

# Engineered Living Building Material (LBM) by Binder-jetting on Mars

Liu, Ning<sup>a\*</sup>; Lam, Shing Chi<sup>a</sup>; Huang, Wenwei<sup>b</sup>; Yi, Qikun<sup>b</sup>; Qiu, Jishen<sup>a</sup>; Sun, Fei<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong, China

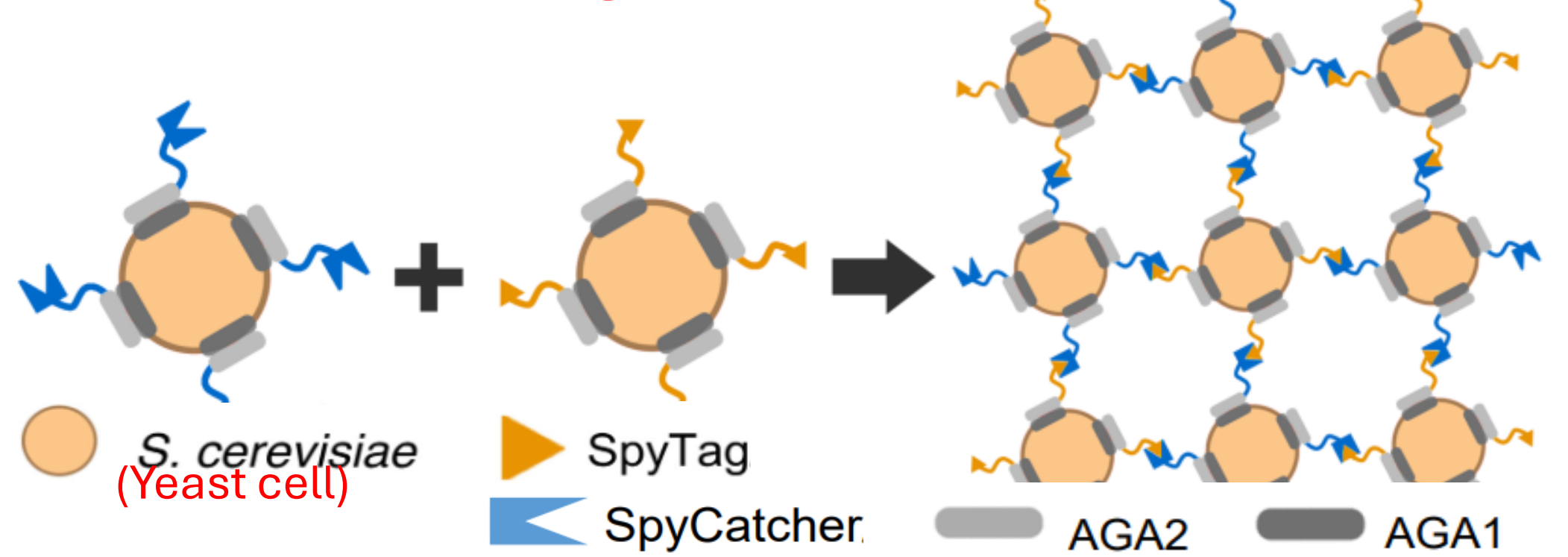
<sup>b</sup>Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong, China

