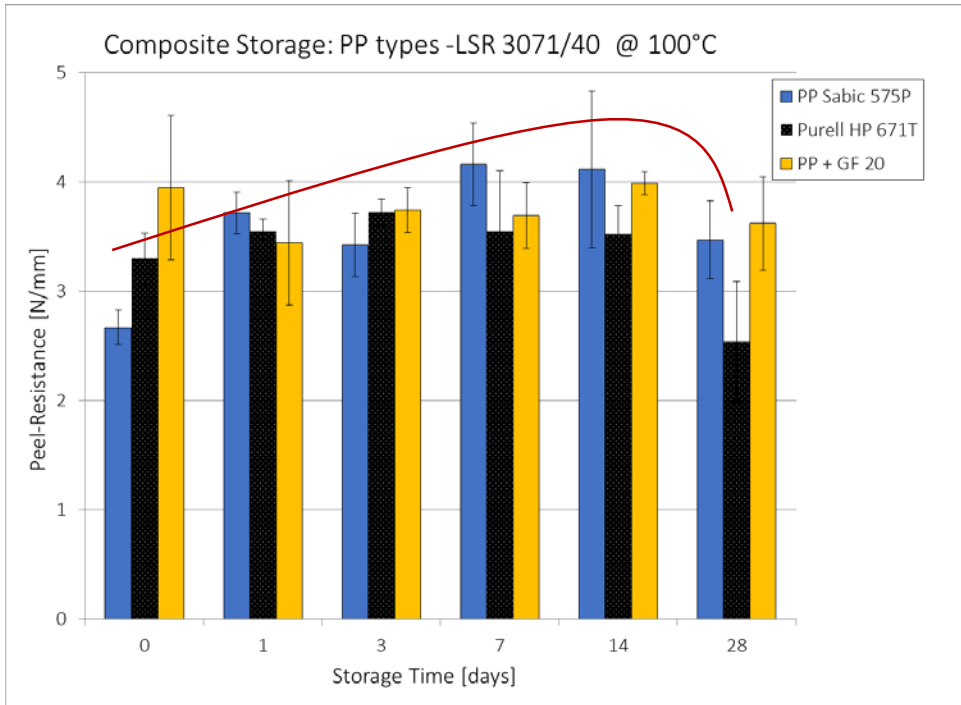
→ After 28 days storage → decrease of the bondings of PP

