Abstract Submitted
for the MAR10 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Structural signal of a dynamic glass transition\textsuperscript{1} SUDESHNA CHATTOPADHYAY (BANDYOPADHYAY), AHMET UYSAL, BENJAMIN STRIPE, GUENNADI EVMENENKO, PULAK DUTTA, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Northwestern University, STEVEN EHRLICH, Brookhaven National Laboratory, EVGUVENIA A. KARAPETROVA, Argonne National Laboratory — Conventional wisdom states that there is no significant difference between the static structures of the glass and liquid states of a given material. Using x-ray reflectivity, we have studied pentaphenyl trimethyl trisiloxane, an isotropic liquid at room temperature with a dynamic glass transition at 224K. Surface density oscillations (surface layers) develop below 285K, similar to those seen in other metallic and dielectric liquids and in computer simulations \cite{1}. Upon cooling further, there is a sharp increase in the penetration of the surface layers into the bulk material, i.e. an apparently discontinuous change in the static structure, exactly at the glass transition (224K) \cite{2}.

\cite{1}. e.g. O. M. Magnussen et al., PRL 74, 4444 (1995); H. Mo et al. PRL 96, 096107 (2006); E. Chac'on et al., PRL 87, 166101 (2001)
\cite{2} S. Chattopadhyay et al, PRL 103, 175701 (2009)

\textsuperscript{1}Supported by NSF grant no. DMR-0705137.