## 1. Raw Material

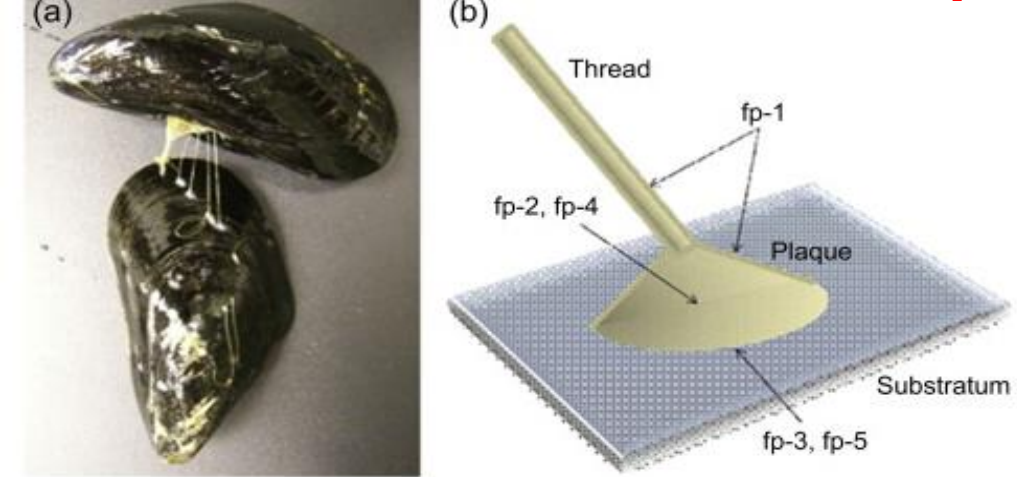
### -Biosynthetic adhesive hydrosol

- Previously, we use Gelatin(artificial) to make LBM
- Here, Genetic Engineered Yeast** to display ultra strong adhesive proteins on surface
- Cell assembly into bio-sol
- Strong intercellular interaction**
  - SpyTag+SpyCatcher (A+B)
- Strong adhesion to substrate**
  - Mussel Foot Protein (MFP)
  - Collagen

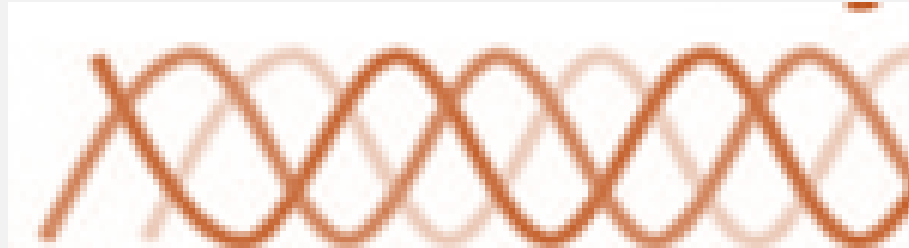
### Spy-catcher+Spy-tag assembled bio-sol



