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Pathways to forming glass¹

DAVID CHANDLER, University of California, Berkeley

Upon supercooling at a finite rate, many liquids transform to glass. It is a non-equilibrium transition that depends upon both the material and the cooling protocols. We have used methods of transition path sampling to study this phenomenon in models of glass forming liquids. For the models considered, we establish the order of the transition and the nature of excitations that distinguish a melt from a glass.

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