

Quantifying PV Module Microclimates, and Translation into Accelerated Weathering Protocols

Along the path to a weathering standard

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Topics

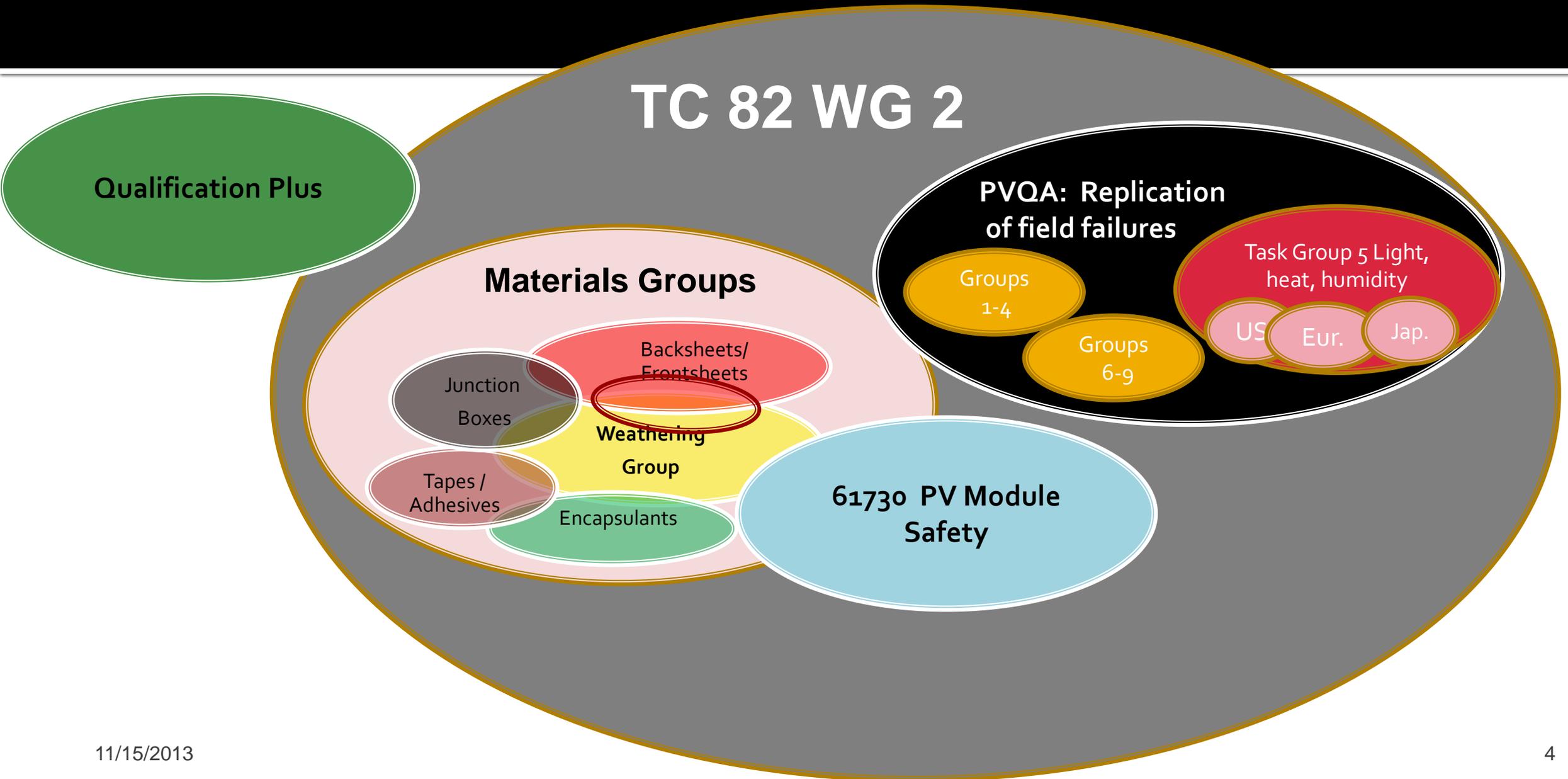
- Background: PV weathering standards and related work efforts
- Part I. Microclimate analysis
- Part II. Translation to an accelerated weathering protocol

- Qualification Plus discussion

PV Standards and Weathering

- IEC 61730, 61215; UL 1703, 746C
 - Different environmental stress conditions
 - Very little UV exposure
 - Field data demonstrating UV induced failures
- Numerous Standards efforts addressing weathering in development
 - IEC
 - 61730 ed 2 (MST-94)
 - 62788 (PV component standards)
 - Qualification Plus

PV Standards Weathering Efforts



Project Roadmap

Check Point #1:
Reviewed at
IEC TC 82 WG2
(10/16)

Qualification Plus:
Request for Steady
State Exposure

Phase 1. Baseline Information Defined	Phase 2: Improve; add protocols with cycling	Phase 3: Gather data	Phase 4
Machine Settings: - define related existing weathering standards - define target microenvironments - translate microenvironments to machine settings - select "top 10" list	Machine Settings: - Review/revise prior list - Develop protocols with cycling - Reselect "top 10" list	Review Data - PVQA testing - Outdoor data - Module data - other?	Machine Settings: - Review/revise prior list - Reselect "top 10" list - Recommend suite of weathering regimes (1-3) for inclusion in Backsheet Standard
Test Methods - list tests from backsheet standard draft - select "top 10" list	Test Methods - refine as needed - re-select "top 10" list	Test Methods Round Robin testing (TMs) Improve as needed	Test Methods Round Robin testing (weathering and TMs)
Sample Definition initial: glass/encapsulant/backsheet a) glass side (sun side) facing light source b) back side facing light source revise after "top 10" TM list is complete	Sample Definition Revise as needed Refine Sample Prep how to specify glass, encapsulant, lamination conditions...	Sample Definition Revise as needed	Sample Definition Revise as needed

Qualification Plus

- Summarizes some test methods intended for incorporation into Standards
- Intended as an early adaptation of pending standard tests.
- Goals:
 - Detect product weaknesses observed in the field that might be overlooked or under queried by IEC 61215 and IEC 61730
 - Optimize these test procedures more fully before they become standards,
 - Allow manufacturers to begin to use the new tests in anticipation of the new standards, and
 - Provide customers with additional information for choosing products that will last longer in the field.