### Mussel Foot Protein (MFP)

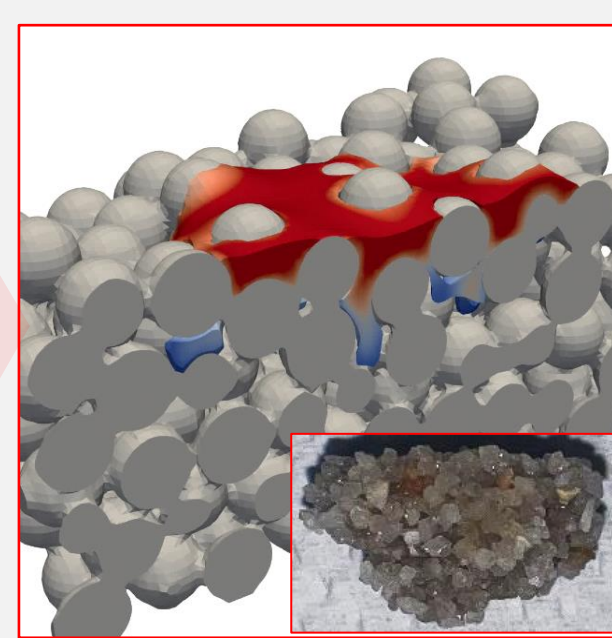


### Collagen



## 2. Manufacturing

### -Binder jetting