

# Liquefied Wood as an Adhesive

*Milan Šernek, Associate professor*

*and*

*Aleš Ugovšek, Graduate student*

Department of Wood Science and Technology  
Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, SLOVENIA



# INTRODUCTION

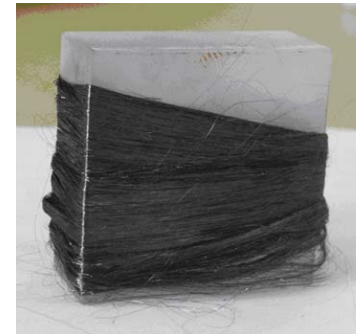
# LIQUEFIED WOOD

- Product of thermochemical reaction
- **Wood particles**
- **Solvent/reagent** (polyhydric alcohols, phenol, ionic liquids, cyclic carbonates, dibasic esters)
- **Catalyst** (acid, base)



# APPLICATION OF LIQUEFIED WOOD

- Polyurethane foams
- Phenolic resins
- Carbon fibers
- Coatings



Ash cup



Oil filler cap (prototype)



Delivery pipe insulator (prototype)

- Adhesives



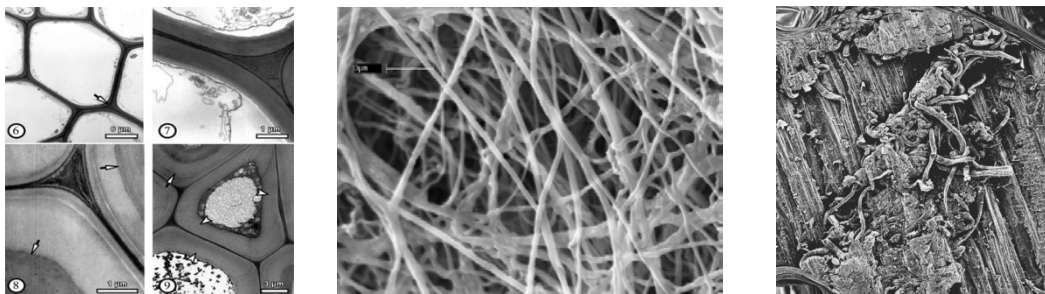
# ADHESIVES & LIQUEFIED WOOD

- Combination with synthetic adhesives (UF, MUF, PF)
- Synthesis of polymers (epoxy, polyurethane, polyesters)
- Independent component

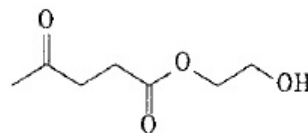
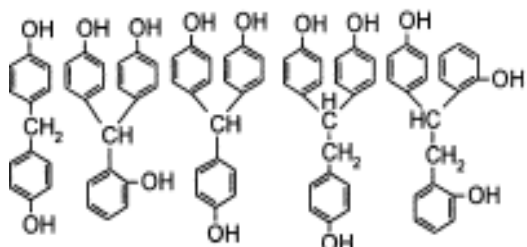


# PROCESS OF WOOD LIQUEFACTION

## 1. Degradation of basic wood components



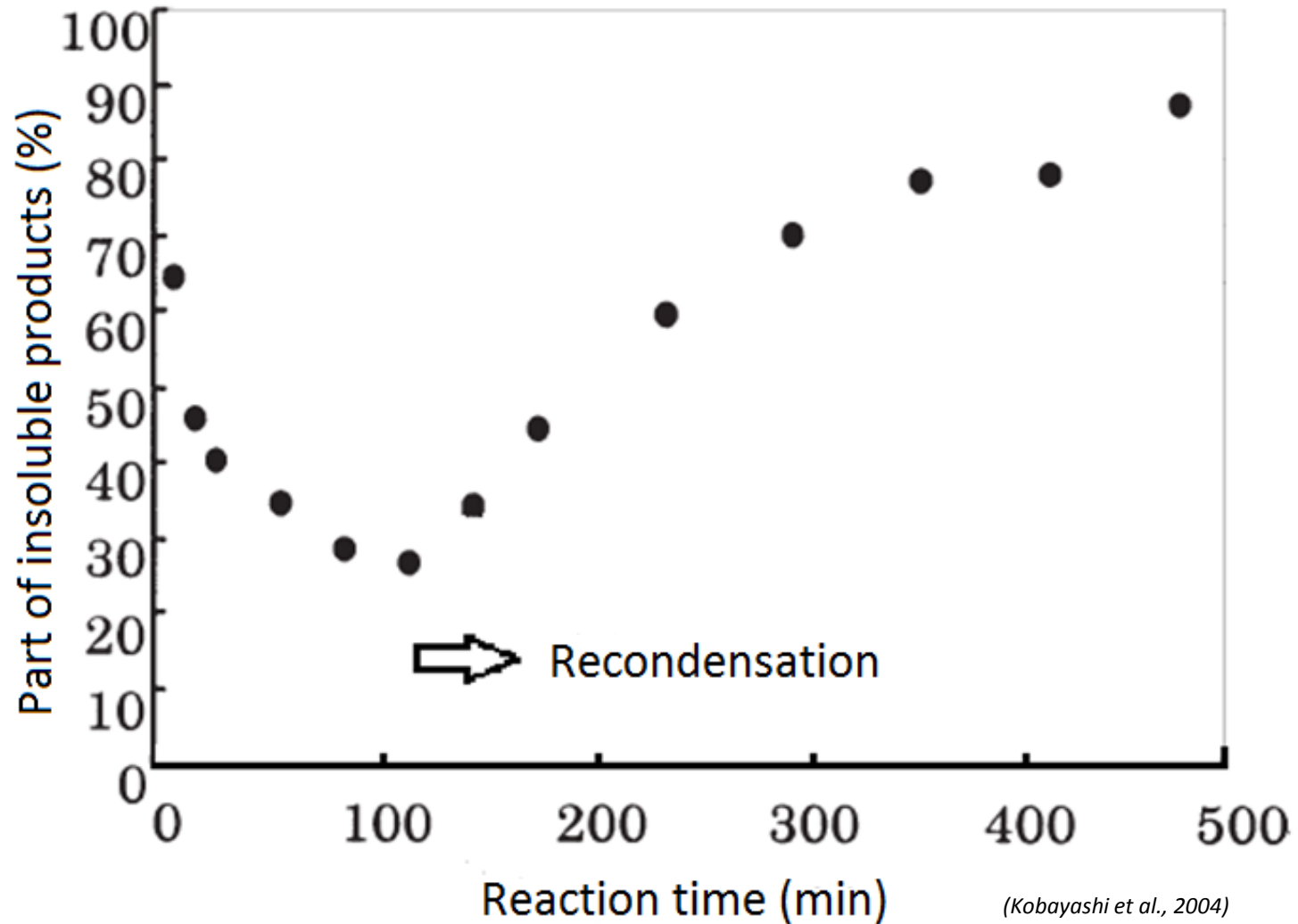
## 2. Phase of “intermediates” formation