- Includes:
 - PID
 - Thermal cycling
 - UV exposures
 - Encapsulant Materials,
 - J-Box
 - Cables and Connectors
 - **Backsheet**
 - Bypass Diode Thermal Test
 - Enhanced Hotspot
- 

Part I. PV Microclimate Analysis – steady state

- Quantify the range of microclimates experienced by backsheets in a PV module, including:
 - Ambient Climate
 - Temperate => Sanary, France
 - Extreme (hot/dry) => Arizona
 - Extreme (hot/humid) => Miami
 - Contributions from the application (mounting type):
 - Roof (5°)
 - Rack (Latitude)
 - Track (2D tracking)

Weathering / Backsheet group discussions

	Name	Organization	Regulars	Test Methods and Sample Prep group
1	Axel.Borne	DuPont	x	x
2	Bill Brennan	DuPont-Teijin	x	x
3	Jim Bratcher	Honeywell	x	x
4	Kurt Scott	Atlas	x	x
5	Bill Gambogi	DuPont	x	x
6	Dave Burns	3M	x	
7	Marc Brandenburg	Furon	x	
8	Mike Kempe	N-REL	x	
9	Sean Fowler	Q-Lab	x	
10	Takao Amoka	Toray	x	
11	Greg O'Brien	Arkema		x
12	Chris Fluekinger	UL		
13	Howard Creel	3M		
14	Karlheinz Brust	Krempel		
15	Michael Koehl	Fraunhofer		
16	Nicolas Bogdanski	TUV-Rheinland		
17	Sarah Kurz	N-REL		
18	Tim Peshek	CWR University		
19	Tom Earnst (DuPont)	DuPont		

1. Irradiance Data

- Goal: establish references for:
 - Irradiance set points
 - Total Solar and TUV data
 - Backside versus Frontside irradiance levels

Maximum Irradiance Levels

Spectral Irradiance at 340 nm (W/m²/nm)

- Data from:
 - Handbook of Material Weathering, 3rd Ed., 2003
 - Atlas Data
- Value depends on:
 - Latitude
 - Humidity/cloud cover/pollution
 - Lauder, New Zealand: → 0.91
 - Time of year
 - AZ, winter solstice → 0.37
 - AZ, summer solstice → 0.70
 - Elevation
 - Boulder, CO, USA; September: → 0.90
 - Mauna Loa, HA, USA, June → 1.03

Table 5.1 Spectral Irradiance at 340 nm (examples of the highest recorded values)

Location	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation, m	Date	Irradiance, W m ⁻² nm ⁻¹	Ref.
Mawson, Antarctica	67.6°S	62.9°E		11-12-1990	0.28 ^a	9
McMurdo, Antarctica	77.51°S	166.40°E		23-12-1992	0.33 ^a	10
Palmer, Antarctica	64.8°S			14-23-1988	0.30	11
Uccle, Belgium	50.47°N	4.21°E	105	24-6-1994	0.39 ^b	6
Reading, UK				20-6-1995	0.36	12
Miami, Florida, USA	25.52°N	80.27°W	3	21-4-1999	0.59	13
Homestead, Florida, USA	25.46°N	80.45°W		24-4-1999	0.65	13
Phoenix, Arizona, USA	33.54°N	112.08°W	610	20-5-1999	0.70	13
Phoenix, Arizona, USA	33.54°N	112.08°W	610	7-6-2000	0.70	13
Phoenix, Arizona, USA	33.54°N	112.08°W	610	28-9-1999	0.62	13
Phoenix, Arizona, USA	33.54°N	112.08°W	610	4-11-1998	0.50	13
Buckeye, Arizona, USA	33°N	113°W	890	30-9-1999	0.63	13
Mauna Loa, Hawaii	19.533°N	155.578°W	3405	15-7-2000	0.9329	14
Mauna Loa, Hawaii	19.533°N	155.578°W	3405	30-6-1988	1.029 ^c	14
Boulder, Colorado, USA	39.991°N	105.261°W	1730	9-7-2000	0.8962	14
Lauder, New Zealand	45.04°S	169.68°E	370	9-1-1998	0.980 ^c	15
Lauder, New Zealand	45.04°S	169.68°E	370	29-12-1997	0.913 ^d	15
Jungfrauoch, Austria	46.548°N	7.9835°E	3576	24-6-1999	0.832	16

a - measured, b - recalculated from 325 nm, c - extreme, cloud enhanced, d - typical maximum, near clear sky

date	Season	Location	Solar 339-340 (W/m ² /nm)
3/21/2001	Spring\Fall Equinoxes	Phoenix	0.63
6/21/2001	Summer Solstice	Phoenix	0.7
12/21/2001	Winter Solstice	Phoenix	0.37
3/21/2001	Spring\Fall Equinoxes	Miami	0.64
6/21/2001	Summer Solstice	Miami	0.69
12/21/2001	Winter Solstice	Miami	0.52
3/21/2013	Spring Equinox	Sanary	0.58
6/21/2013	Summer Solstice	Sanary	0.7
1/21/2013	Winter Solstice	Sanary	0.34