of LBM/Bio-LBM



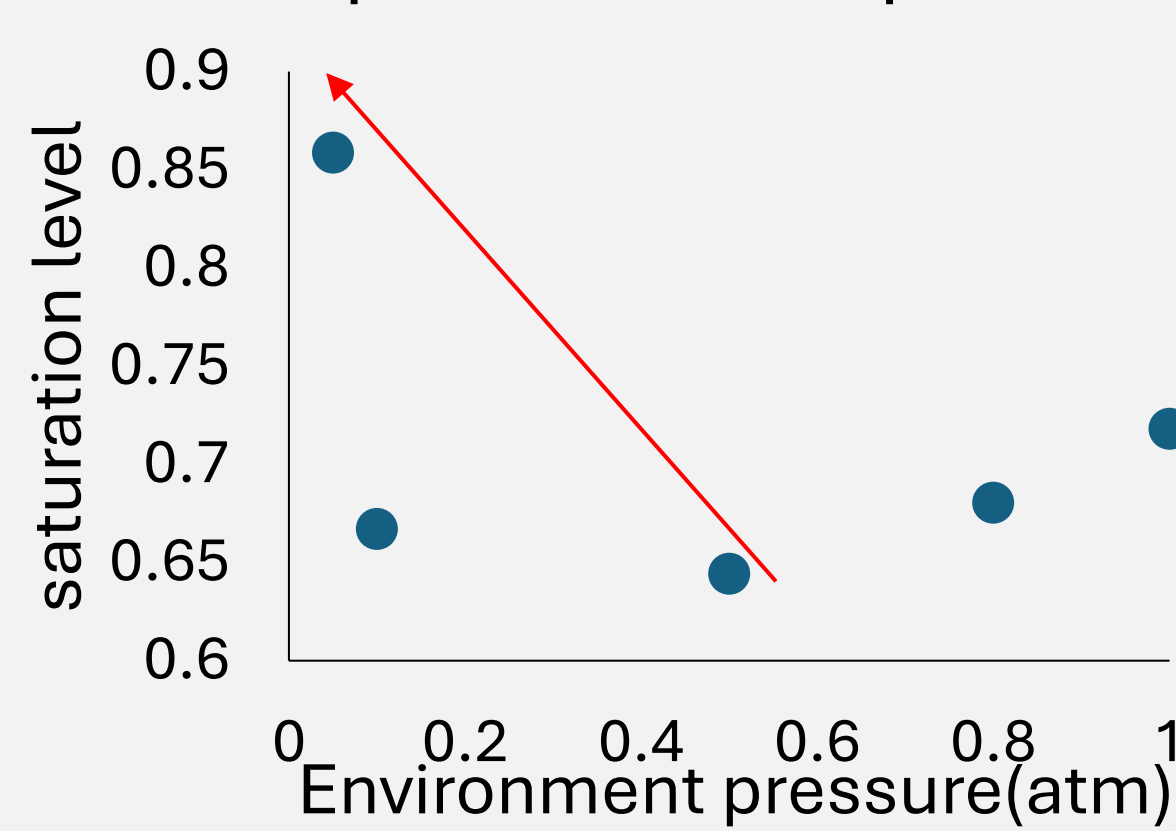
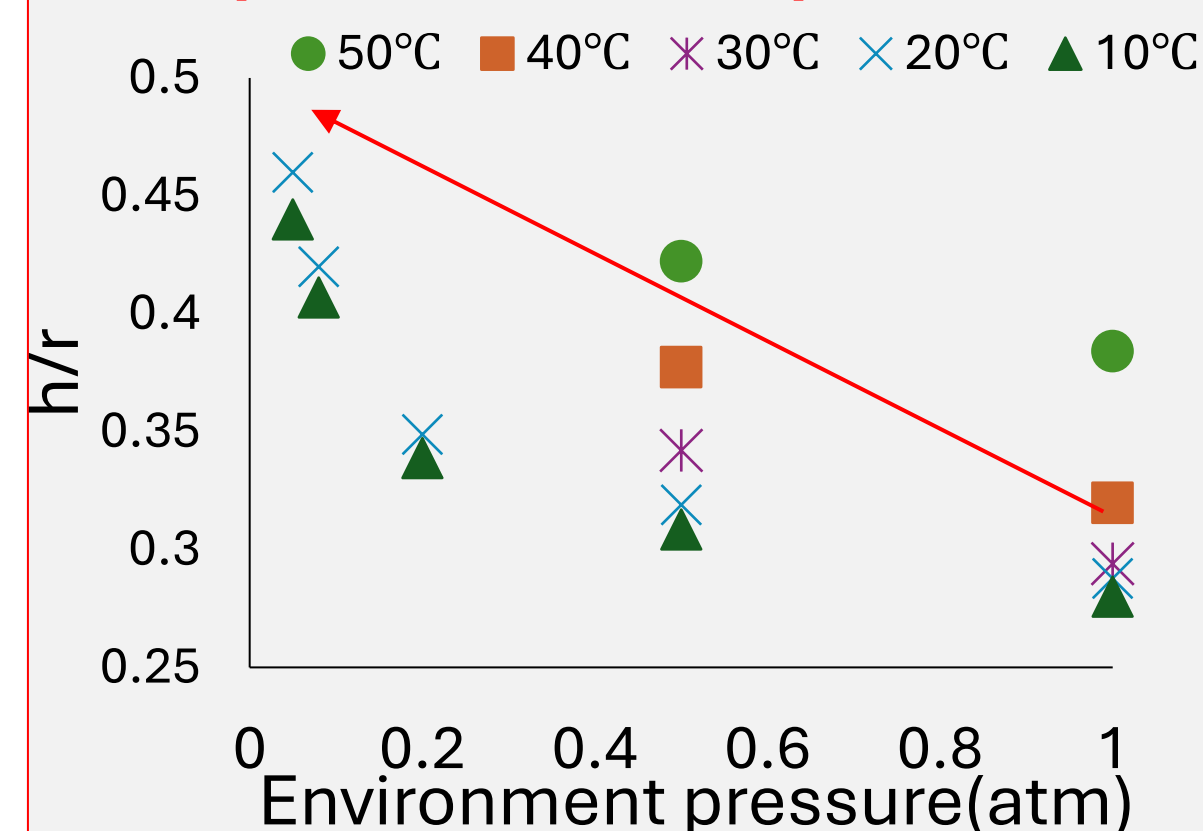
### In-situ binder jet test