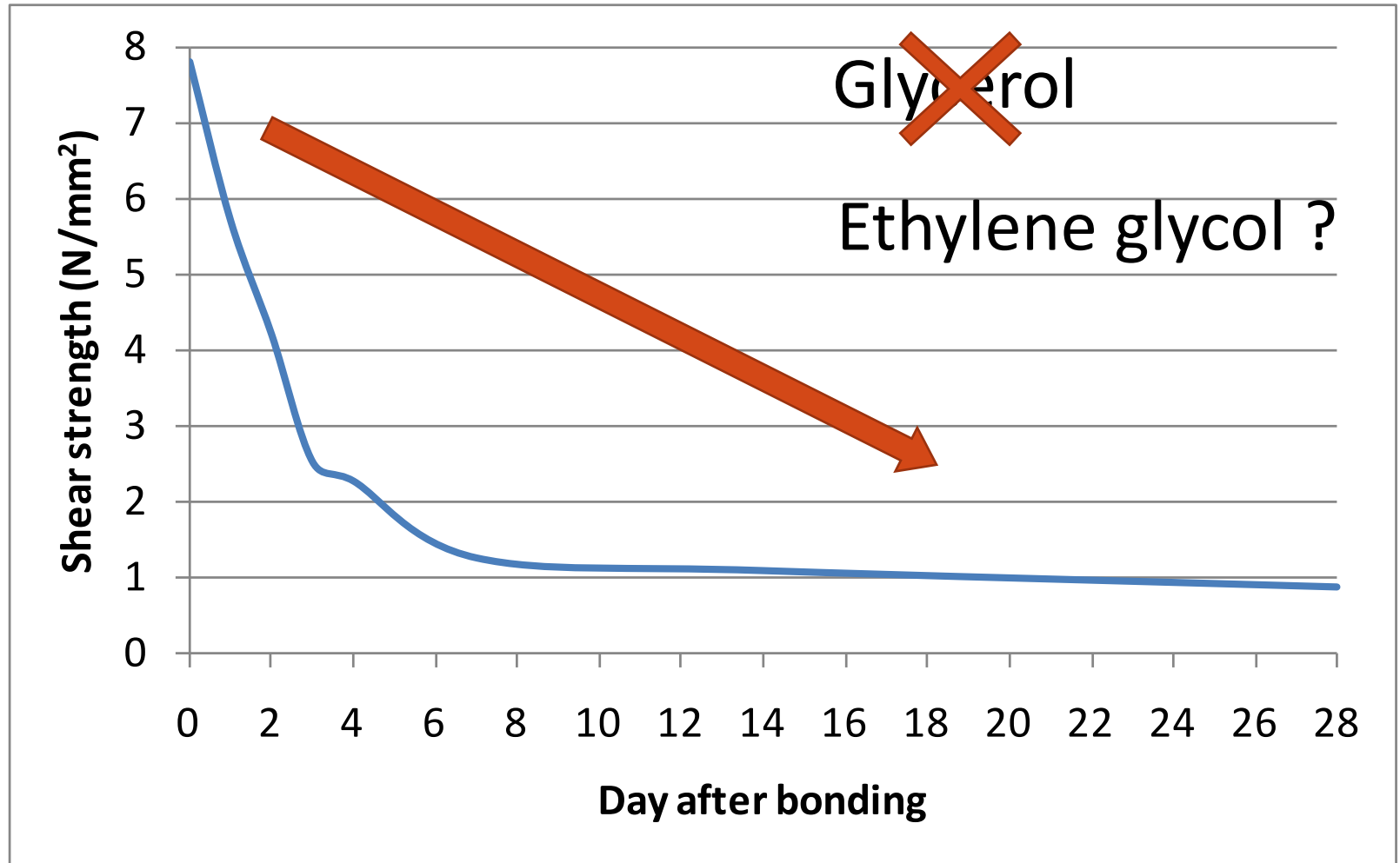
## 3. Recondensation



# PROCESS OF WOOD LIQUEFACTION



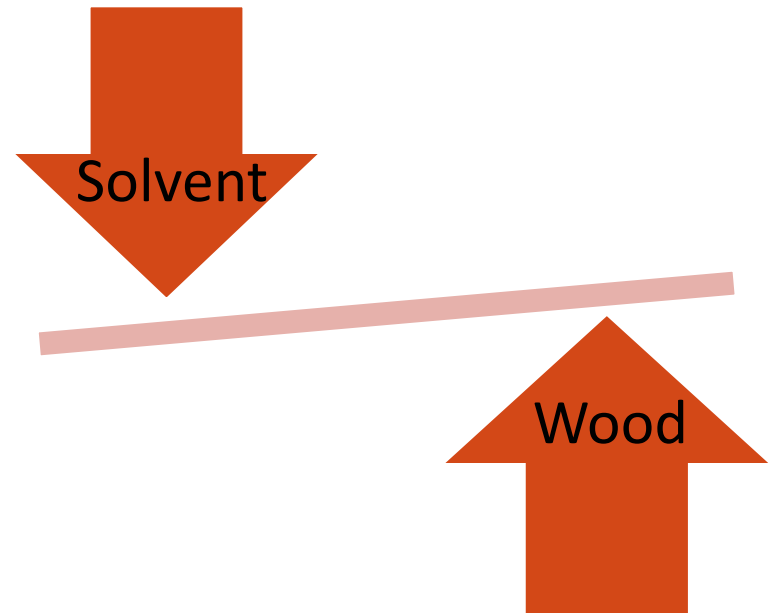
# PROBLEMS SO FAR...





# PROBLEMS SO FAR...

- Wood/solvent ratio: **1/3**



- Wood/solvent ratio: **1/1**

# MATERIAL AND METHODS

# WOOD LIQUEFACTION

BLACK POPLAR (1 part), ETHYLENE GLYCOL (3 parts),  
SULPHURIC ACID (3 % on EG mass)

liquefaction  
(180 °C, 120 min)

LIQUEFIED WOOD 1:3 (non-filtered)

filtration and evaporation of 1,4-dioxane  
(55 °C, reduced pressure)

LIQUEFIED WOOD 1:3 (filtered)

evaporation of EG  
(120 °C, reduced pressure)

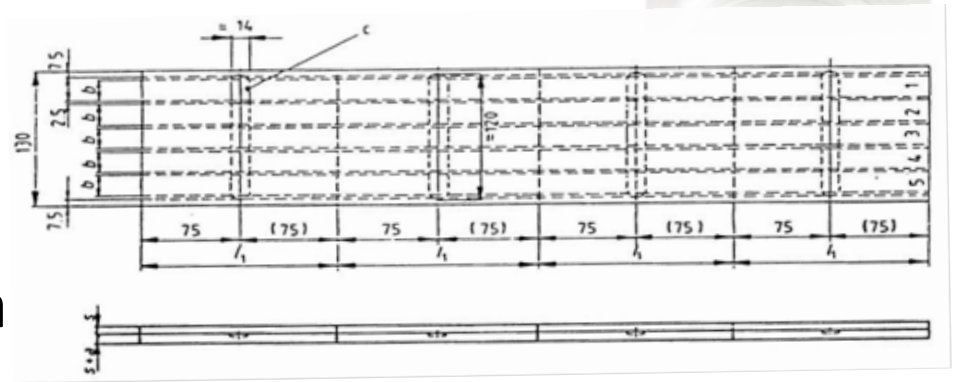
LIQUEFIED WOOD 1:1



# WOOD BONDING



- Standard EN 12765:
  - beech 2 x 5 mm
- LW, 200 g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Specific pressure: 0,6 MPa

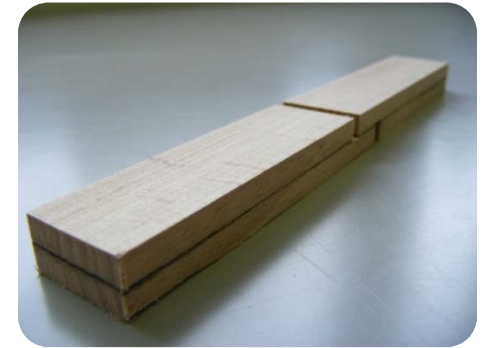


- Different temperatures (15 min)  
**120, 150, 180, 200 and 220 °C**
- Different press times (180 °C)  
**6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 minutes**