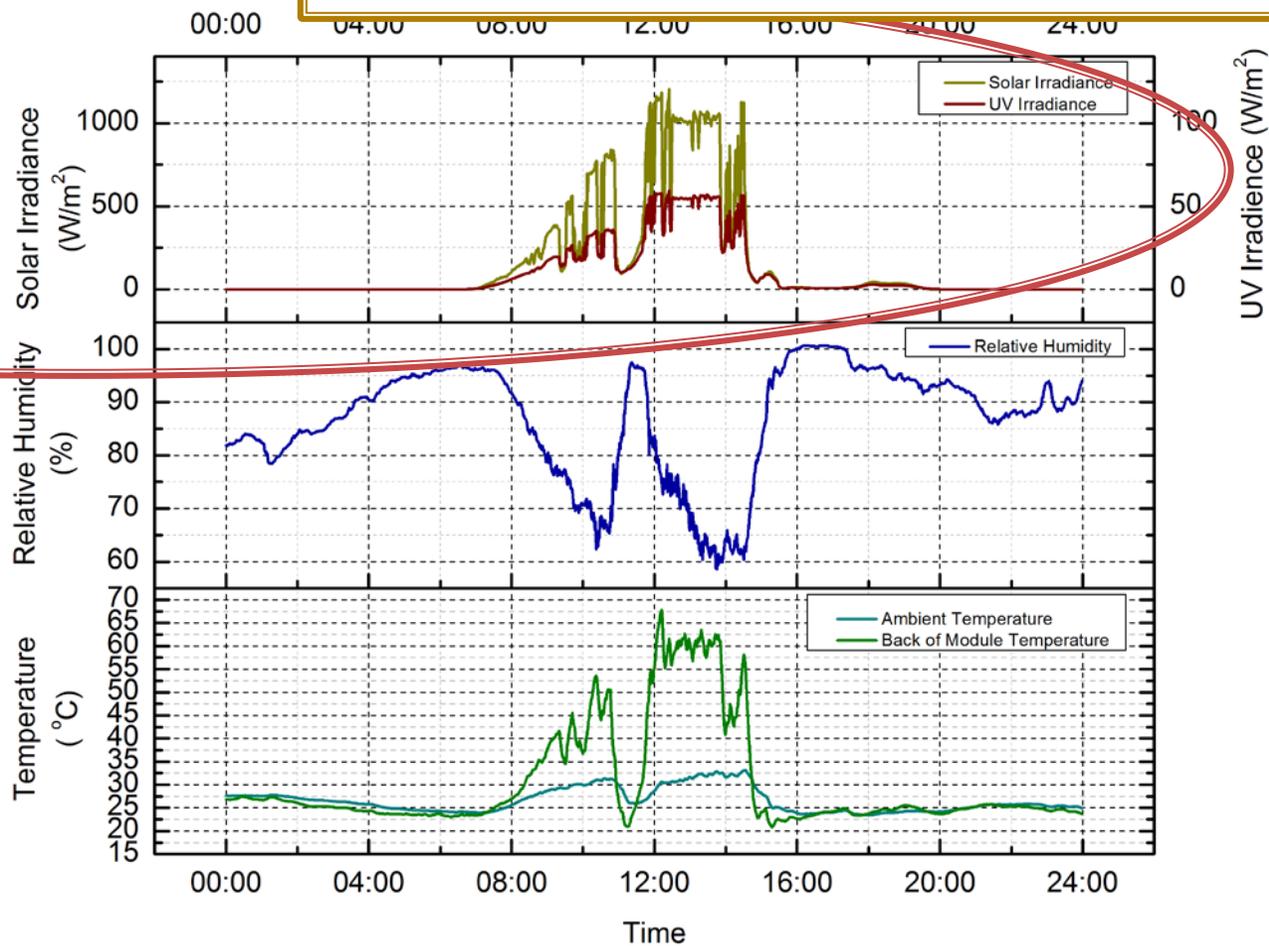
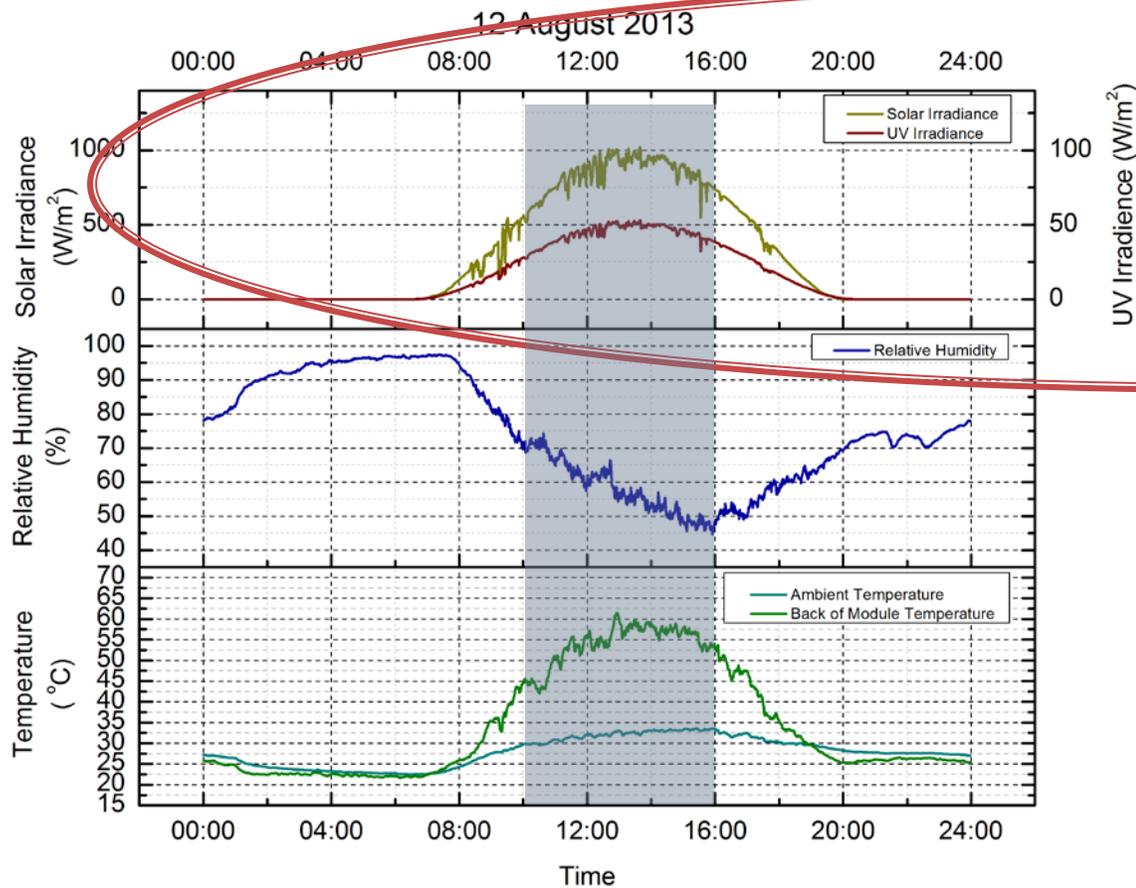
1 Sun, 340nm
0.5 W/m²/nm

“Typical Max” 340nm
0.7 W/m²/nm

Total Solar and TUV Cocoa Beach, Florida Sunny and Cloudy days in August

TUV as % of Total Solar constant during peak hours

	10A - 4P % of TS	10A - 4P % of TUV	Full day TUV % of TS	10A-4P TUV % of TS
12-Aug	72	72	5.2	5.2
24-Aug	84	83	5.7	5.6
month	73	73	5.5	5.5