### High-fidelity CFD-DEM model

Low T, P

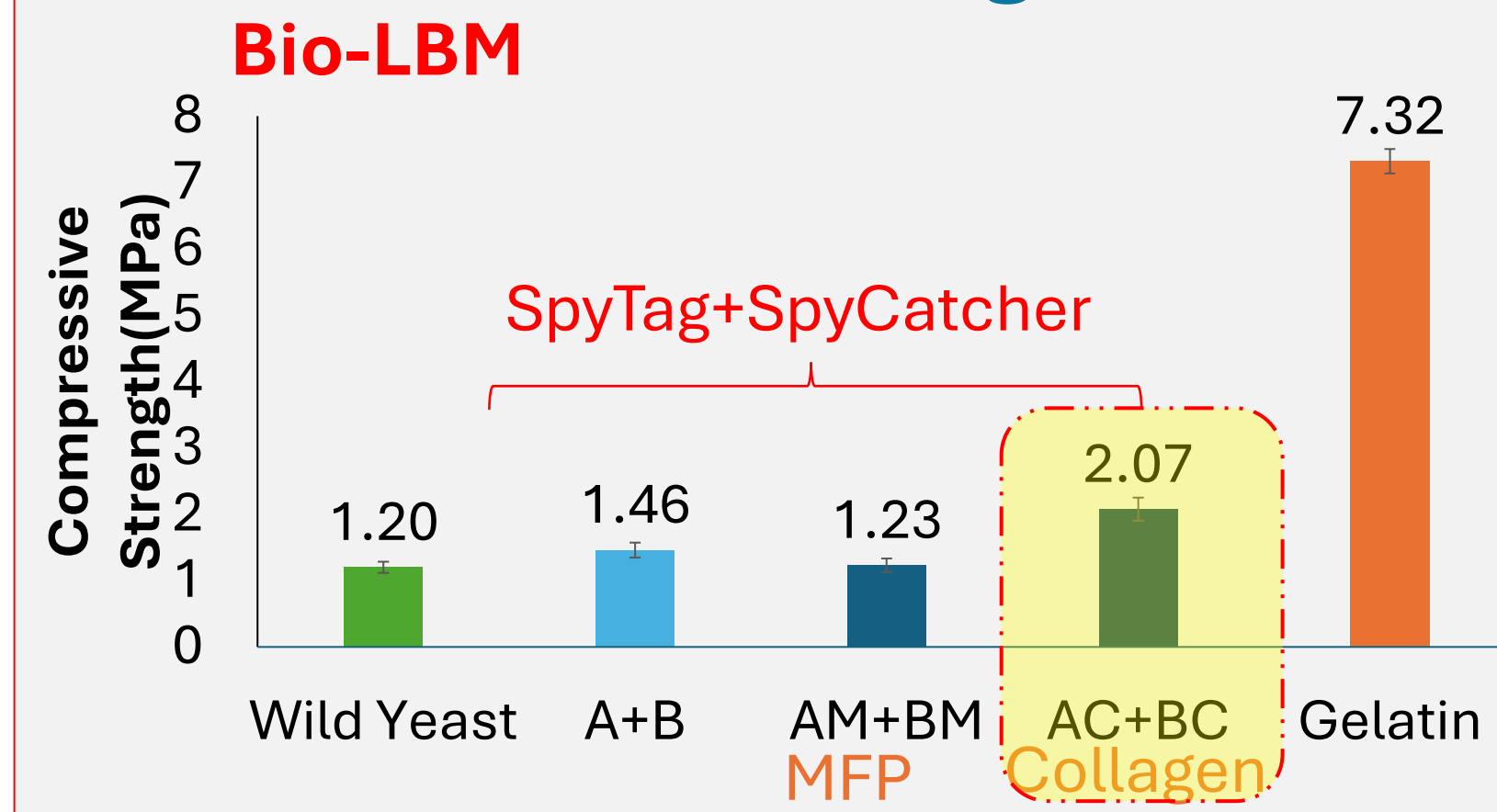
- 3d printing by hydrosol binder jetting in low pressure conditions
- Single droplets penetration test
- Penetration depth & width:** control printing accuracy
- Saturation level:** control mechanical strength of green part
- Lower pressure has higher relative penetration depth & SL