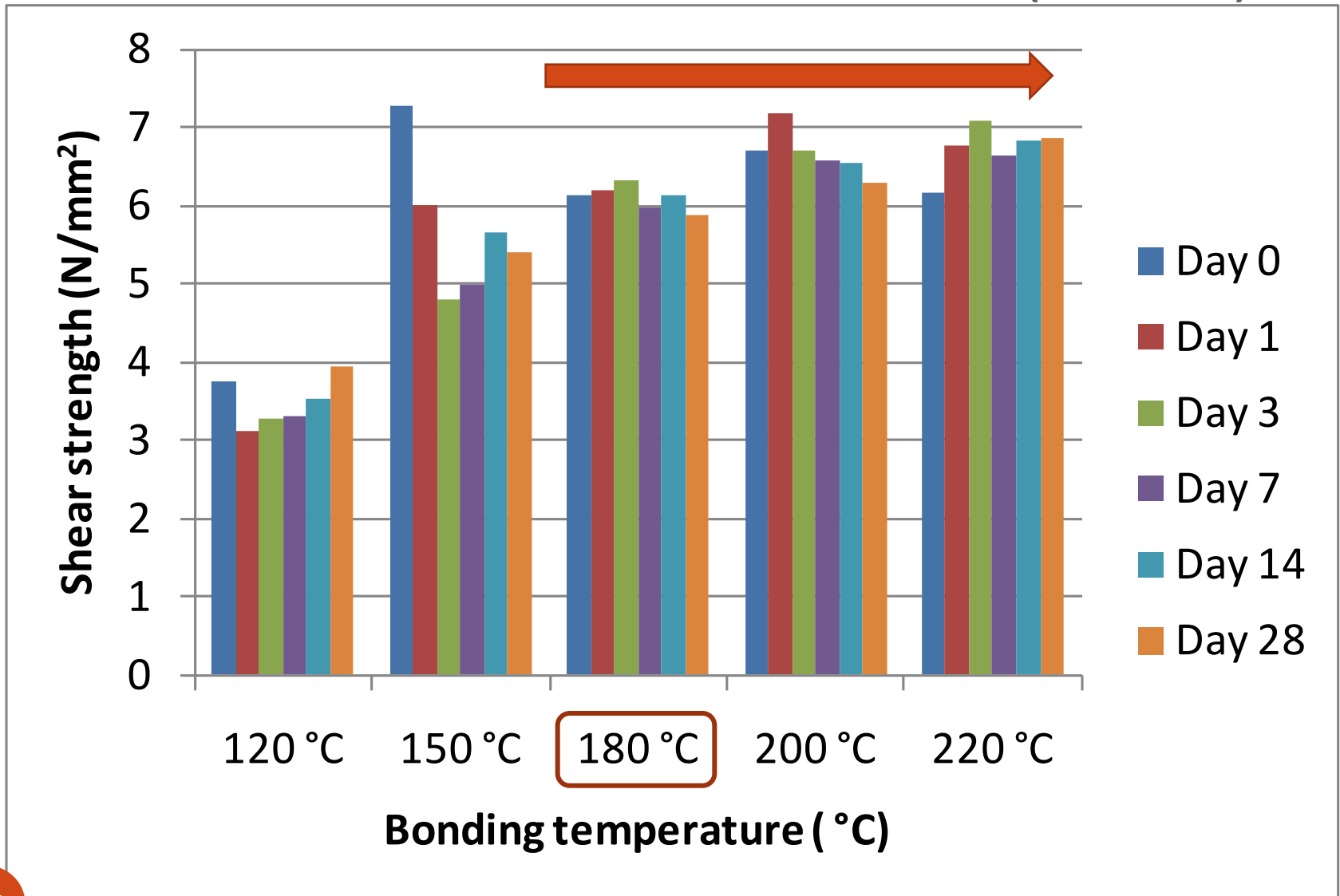
# SPECIMEN TESTING

- **0, 1, 3, 7, 14 and 28 days after bonding**
- Average shear strength of 10 specimens
- Standard: EN 205