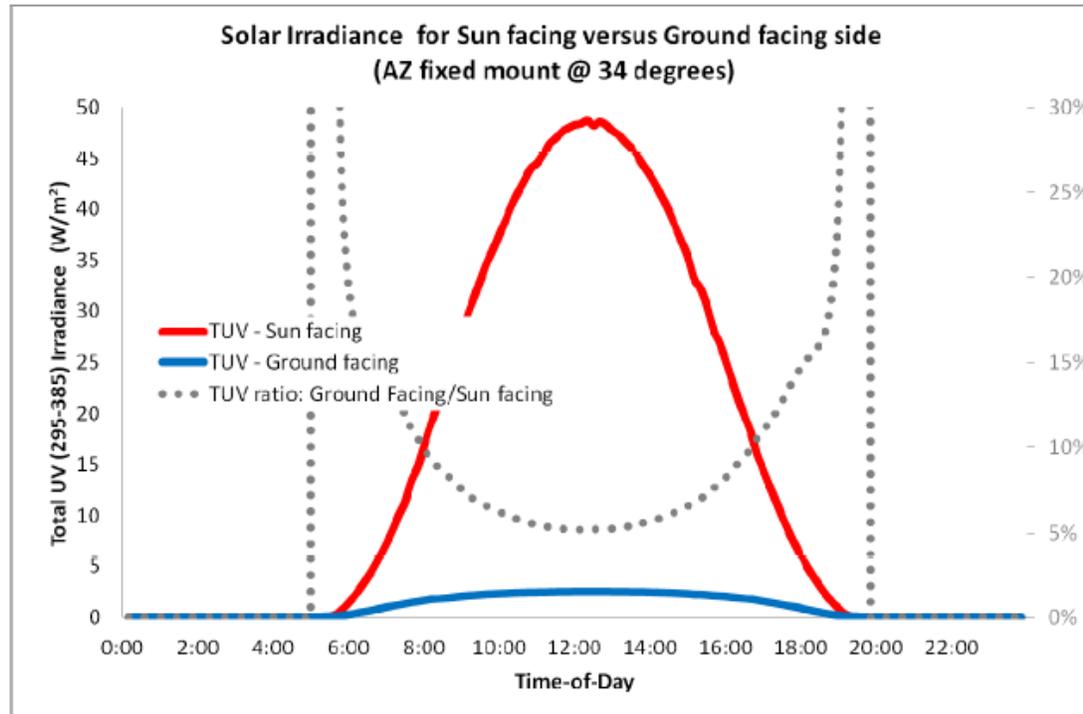


Annual Total Solar, TUV

			<i>front side</i>	
Location	Appl. Type	Max Irr @340 nm	AnnualTotal Solar (mod) (MJ/m2)	Annual TUV (MJ/m2)
Desert (Phoenix)	lat-rack	0.7	8612	347
Desert (Phoenix)	track		11948	538
Desert (Phoenix)	roof		7850	353
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	lat-rack	0.7	6848	322
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	track		9481	446
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	roof		6116	287
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Rack	0.69	6750	334
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Track		8711	415
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Roof		6475	334
TS data (modeled) from Medianorm 7.0				
%TUV not readily available for tracking; used 5° values				
Phoenix and Miami are 10 year average values				
Sarany data is from 2010,2013				

Backside versus Frontside Irradiance Levels

Sunlight varies – Frontside and Backside



2/27/2013

NREL 2013 PV Module Reliability Workshop
Burns & Scott

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BACKSIDE IRRADIANCE DATA:

- 3M, May 2011 at DSET:
 - TS backside as % of TS front side = ~10%
 - TUV backside as % of TUV front side = ~7%
- DuPont:
 - TUV backside as % of TUV front side = 12%
- Fraunhofer: %TUV varies between
 - 5% for 23° (south-oriented POA) and
 - 20% (vertical mounting) of the horizontal UV irradiation.

Miami, Phoenix, and Sanary Irradiance

			<i>front side</i>		Annual TUV Bkside MJ/m2 % Albedo =		
Location	Appl. Type	Max Irr @340 nm	AnnualTotal Solar (mod) (MJ/m2)	Annual TUV (MJ/m2)	5%	10%	20%
Desert (Phoenix)	lat-rack	0.7	8612	347	17	35	69
Desert (Phoenix)	track		11948	538	27	54	108
Desert (Phoenix)	roof		7850	353	18	0	0
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	lat-rack	0.7	6848	322	16	32	64
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	track		9481	446	22	45	89
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	roof		6116	287	14	0	0
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Rack	0.69	6750	334	17	33	67
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Track		8711	415	21	41	83
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Roof		6475	334	17	0	0

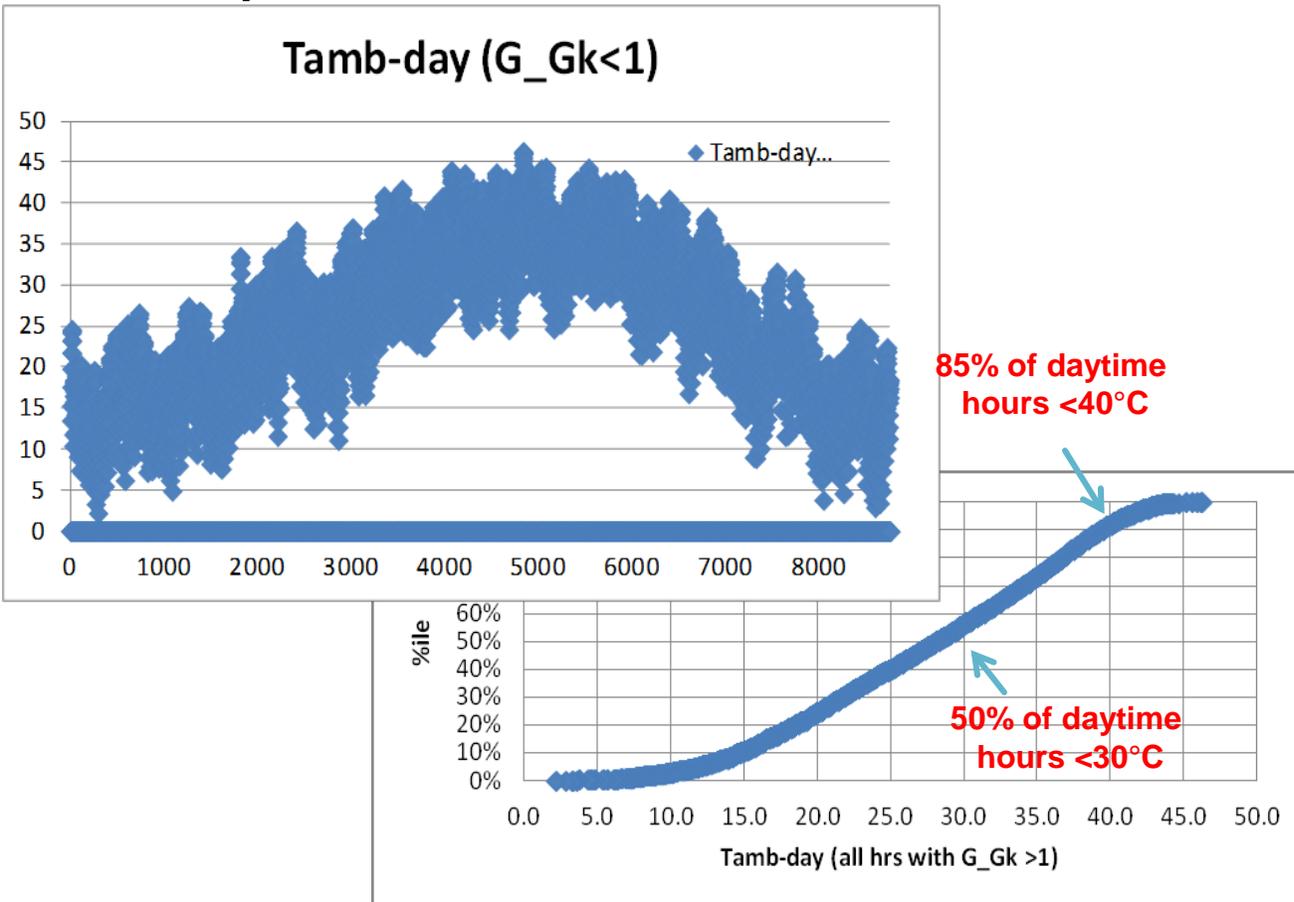
2. Temperature Data

Goal: Establish reference temperatures for each microclimate

- Looking for a temperature that will
 - Accelerate actual degradation mechanisms *As high as possible*
 - Limit mechanisms that do not occur *But not too high*