→ *rotation of polymer chains* → they are not available for further interactions



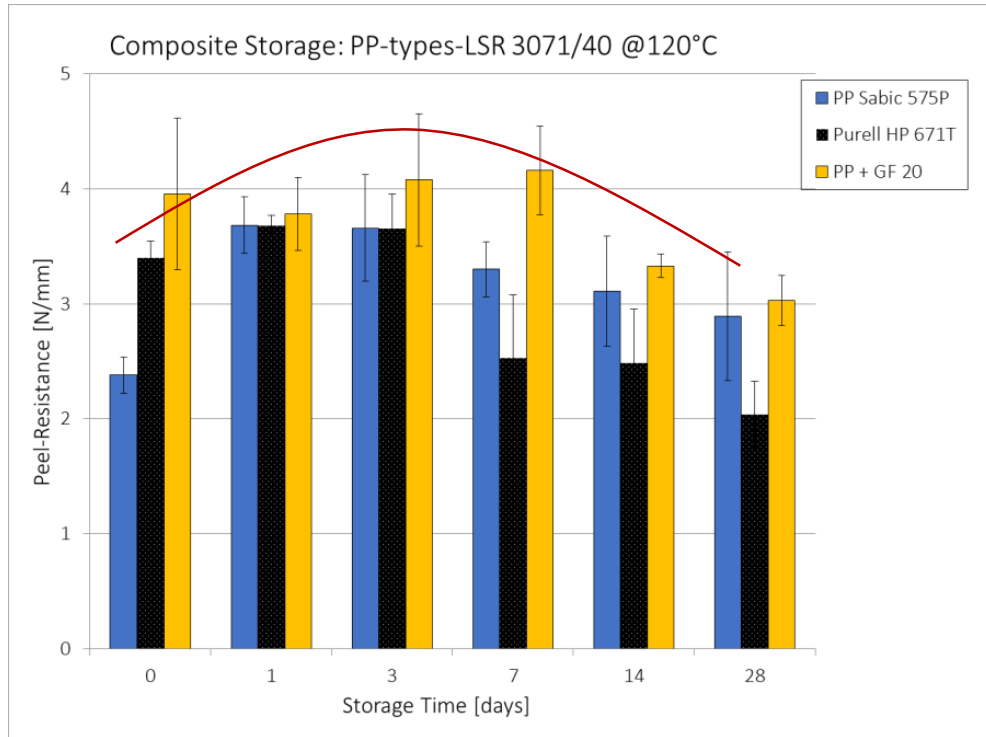


- ● ● no adhesion without surface activation
- ● ● strong adhesion (cohesive peeling) after silicatization
- ● ● decrease of peel-resistance after storage time but still a strong adhesion up to 1 week (failure type: B & C)



- ● ● No adhesion without surface activation
- ● ● Increase of the values up to 7 days
- ● ● Increase of the values by post-crosslinking of the silicone component and possibly an interdiffusion due to temperature storage
- ● ● Reduction of the values after 2 weeks → post-crystallisation of the PP component and the resulting embrittlement





- ● ● No adhesion without surface activation
- ● ● Increase of the values up to 3 days
- ● ● In comparison with 100°C composite storage  
→ faster reduction of the peel-resistance from 7 days up to 28 days
- ● ● Post-crystallisation leads to embrittlement in the material → less adhesion after storage time

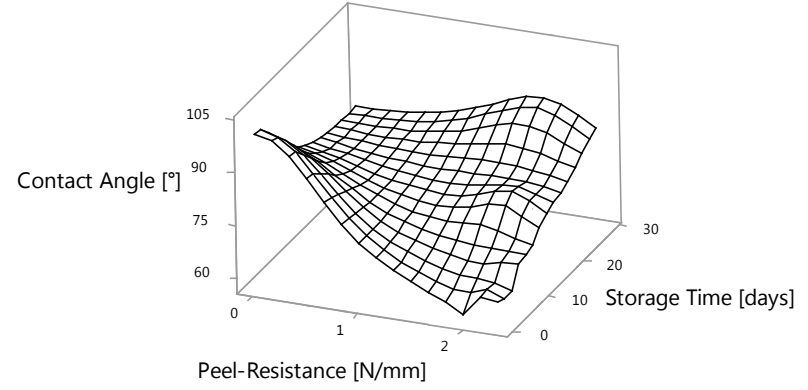
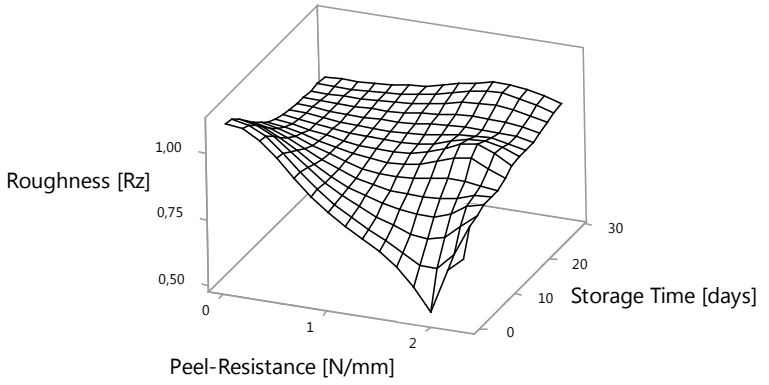


## Conclusion





# Dependence between adhesion and storage of Polypropylene before overmolding with LSR exemplified by PP Sabc 575P



- ● ● Decrease of surface roughness after silicatisation → increase of the values after storage time → deterioration of adhesion depending on storage time
- ● ● Improvement of wetting behaviour after surface activation → storage time leads to an increase in contact angle → decrease of the peel-resistance depending on storage time