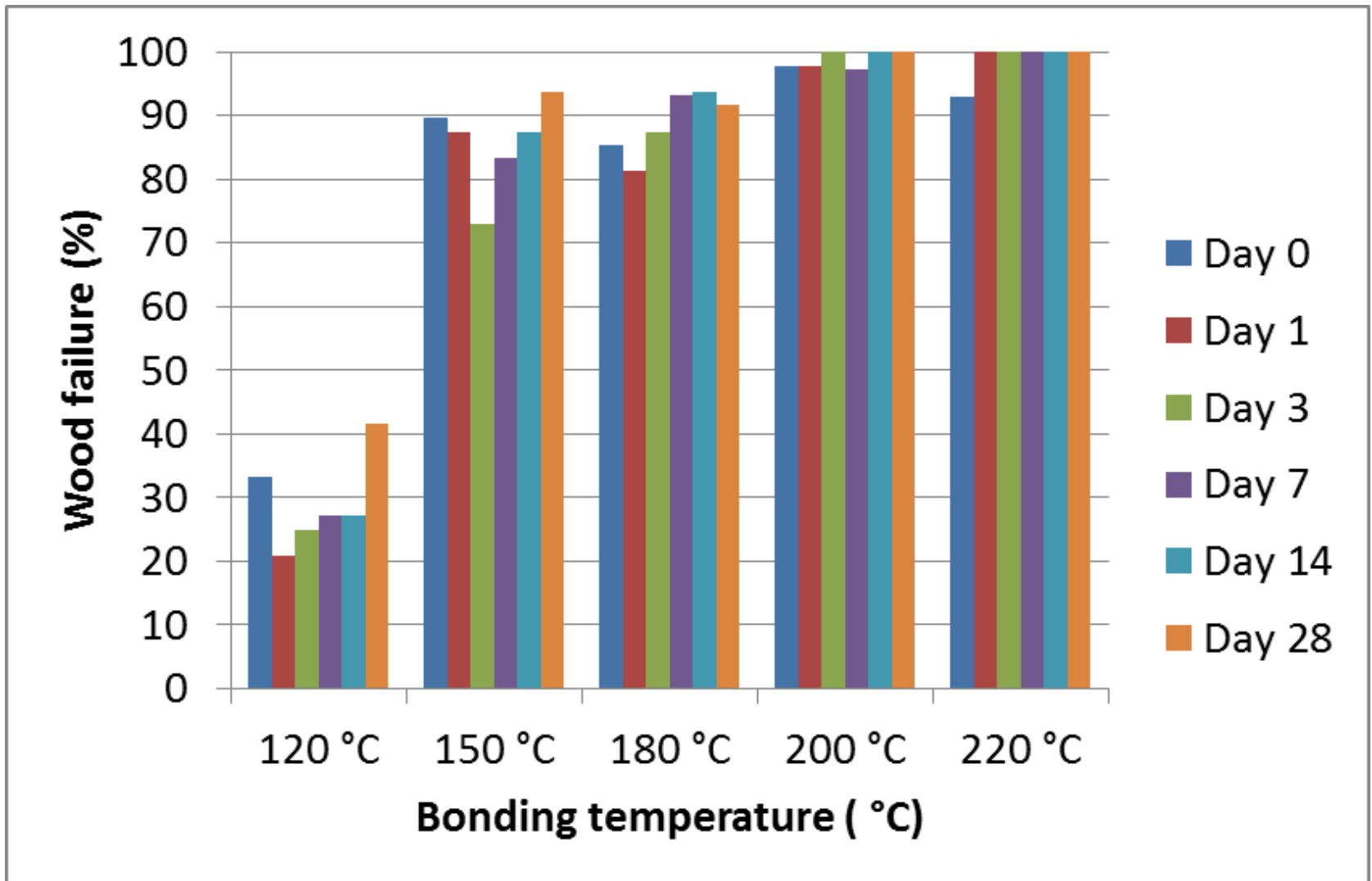


# RESULTS

# INFLUENCE OF PRESS TEMPERATURE (15 min)

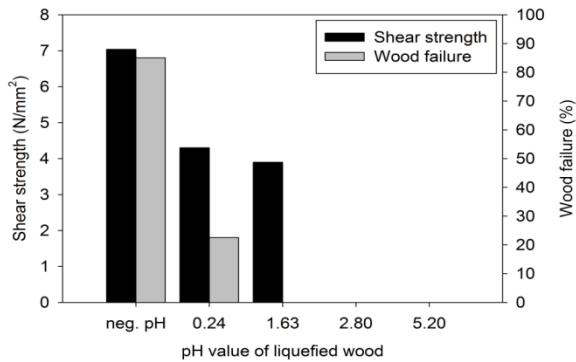