Phoenix Ambient Temperatures

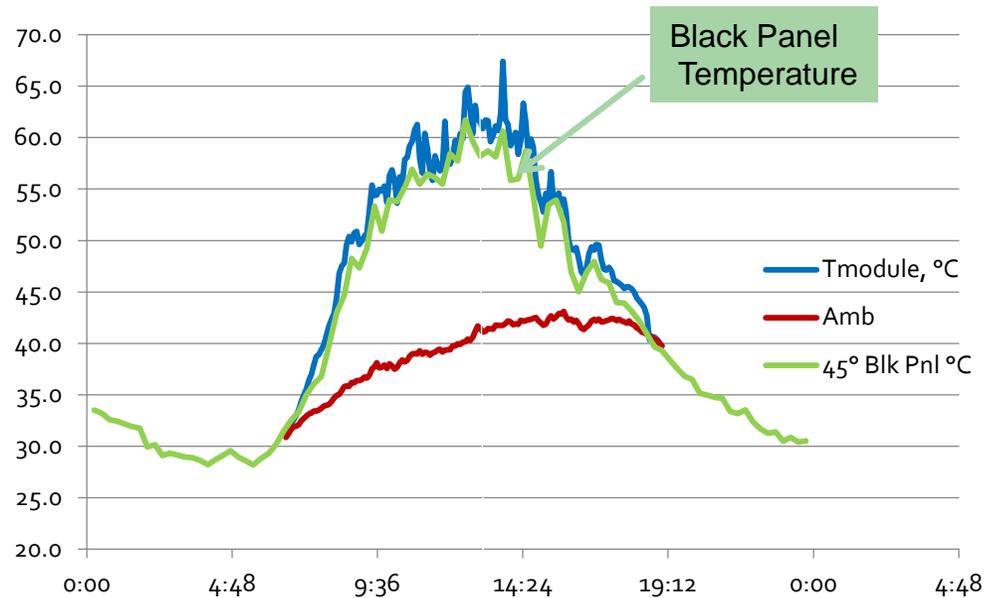
PHOENIX T(AMB) OVER 1 YEAR. DAILY, AND CUMULATIVE TMAX



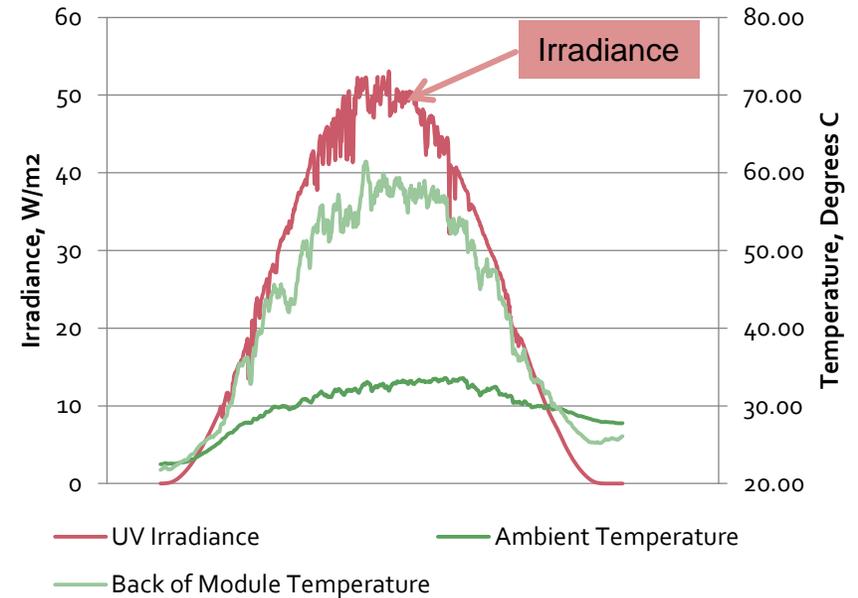
- For Translation to Accelerated Weathering Setpoint T:
 - **Philosophy: run at or near maximum conditions all the time**
- What is a maximum Temperature?
- Consider concept of “**Typical Max T**”
 - 85%ile T:
 - For Phoenix: **Typical Max T(amb) = 40°C**

Arizona and Florida Temperatures Ambient and Rack Mounted Modules

Phoenix, August 2013

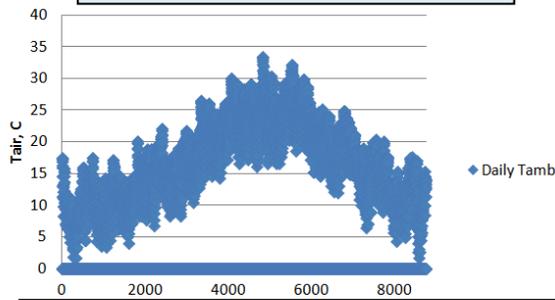


Cocoa Beach, August 2013

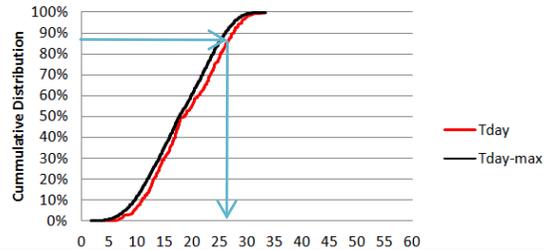


Ambient, Black Panel Temperature Data Phoenix, Sanary, Miami over 1 year: hourly, cumulative hours