# Conclusion

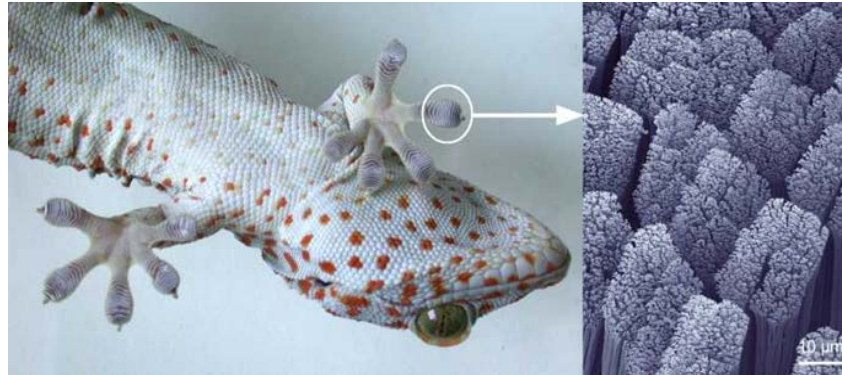
- ● ● Peel-Test according to VDI 2019 (Storage of the whole compound at 100°C & 120°C)
  - 100°C: increase of values up to 7 days & a reduction of peel-resistance from 2 weeks → post-crystallization of PP
  - 120°C: increase of values up to 3 days → significant reduction in adhesion from 7 days (HDT & post-crystallization)

## Due to surface activation...

- ● ● Generation of a very good adhesion between LSR and PP (no adhesion without activation)
- ● ● Very strong compounds even after storage of the PP component before overmolding
- ● ● Very strong compound after storage of LSR/PP-compound up to one week (especially for 100°C)



# Thank you for your attention



*A gecko can run overhead on all surfaces by perfect matched properties of the soles of his feet*

## [www.unipace.de](http://www.unipace.de)

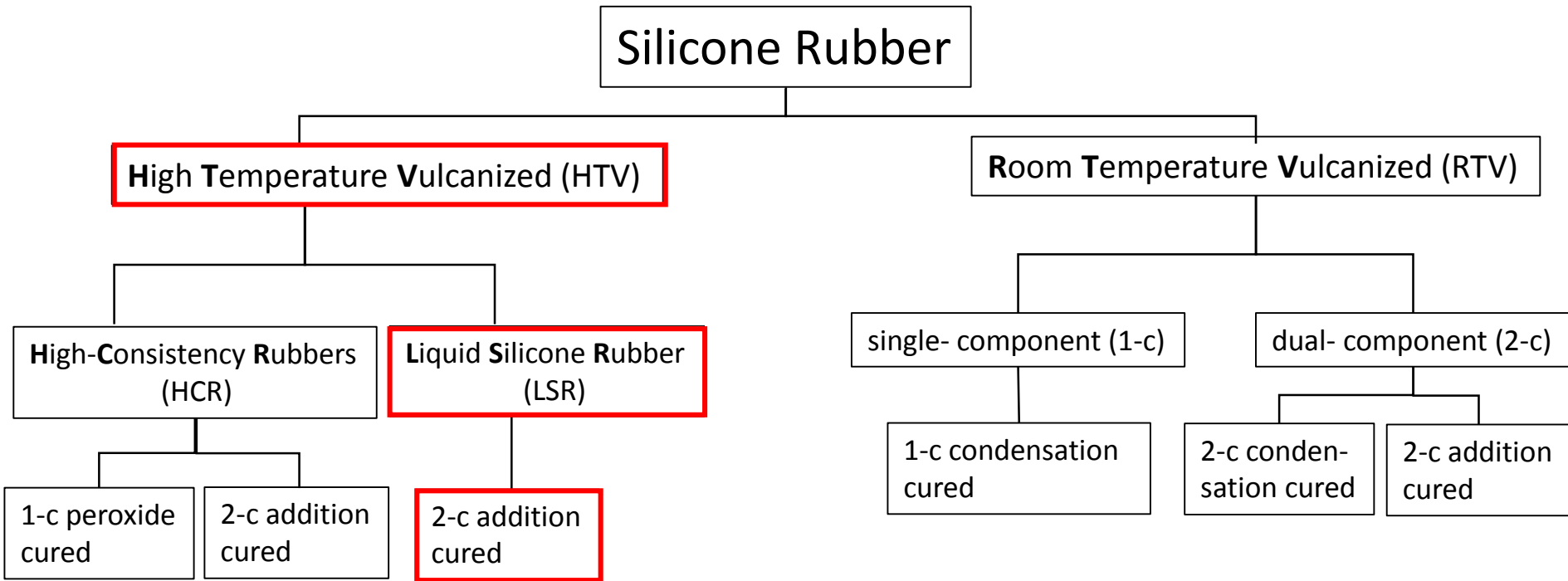
Ref.: <http://jacobs.physik.uni-saarland.de/forschung/gecko.htm>