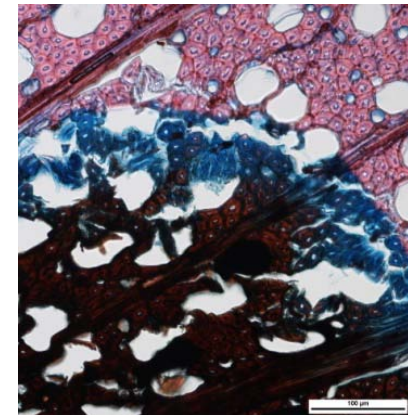
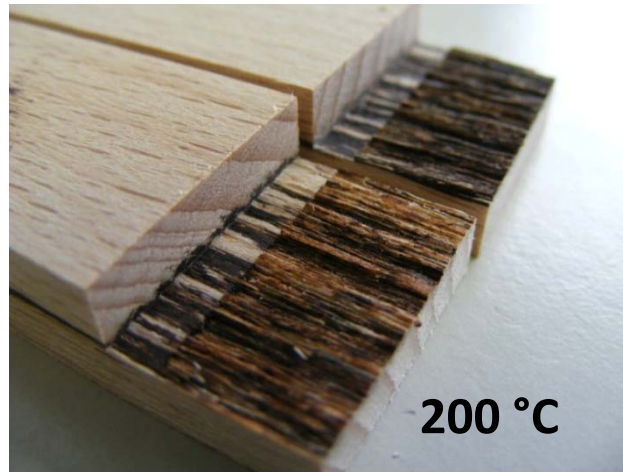
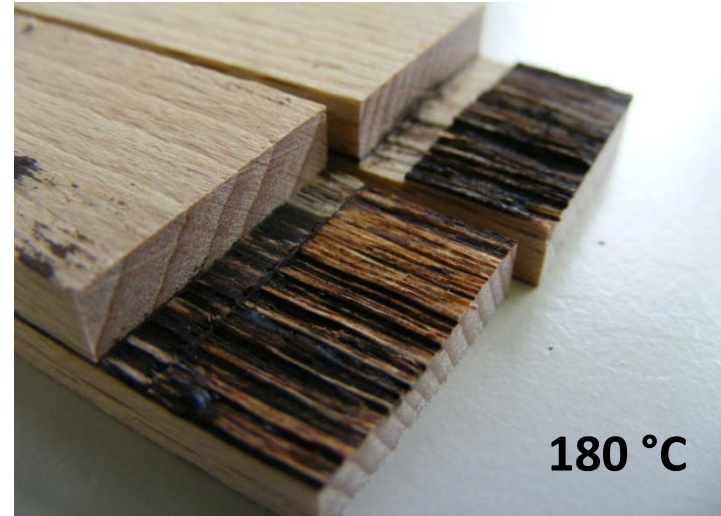
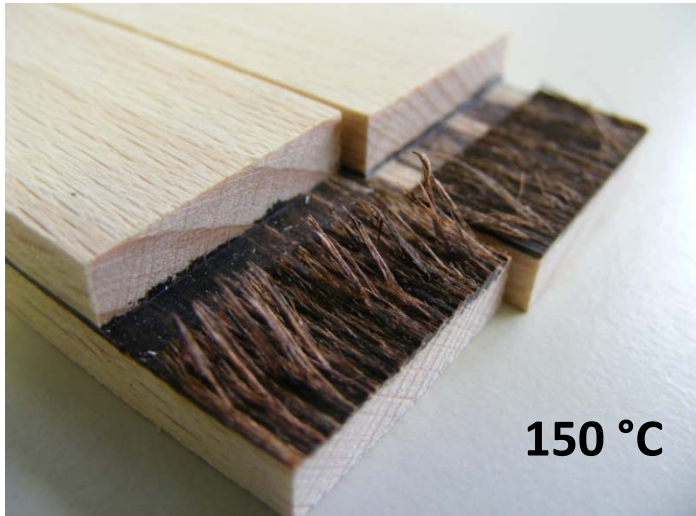