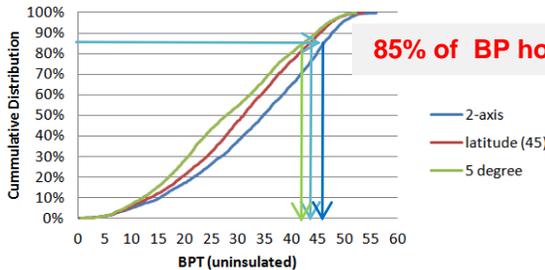
Sanary, France



Sanary, FR Daytime Ambient Air Temperature

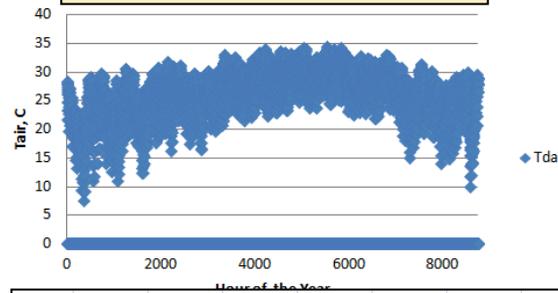


Sanary, FR Daytime Black Panel Temperature

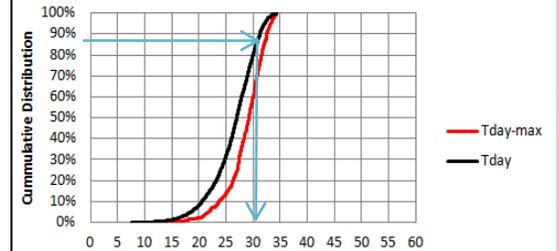


85% of BP hours <44°C

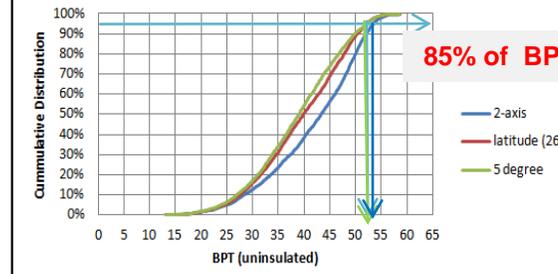
Miami, FL, USA



Miami Daytime Ambient Air Temperature

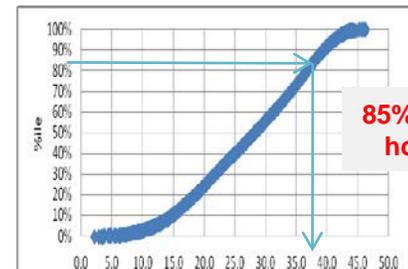
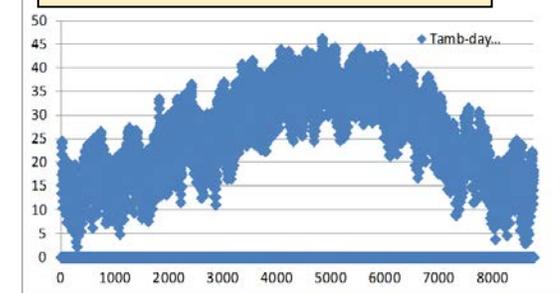


Miami Daytime Black Panel Temperature



85% of BP hours <49°C

Phoenix, AZ, USA



85% of daytime hours <40°C

85% of BP hours < 55°C

Phoenix Module Temperatures, Measured and Modeled

Temperature of Building Applied Photovoltaic BAPV Modules: Air Gap Effects (Tamizhmania et al)

Mani's paper	Roof		
T _{module} (max) obs.	92.73C		
Roof model, no wind	$T_m = 0.05(Irrad) + 0.64 \cdot T_{amb} + 15.82$		
	Ir	T _{amb}	Wind speed
	993.5	41.9	1.2
T _{module} (max))calc.	89.9		

Highest T_{mod}

Date	10/17/2009
Time	12:42
T _{amb} (°C)	41.9
Irradiance (W/m ²)	993.5
Wind Speed (m/s)	1.2
module T	92.7
ΔT	50.8

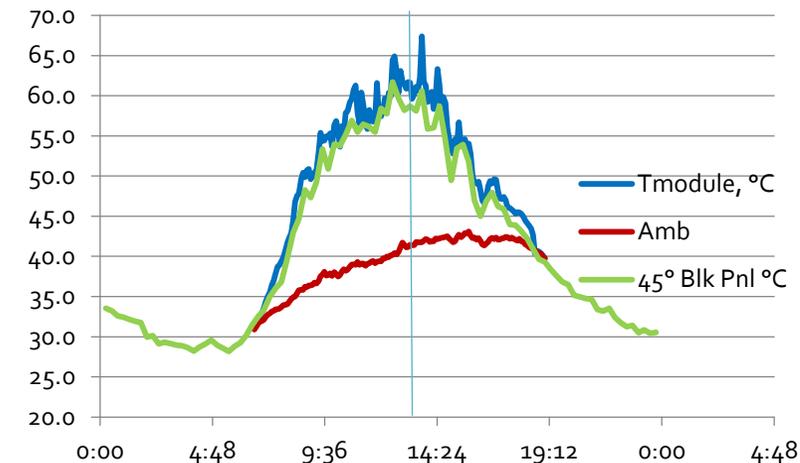
Phoenix
Calc T_{module} (max):

T_{module}, Roof: 90°C
T_{module}, Rack: 70°C
T_{module}, Track: 70°C

Evaluation of High Temperature Exposure of Rack Mounted Photovoltaic Modules (King Model)

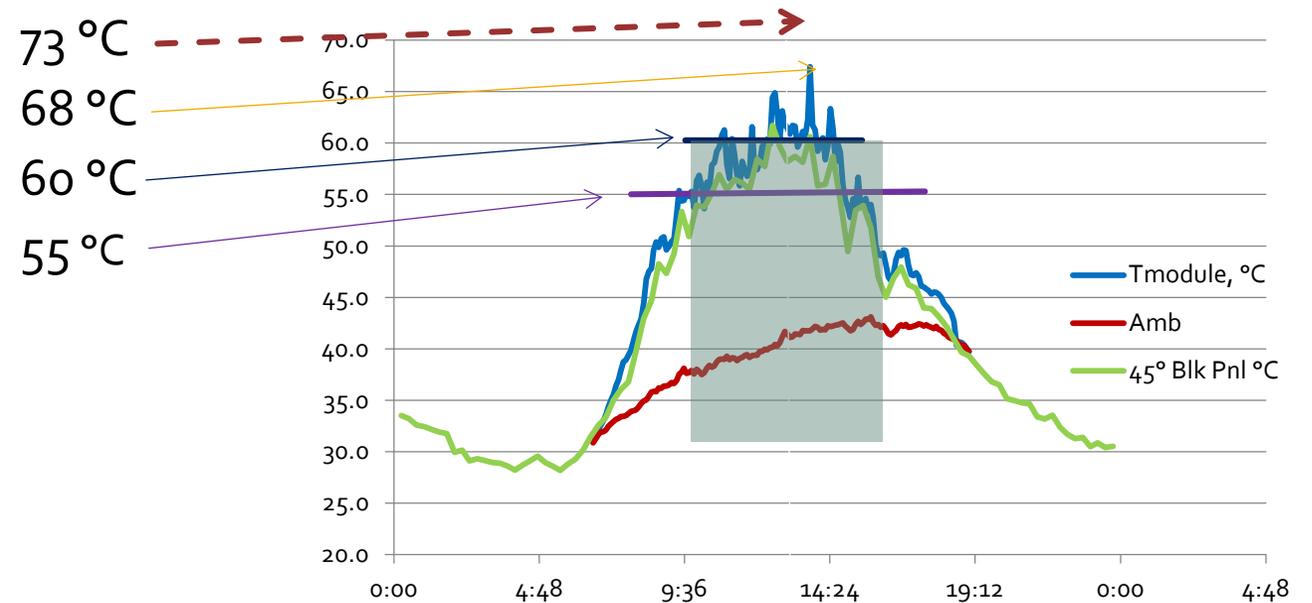
NREL 2009 paper, Max T _{mod} (location not specified)	Rack	T _{max} =75C	
	Roof	T _{max} =96C	
<i>T_{module}, using Mani's data:</i>			
Rack Model, $T_m = T_{amb} + Irr \cdot e^{(-3.473 - 0.0594 \cdot WS)}$			72.7
Roof Model, $T_m = T_{amb} + Irr \cdot e^{(-2.98 - 0.0471 \cdot WS)}$			89.6

3M Data, Phoenix, July 1, 2013



Phoenix Rack Mounted Modules: Logical Temperature Setpoint Options

- .
- NREL model, w Tamb (max)
- Actual Tmod (max)
- "Average" Tmod (max)
- "Typical Max" BPT (85th%)



“Logical” Temperature Descriptors:

BPT, and Calculated from “Typical Max Tamb”

- Rack Mounted:
 - A. Modeled T(amb) = “Typical Max”
 - B. 85th %ile BPT.