### Geometric of single droplet penetration samples

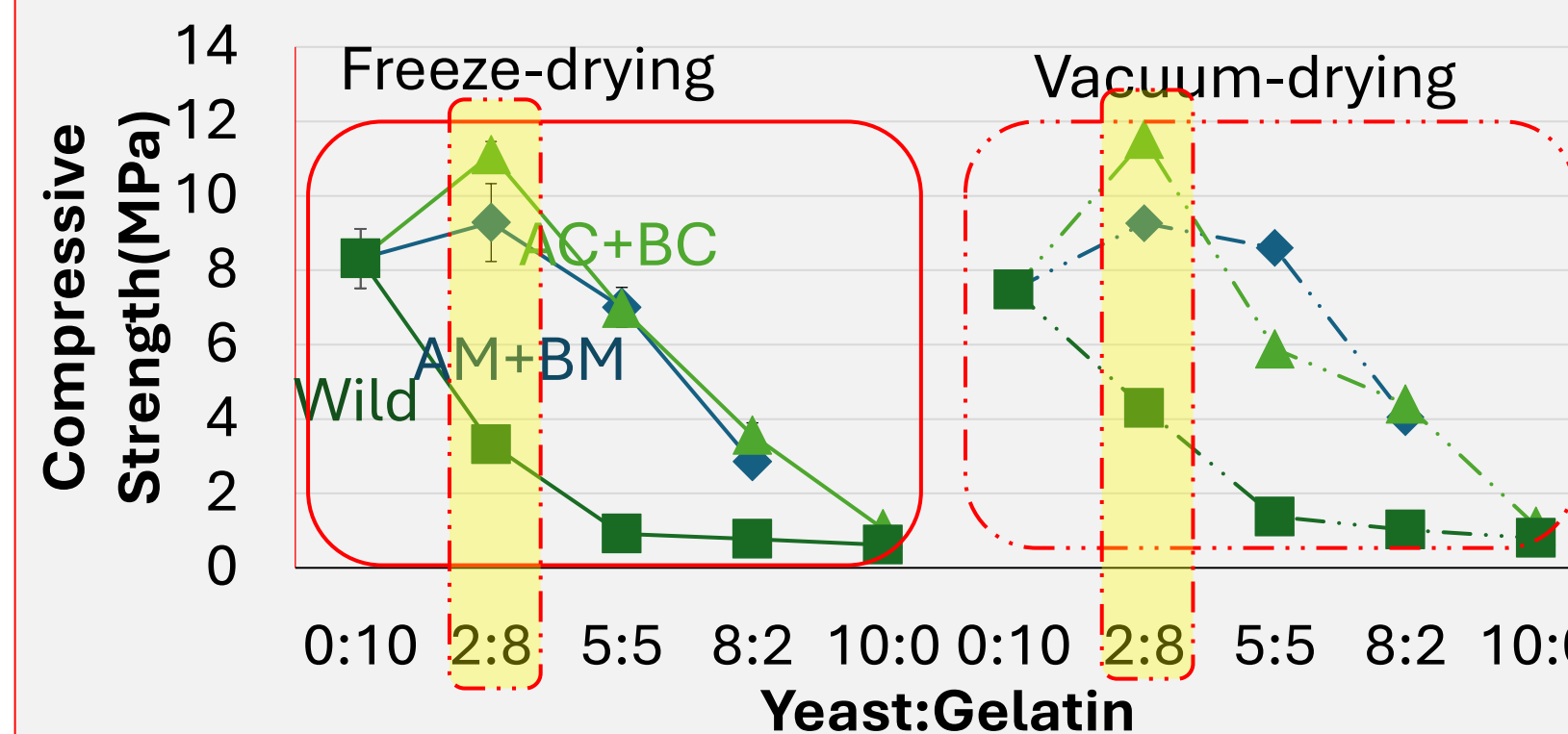


## 5. Material Properties & Microstructures