# INFLUENCE OF PRESS TEMPERATURE (15 min)

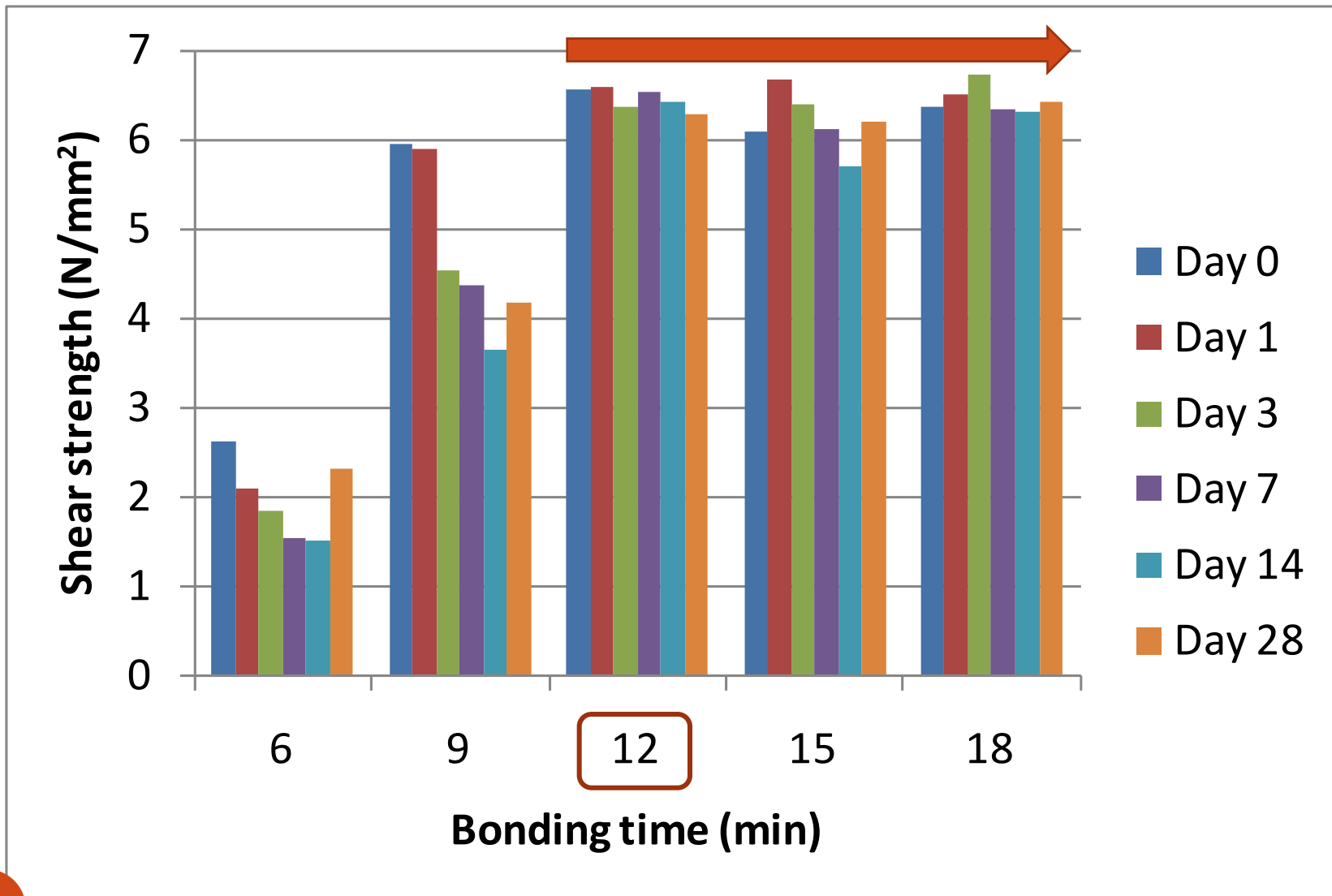




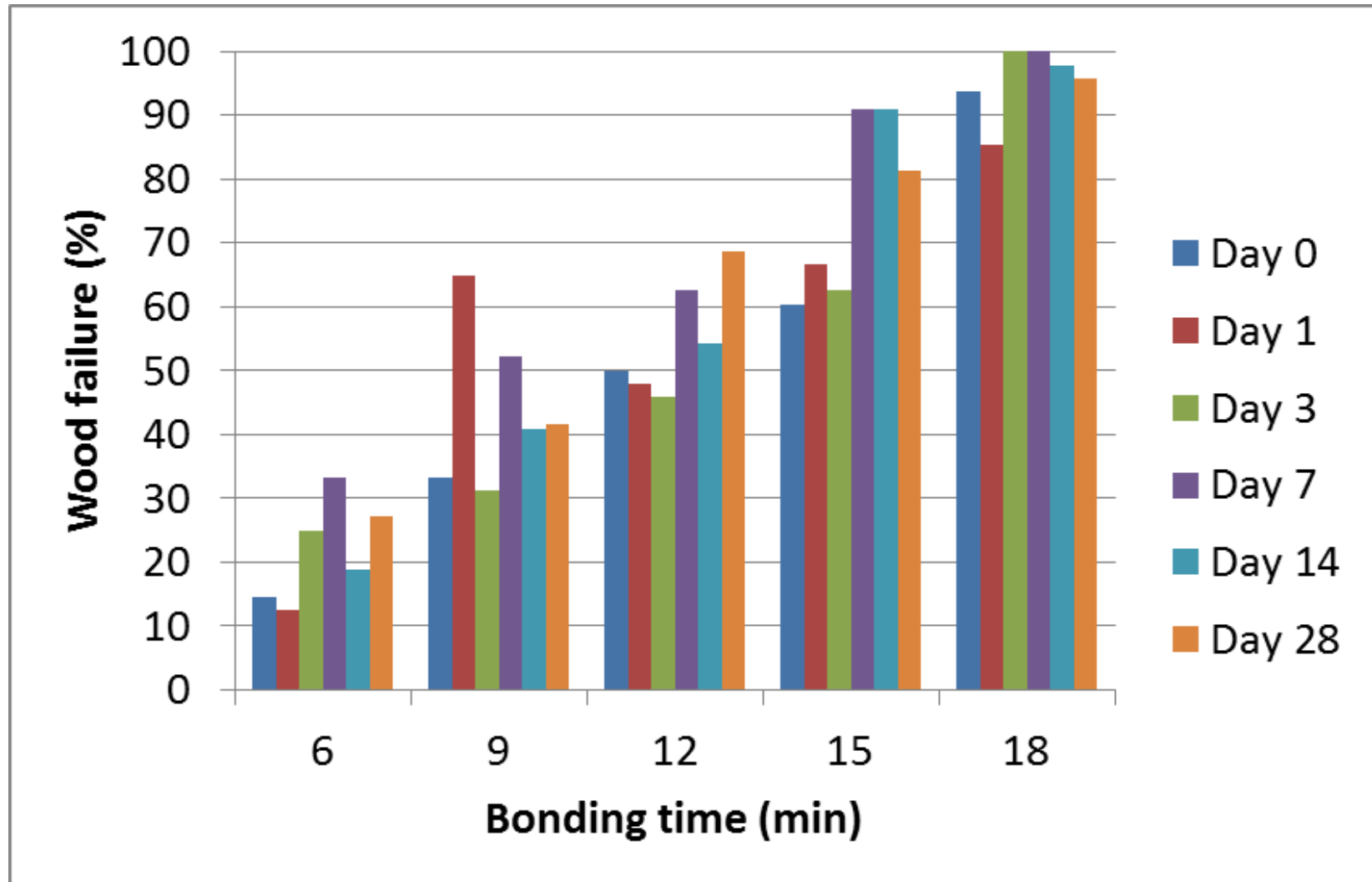
# WOOD FAILURE AND SURFACE DAMAGE



# INFLUENCE OF PRESS TIME (180 °C)



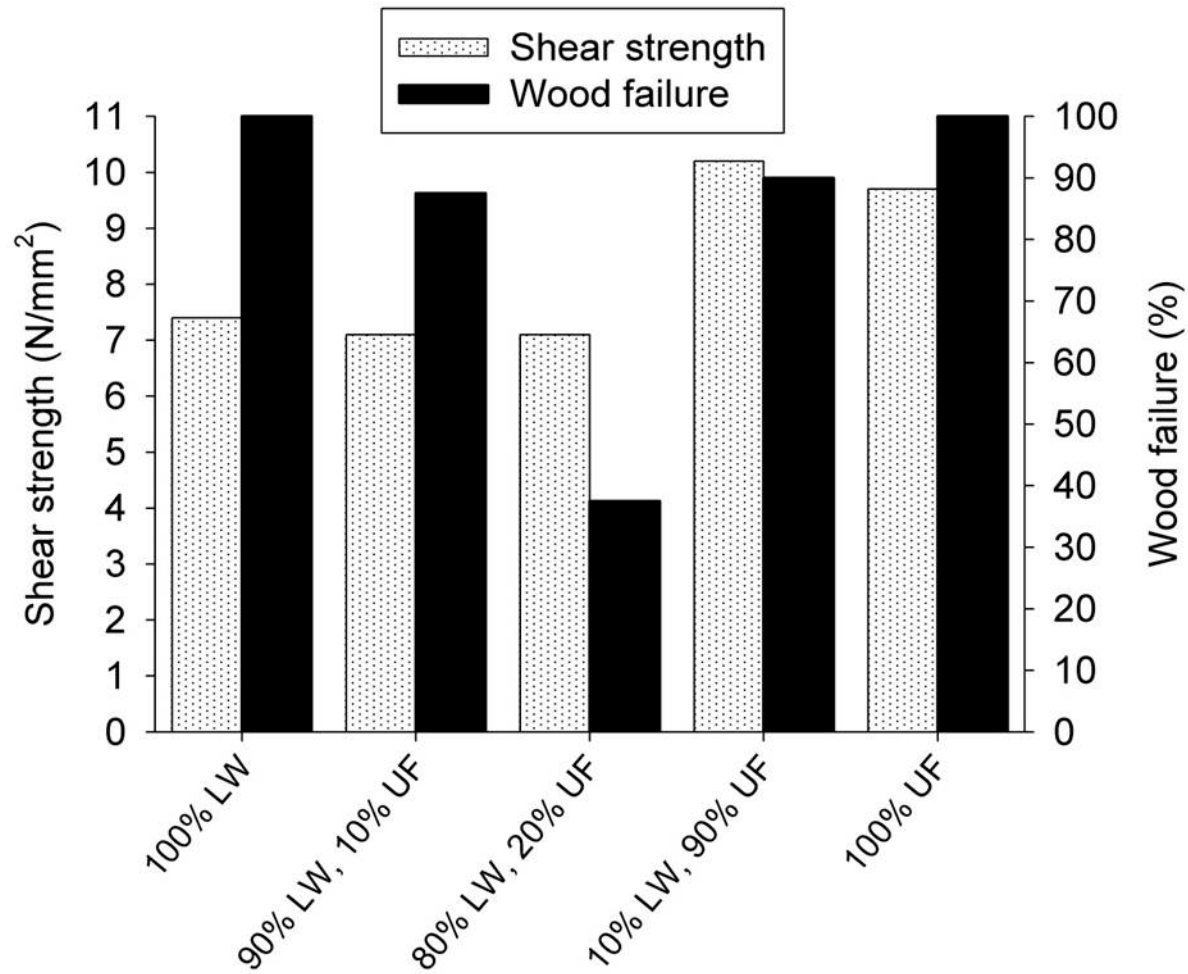
# INFLUENCE OF PRESS TIME (180 °C)



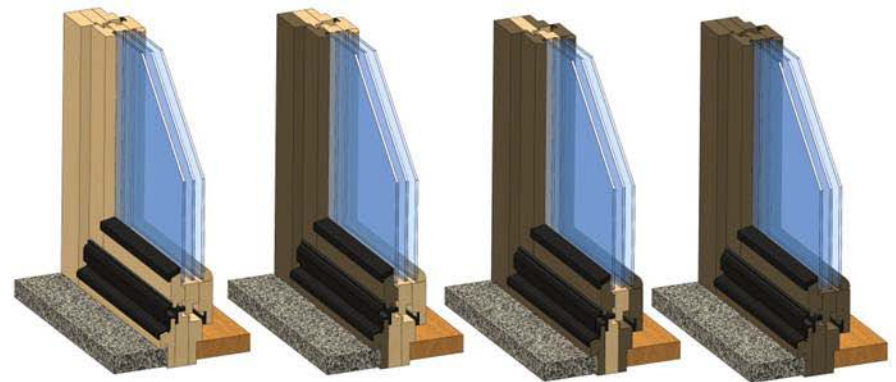