Rack Mount	lr	“Typical Max” Tamb	Tmodule (Calc w/Typ max T)	85th %ile BPT
Sanary	967	27	57.0	44
Phoenix	994	42	72.7	55
Miami	1050	33	65.6	49

$$\text{Rack Model, } T_m = T_{amb} + I_{rr} * e^{(-3.473 - 0.0594 * WS)}$$

- Roof Mounted:
 - Model with Typical Max

Roof Mount	lr	“Typical Max” Tamb	Tmodule (Calc w/Typ max)
Sanary	943	27	80.3
Phoenix	994	42	92.3
Miami	950	33	84.4

$$\text{Roof Model: } T_m = 0.05(I_{rrad}) + 0.64 * T_{amb} + 15.82$$

Microclimate descriptors: UV and T

			<i>front side</i>		Annual TUV Bkside MJ/m2 % Albedo =			
Location	Appl. Type	Max Irr @340 nm	AnnualTotal Solar (mod) (MJ/m2)	Annual TUV (MJ/m2)	5%	10%	20%	Module T (°c)
Desert (Phoenix)	lat-rack	0.7	8612	347	17	35	69	59-73
Desert (Phoenix)	track		11948	538	27	54	108	
Desert (Phoenix)	roof		7850	353	18	0	0	92
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	lat-rack	0.7	6848	322	16	32	64	44-57
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	track		9481	446	22	45	89	
Temperate (Sanary, FR)	roof		6116	287	14	0	0	80
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Rack	0.69	6750	334	17	33	67	49-66
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Track		8711	415	21	41	83	
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Roof		6475	334	17	0	0	84

3. Humidity Data

Goal: Establish humidity references for each microclimate

Relative Humidity: Some typical days

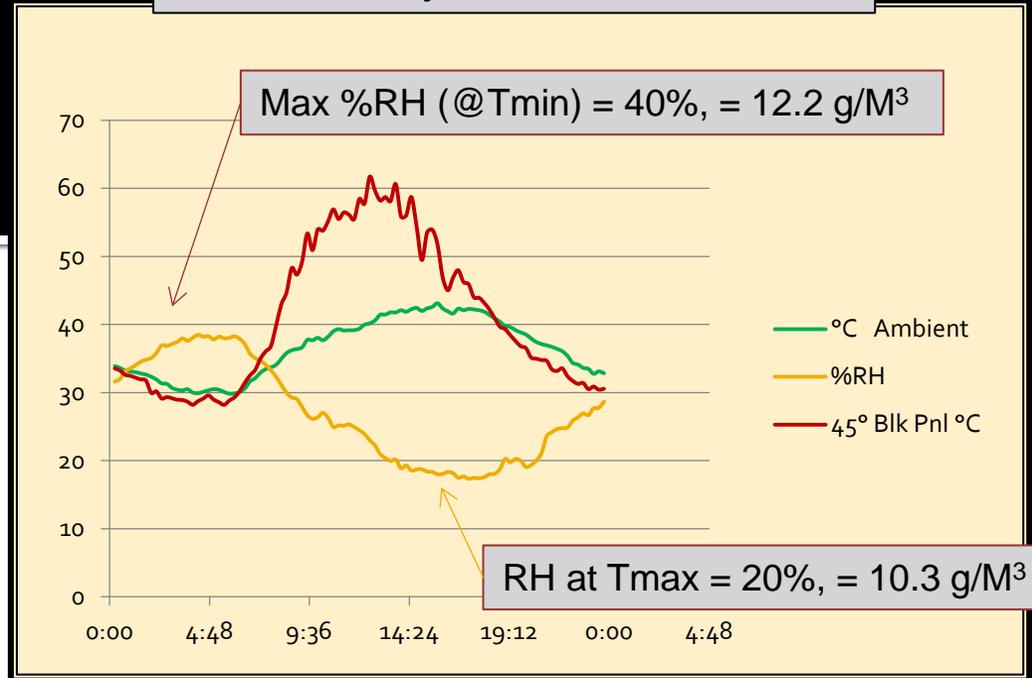
Using Moisture Content to understand microclimate humidity

Arizona			
T	RH	g/M3	RH (est)
30	40	12.2	
40	20	10.3	
70		11	5.5
90		11	2.6

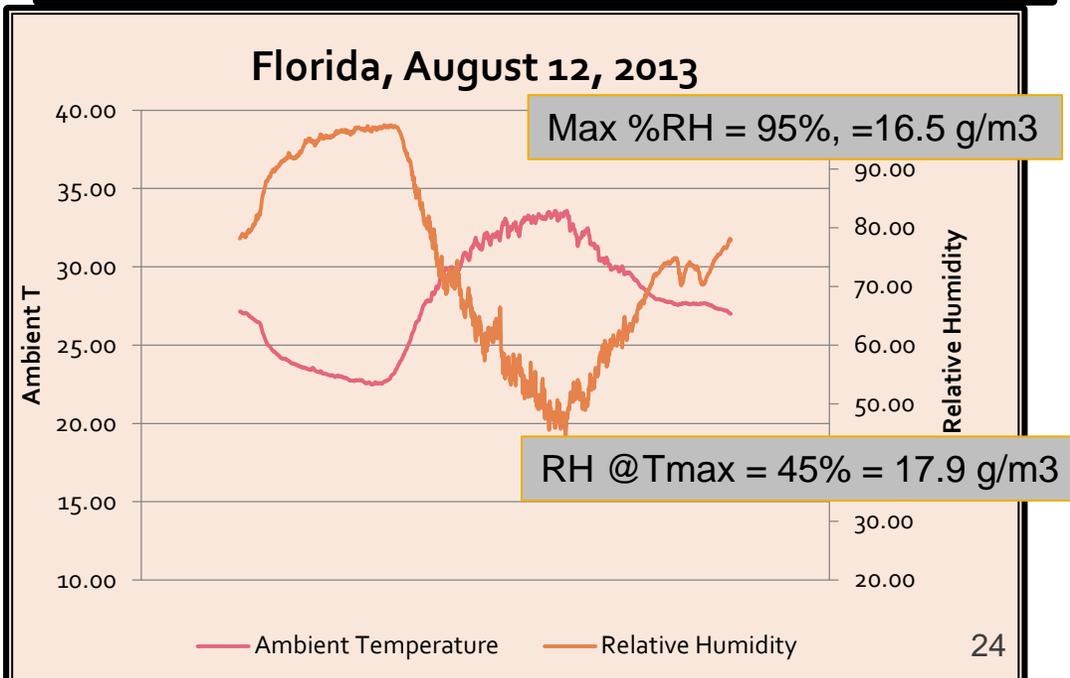
Miami			
T	RH	g/M3	RH (est)
22	95	16.5	
35	45	17.9	
70		17	8.6
90		17	4.1