# Back Up

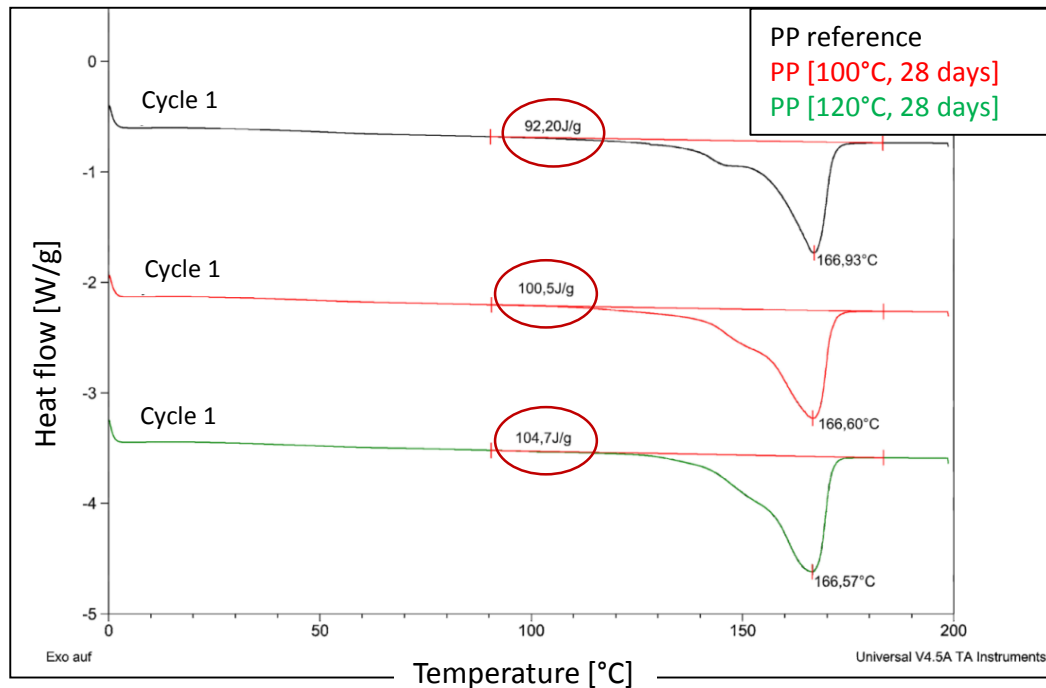


# Overview of Silicone Rubber





# Differential Scanning Calorimetry of PP after Storage



- Heating up the sample from 0°C to 200°C (10K/min.) → Changes of the heat flow in endothermic direction
- Constant melting temperature for PP reference and the stored thermoplastics
- Increasing melting enthalpy with storage time especially at 120°C → post-crystallization of the material
- Post-crystallization could lead to a reduction of the adhesion → embrittlement in the thermoplastic component