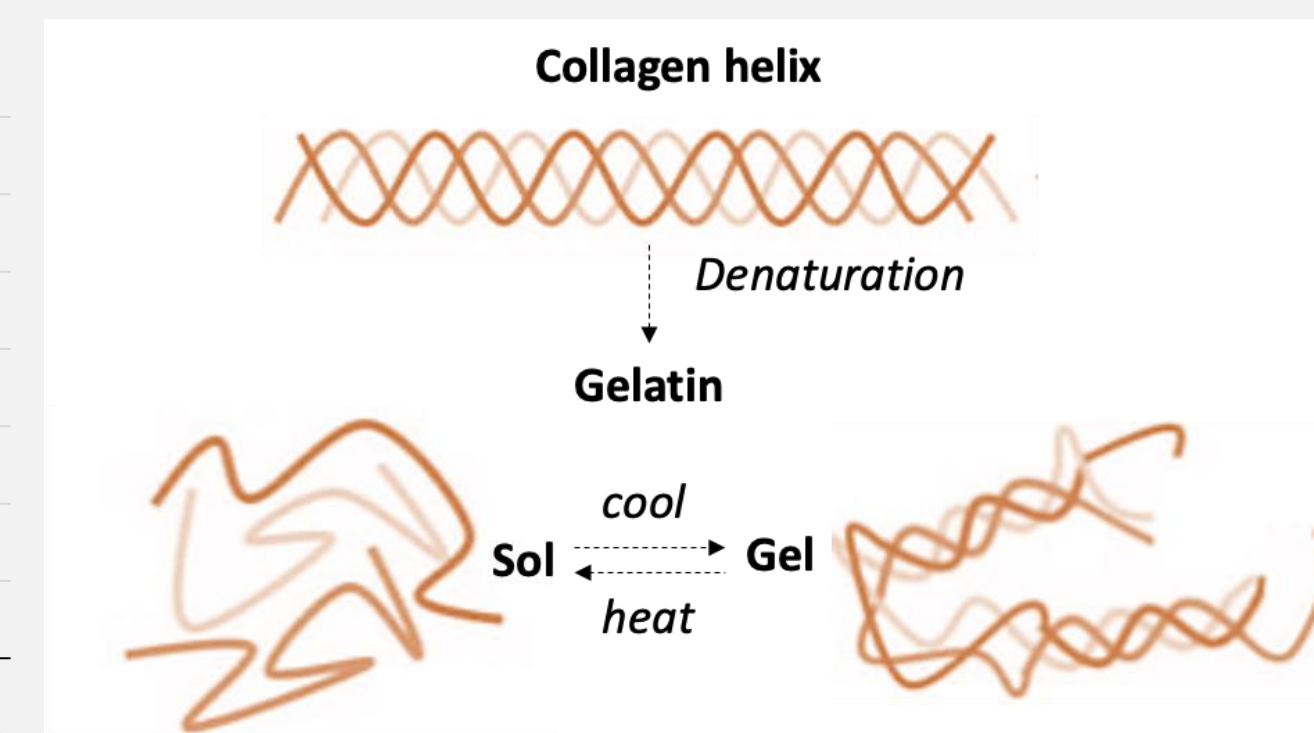
### -Mechanical strength



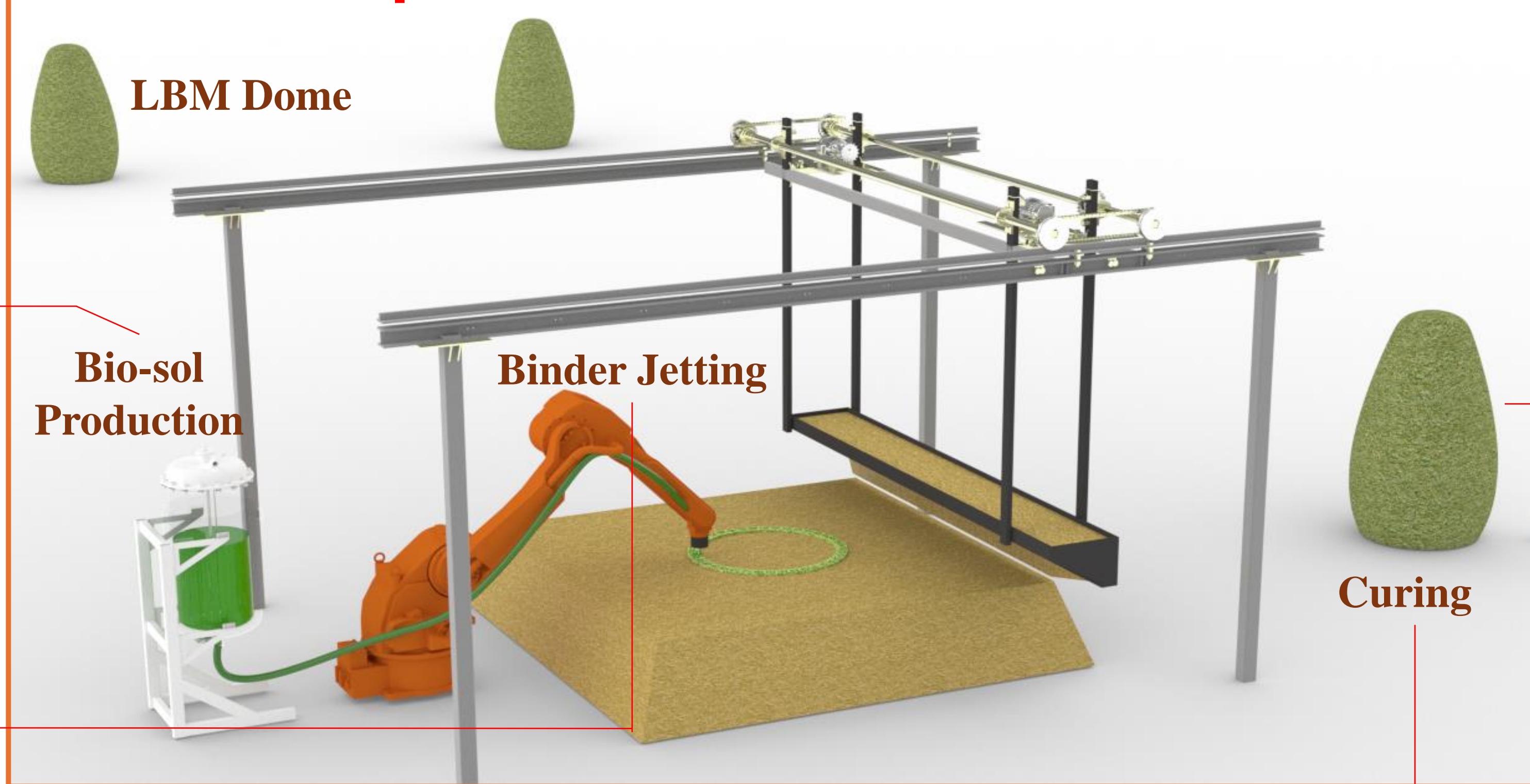
### Hybrid-LBM (yeast + gelatin)