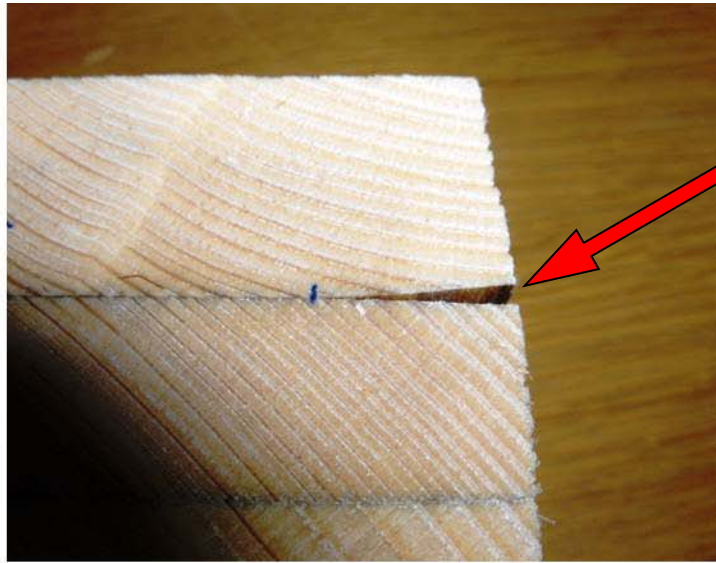
# CONCLUSIONS

- Press temperature of **180 °C** and press time of **12 minutes** are suitable for bonding wood with liquefied wood (EG:WOOD = 1:1).
- Shear strength values **did not attain standard requirements**, but did not decrease during exposure to standard climate.
- **High wood failure** despite relatively low shear strength values (**6-7 N/mm<sup>2</sup>**).

# LW + UF (180°C, 15 min)







## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The authors acknowledge the financial support of the Slovenian Research Agency through the Project J4-2177 and Research Program P4-0015.





Thank you!  
Hvala!