



Thermophysical Properties of Sodium Acetate Trihydrate Composites as Heat Storage Material

Dannemand, Mark; Lazaro, Ana; Delgado, Monica; Peñalosa, Conchita; Peñalosa, Conchita; Trinderup, Camilla Himmelstrup; Johansen, Jakob Berg; Dragsted, Janne; Englmair, Gerald; Kong, Weiqiang; Furbo, Simon

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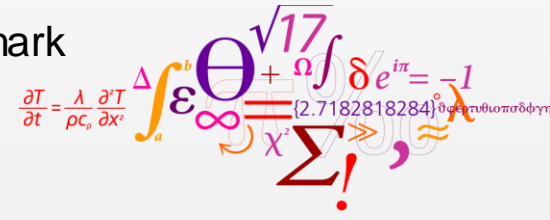
Mark Dannemand^{1,2}, Ana Lázaro², Mónica Delgado², Conchita Peñalosa², Carsten Gundlach³, Camilla Trinderup⁴, Jakob Berg Johansen¹, Janne Dragsted¹, Gerald Englmaier¹, Weiqiang Kong¹, Simon Furbo¹

¹DTU Civil Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark

³DTU Physics, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark, ⁴DTU Compute, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark

²Aragón Institute for Engineering Research (I3A), Thermal Engineering and Energy Systems Group, University of Zaragoza, Spain

