Stable glasses from strong liquids

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To date, only several materials have been observed to form ultra-stable glasses by vapor deposition. Some authors have suggested that fragility might be a controlling factor in the ability to form stable glasses by vapor deposition, with highly stable glasses only being possible for highly fragile liquids. Glasses of ethylcyclohexane, fragility index 56.5, and 1-pentene, a very small molecule, produced by physical vapor deposition have been characterized by in situ AC chip nanocalorimetry. Since the fragility index of 1-pentene was not available, it was determined as 52 from the calorimetric glass transition temperatures measured in the frequency range from 0.2 Hz to 4 kHz. Ethylcyclohexane and 1-pentene are both strong glass formers, for which possibility of stable glass formation has been questioned. On the contrary, we observed formation of highly stable glasses of ethylcyclohexane and 1-pentene. The results on ethylcyclohexane and 1-pentene will be presented and compared with literature data of other known glass formers.

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