Ref: Absolute Humidity at 85/85 = 299 g/M3

Arizona, July 2013



Florida, August 12, 2013



Microclimate Descriptors: UV, T, Humidity

Location	Appl. Type	Max Irr @340 nm	front side		Annual TUV Bkside MJ/m2 % Albedo =			Module T (°C)	Abs. Hum. (g/M ³)
			Annual Total Solar (mod) (MJ/m2)	Annual TUV (MJ/m2)	5%	10%	20%		
Desert (Phoenix)	lat-rack	0.7	8612	347	17	35	69	59-73	11
Desert (Phoenix)	track		11948	538	27	54	108		
Desert (Phoenix)	roof		7850	353	18	0	0	92	
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Hot/Wet (Miami)	Rack	0.69	6750	334	17	33	67	49-66	17
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Track		8711	415	21	41	83		
Hot/Wet (Miami)	Roof		6475	334	17	0	0	84	

Part II. Translation into artificial weathering set points

A simple task...

From "*Handbook of Material Weathering, 4th Ed*", Wypych:

- Many scientists have been seeking the Ultimate Enlightenment, the meaning of life, the elixir of youth, the missing link, or the perfect unified field theory.
- On a more mundane level, the weathering researcher is seeking the instant weathering predictor.
- With this amazing device, the investigator would place a sample in the machine, switch on, and come back next day to:
 - a) find out how long the final product will last, having been stressed in every possible way, in every part of the world, under the sea, on mountain top, in the desert, in polluted cities, in space, in the tropics, in the arctic, in thunderstorms, in hurricanes, and in all seasons.
 - b) The machine tells you how the product will fail, and
 - c) how to fix it.

Qualification Plus (Backsheet Section)

US members of IEC Backsheet / Weathering Group, Plus

- Kurt Scott - Atlas
- Sean Fowler – Q-Lab
- Nancy Phillips – 3M
- Bill Gambogi – DuPont
- Tom Earnest – DuPont
- Jim Bratcher – Honeywell
- Greg O'Brien – Arkema
- Mike Kempe – NREL
- John Wohlgemuth – NREL
- Sarah Kurtz - NREL

Accelerated Weathering Testing

For Product Development:

A. Screening Tests

- Highly Accelerated Tests
- No materials understanding used
- False positives/negatives tolerated

B. Material Specific Testing

- Shift from Highly Accelerated Tests
- To Thoughtfully Accelerated Tests
 - Ser vice life perspective
 - Philosophy: understand failure modes, run at maximum conditions where the same failure modes are observed as in the field

For Standards:

C. "Agnostic Testing"

- Materials Independent
- Gives some confidence that a new product will work during its service life
- Example: encapsulants
 - EVA, polyolefins, silicones, new ideas
 - Anything that will work in the field should pass the test
- Philosophy: run at or near typical maximum values observed in the application
 - Rule of thumb: limit acceleration to 10X
 - 25 years → 2.5 years!
 - Delta testing: Up to 10x: look for change, as opposed to a failure
 - Accelerating >10x, expect errors; may see failures that don't occur in real world

Arriving at a steady state artificial weathering exposure recommendation...

1. **Define the target climate**
 - a) **Start with an easy climate** (Sanary used as benchmark)
 - b) **Start with an aggressive climate** (Phoenix)
2. **Be mindful of “acceleration factors”** (more than 10X risks faulty conclusions)
 - **Temperature:**
 - Acceleration is dependent on activation energies; for $T_{ave} = 29^{\circ}\text{C}$
 - 70°C : 10X – 100X, 90°C : 20X – 1000X
3. **Utilize “Typical Max” values for Irr. and T settings, double Abs. Humidity**
4. **Time: Constrain exposure time to < 6 month (= 4000 h exposure)**
5. **Established Standards: use as reference**
 - **ASTM D7869: Max Setpoint: 0.8 W/m²/nm, ChT 50°C, BPT 70°C, 50%RH, 4200 h**
6. **User capability:**
 - **Settings must be within capabilities of “Relatively Common” weathering machines**
 - **Minimize the number of machine set points needed**

Backside 25 year doses

Phoenix, Latitude Mount annual irradiance (347 MJ,					
		dosage (kJ)	hours to dose at Xe (340/DF)		
% Albedo	25 yr TUV (MJ/m ²)	340 equivalent (MJ)	0.35	0.55	0.8
10	868	12.1	9641	6135	4218
12	1041	14.6	11567	7361	5060
20	1735	24.3	19278	12268	8434
			dosage (kJ)= W/m ² *3.6*hours		
			hours=dosage/(3.6*W/m ²)		
				Test done in 6mths	

QUESTION: Which, or how many, microclimate targets?

- **Option 1: an “easy” climate** (Sanary - Mediterranean)
- **Option 2: must work in all climates**
- **Option 3: what’s reasonable to do in 6 months?**
- **Option 4: differentiate, for example:**
 - Arizona Roof: high T, no backside UV
 - Arizona Rack: high backside UV, lower T

Qualification Plus: Backsheet Weathering Recommendations

Machine Setpoints

■ Frontside

- Xe(340) 0.8 W/m²/nm/ 50C ChT, 50%RH, 70C BPT.
- Exposure time: max out at 6 months real time = 4000 h

■ Backside

- Xe(340) 0.8 W/m²/nm/ 50C ChT, 50%RH, 70C BPT.
- Exposure time: aiming for 25 years dosage, = 4000 h
 - UV Dosage ~ 25 years, Arizona, 10% Albedo

Weathering Samples

OPTIONS:

1. **Coupon #1:** A “matched component “ coupon (Glass/Encapsulant/Encapsulant/Backsheet)
 - Who’s choosing the materials?
 - selected by the component supplier for data sheets
 - Selected by the module manufacturer for qualification
 - Test data includes:
 - encapsulant name and UV transmittivity.
 - Evaluation tests on next page
2. **Coupon #2:** G/E/E/TRL/BS
3. **1 cell mini-module**
4. **Backsheet only** (not under consideration, except as in coupon #2)

Evaluation tests:

Green: we're in agreement
Red: we're not in agreement
Yellow: mixed:

- A. Coupon #1: Glass/E/E/BS Coupon tests (2 different samples front side exposure, backside exposure)
 - visual inspection for cracking (front side and backside?)
- B. Coupon #2: Glass/e/e/trl/bs (2 different samples frontside and backside exposure)
 - yellowing
 - T&E,
 - Pass fail criteria options:
 - 70% retention of initial values? Or, minimum value – how to correlate with the actual stresses in a module
- C. Mini-module tests
 - 1 cell mini module
 - Wet hi-pot
 - Visual
- ~~D. Backsheet only~~
 - Options to offer to reviewers
 - A
 - A&B
 - A,B,D
 - C
 - A&B OR just C