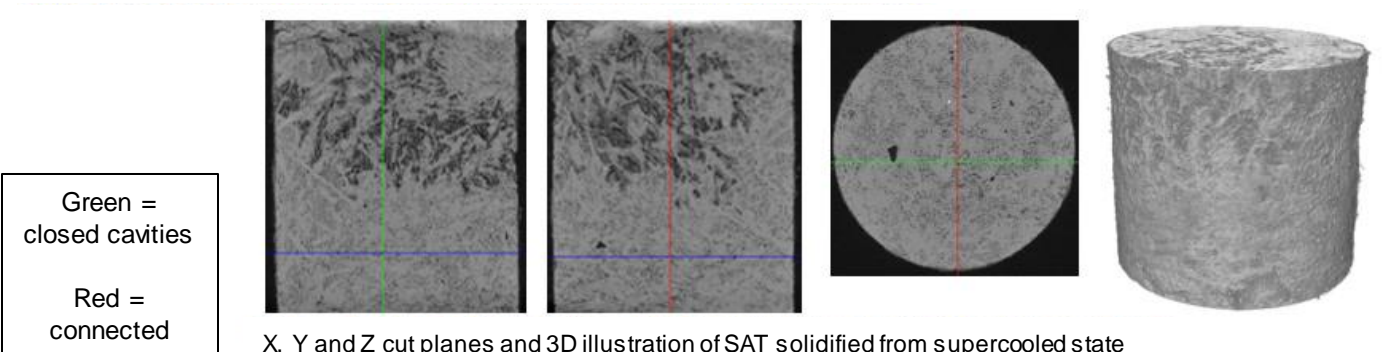
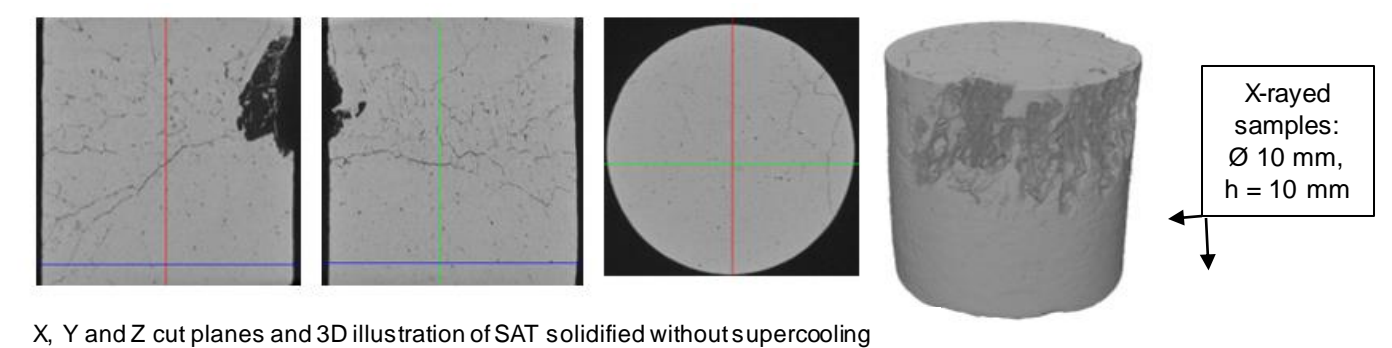
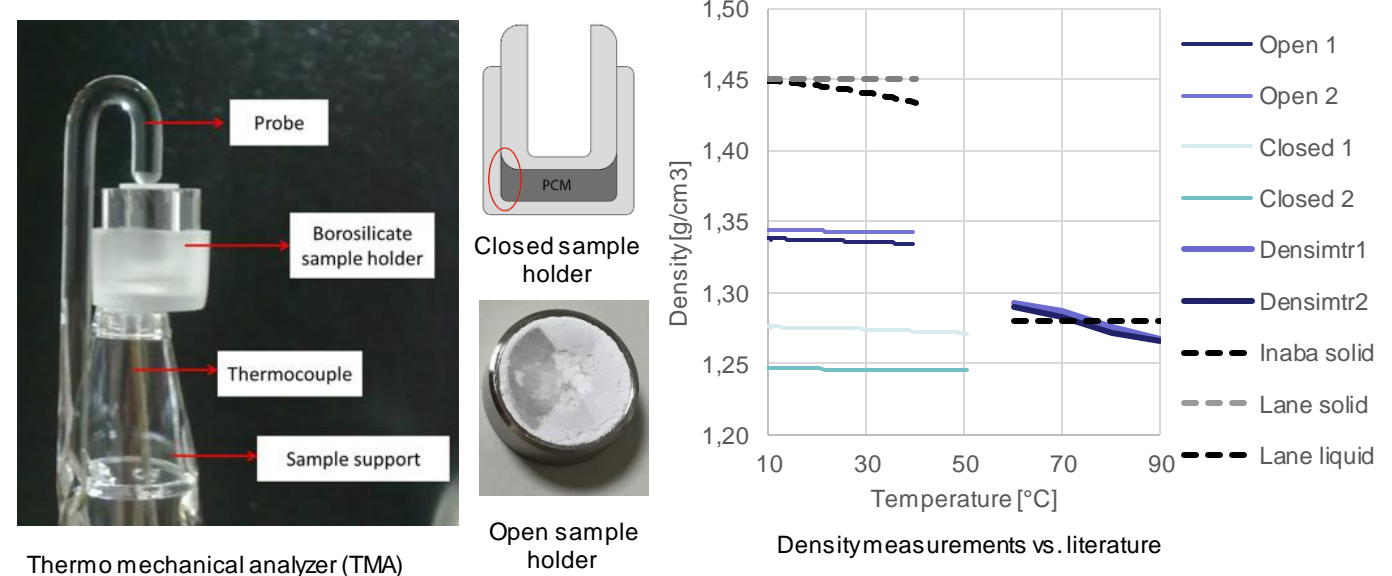
markd@byg.dtu.dk



Introduction: Sodium acetate trihydrate (SAT) can be used as a phase change material (PCM) in heat storage applications. The melting point at 58 °C and favorable thermophysical properties makes it a suitable storage material in solar heating systems applications for space heating and domestic hot water preparation. Additives are used to stabilize the PCM, optimize or enhance the material properties and ensure cycling stability.

SAT can be used for long term heat storage by utilizing its ability to supercool stable to ambient temperature or for short term heat storage where the supercooling is avoided. Material investigations were carried out considering the behavior of SAT with and without supercooling.

Density - porosity: The density and thermal expansion of SAT in liquid and solid state was measured. The characteristics of the cavities formed inside of solidified SAT were found by x-ray scanning. The measured density of SAT solidified from a supercooled state was less than the typical literature value. The X-ray scanning confirmed that 15% of the volume of a sample which had solidified from supercooled state was cavities.



