

# Medium range order and mechanical properties in glasses

Matthieu Micoulaut

*Laboratoire de Physique Theorique des Liquides  
Universite Pierre et Marie Curie, Boite 121  
4, Place Jussieu, 75252 Paris Cedex 05, France*

We study rigidity transitions in network glasses using size-increasing cluster approximations and mechanical constraint counting algorithms. Possible consequences of the presence of self-organization are examined. The analysis reveals two transitions instead of the usual (mean-field) Phillips transition. One from a floppy to an isostatic rigid phase at a mean coordination number  $\langle r_{c1} \rangle$  where the number of floppy modes vanishes and a second one from an isostatic to a stressed rigid phase at  $\langle r_{c2} \rangle$ . The value of the two critical mean coordination numbers as well as the width  $\Delta \langle r \rangle = \langle r_{c2} \rangle - \langle r_{c1} \rangle$  of the intermediate phase depend very strongly on the presence of medium range order elements such as rings. We illustrate the results with binary chalcogenides.