A Bright Future for Thermal Methods

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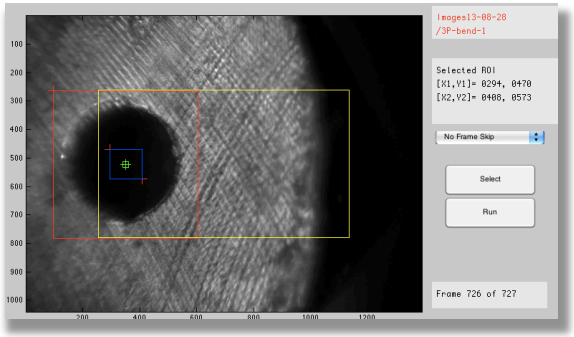
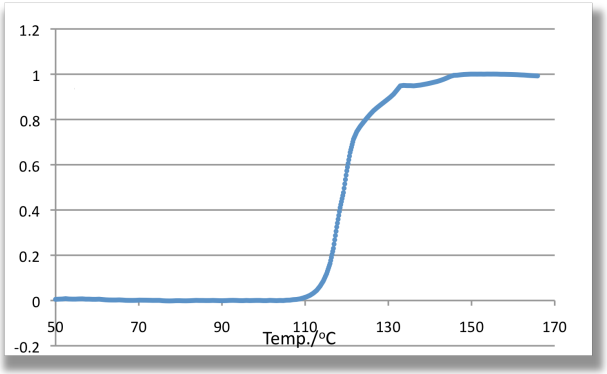
A variant of the **TASC** algorithm can be used to follow the movement of objects that are in contact with a sample. This can used to make ThermoMechanical Analysis (**TMA)** measurements. **Right** are the components of the 3-point bend configuration that uses a standard 6mm DSC crucible. The sample is a white strip of filled Polystyrene. The pictures show the individual components and how they are assembled for the experiment. This assembly is placed within the field of view of a Hot Stage Microscope. A different probe can be used for a penetration measurement

Right a screen shot shows the image seen through the microscope of the edge of the probe. When the sample softens the probe moves downward and this is tracked by the TASC-TMA algorithm



Right is the result that shows that the softening event is detected with high signal/noise. This measurement can be easily made on small samples that would be difficult to mount in a conventional TMA.



This capability means that a single cost-effective instrument can be used for Hot Stage Microscopy, TMA, Thermal Dissolution Analysis and TASC.