Sample	Cavity/ total volume	Enclosed cavity/ total cavity
Solid SAT (non-supercooled)	0.07	0.13
Solid SAT (supercooled)	0.15	0.09

Cavities in SAT samples

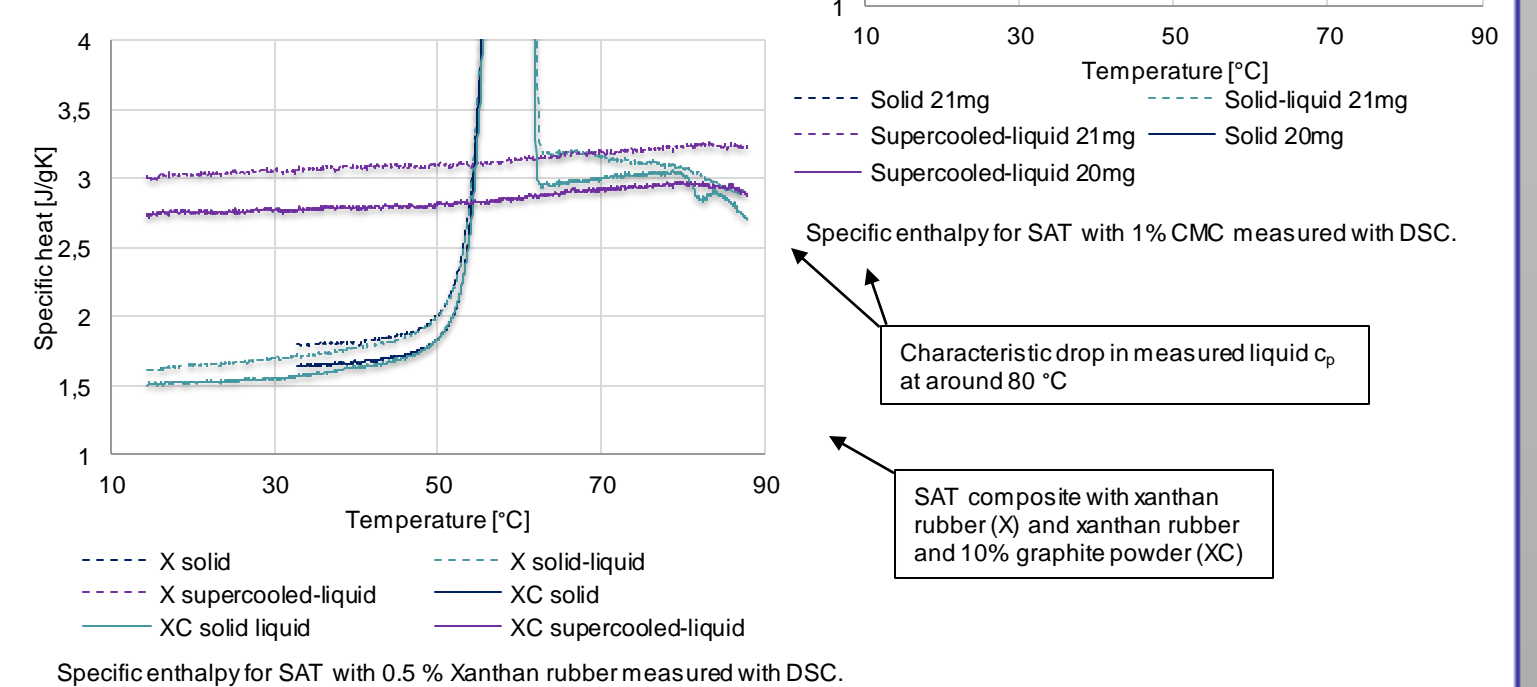
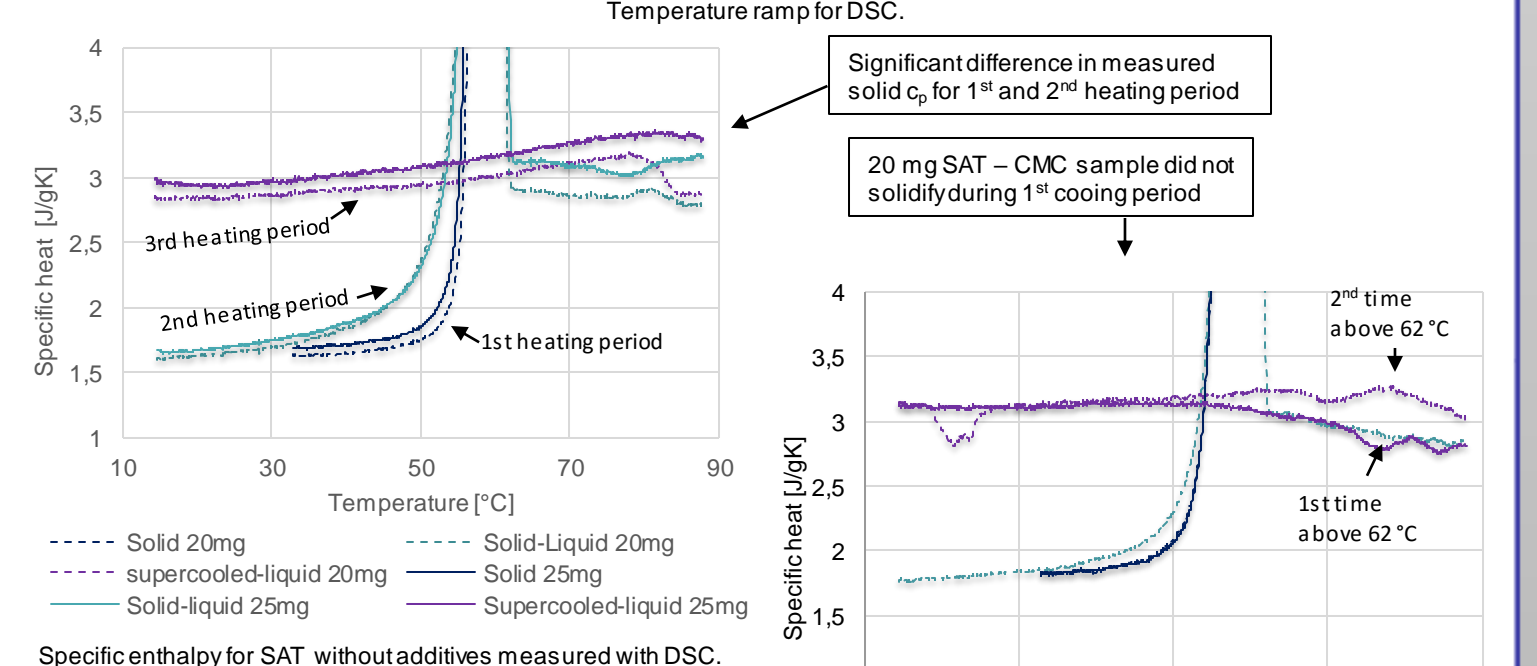
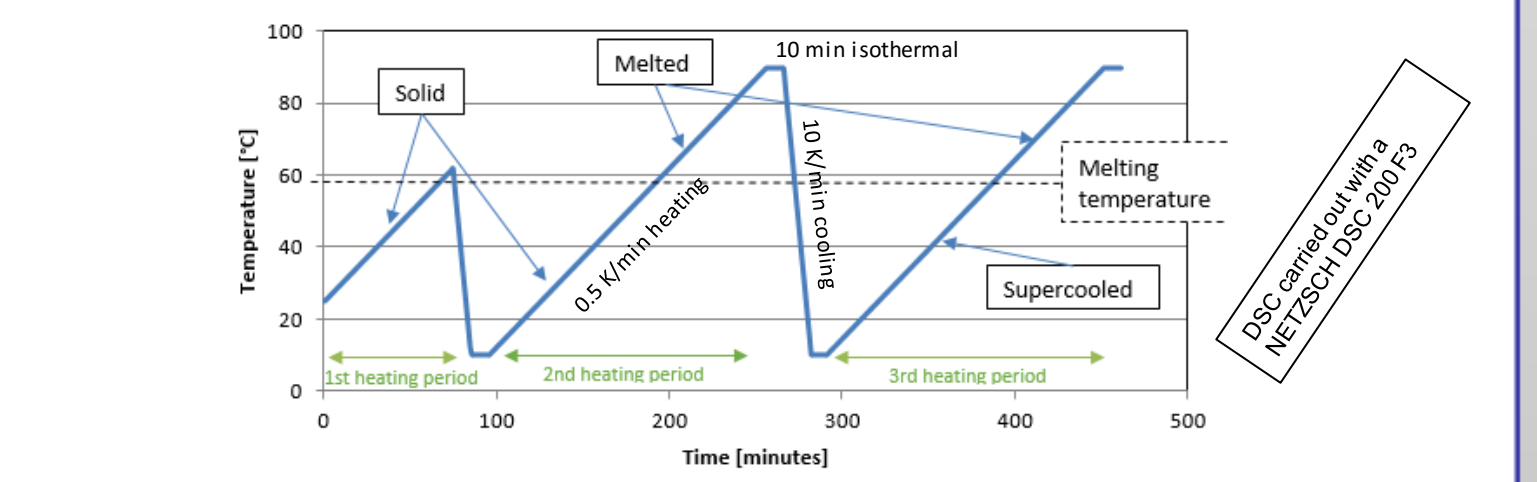
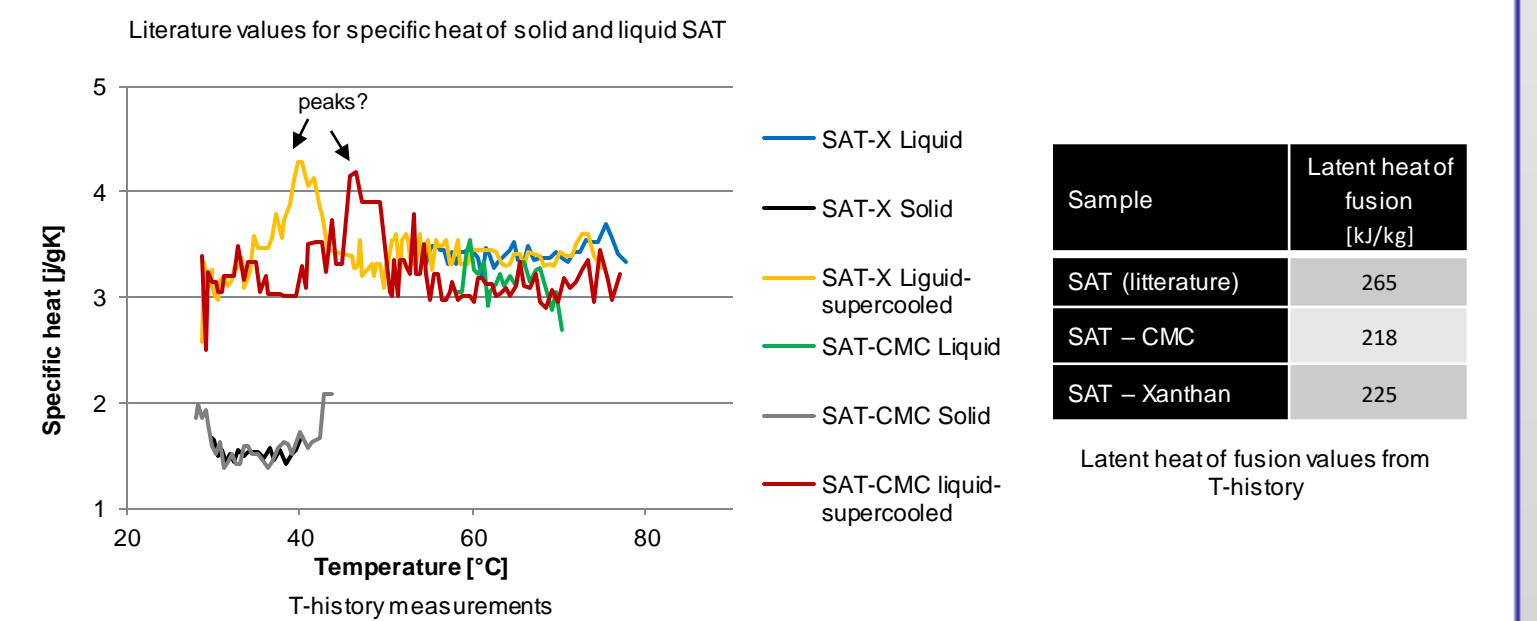
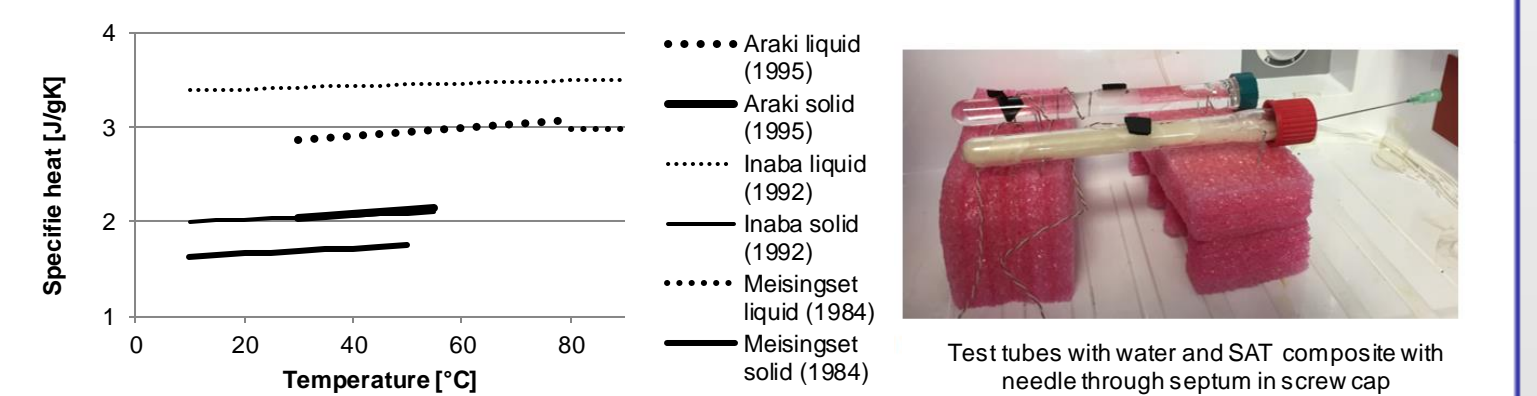
Sample	Density g/cm ³
Solid SAT (non-supercooled)	$\rho_{s(non-supercool)} = -7.8 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot T + 1.3423$ For 10 °C < T < 40 °C
Solid SAT (supercooled)	$\rho_{s(supercool)} = -7.6 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot T + 1.2622$ For 10 °C < T < 50 °C.
Liquid SAT	$\rho_l = -8.63 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot T + 1.3438$ For 60 °C < T < 90 °C.

Expressions for solid and liquid density

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Heat capacity: The specific heat capacities and latent heat of fusions of SAT composites were measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and the T-history method. The measurements showed that the additives had little effect on the specific heat capacities of the SAT composites. SAT composites with CMC or Xanthan rubber was investigated.



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Experimental investigations on density were carried out in the laboratory of the GITSE research group, University of Zaragoza. X-ray scanning was carried out at Department of Physics, Technical University of Denmark. The authors thank the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness for the funding of this work within the framework of projects ENE2011-28269-C03-01 and ENE2014- 57262-R and the Danish Energy Agency supporting the joint IEA SHC Task 42/ECES Annex 29 program on Compact Thermal Energy Storage, Grant no. 64012-0220.