- Combination of intercellular and interfacial adhesions improve LBM strength **twice** than wild one
- Hybrid LBM have **10** times of strength than Wild yeast LBM by:
- Microstructure improvement: foam  $\rightarrow$  reinforced structure
- Better chemical compatibility

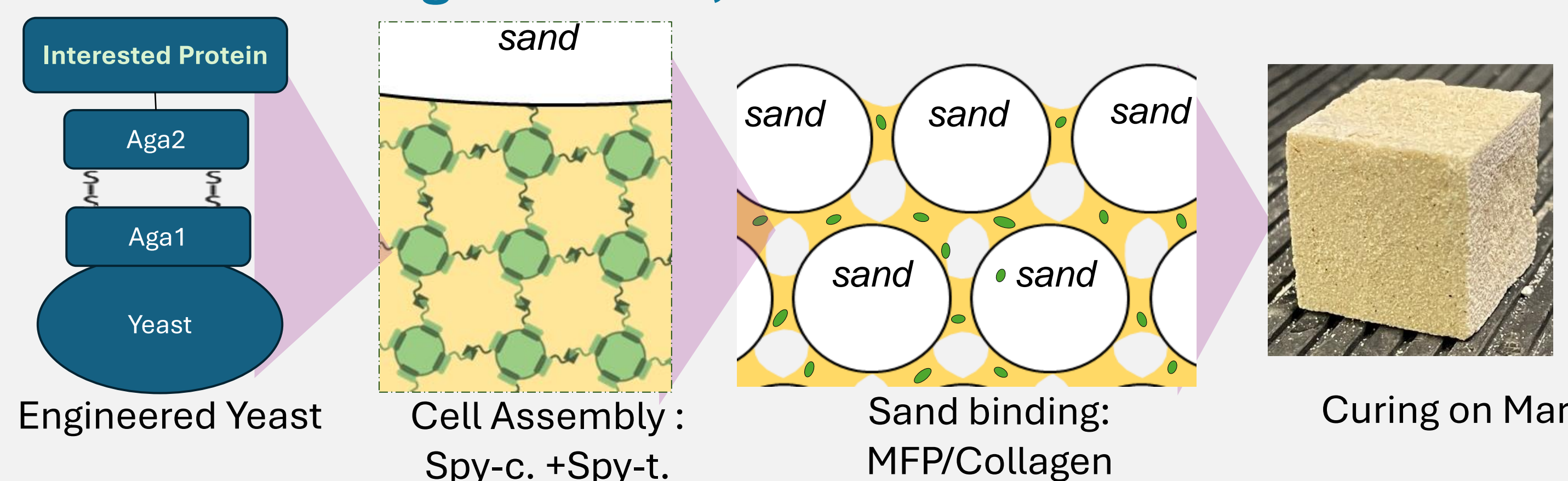


## Conceptual LBM Mars Construction

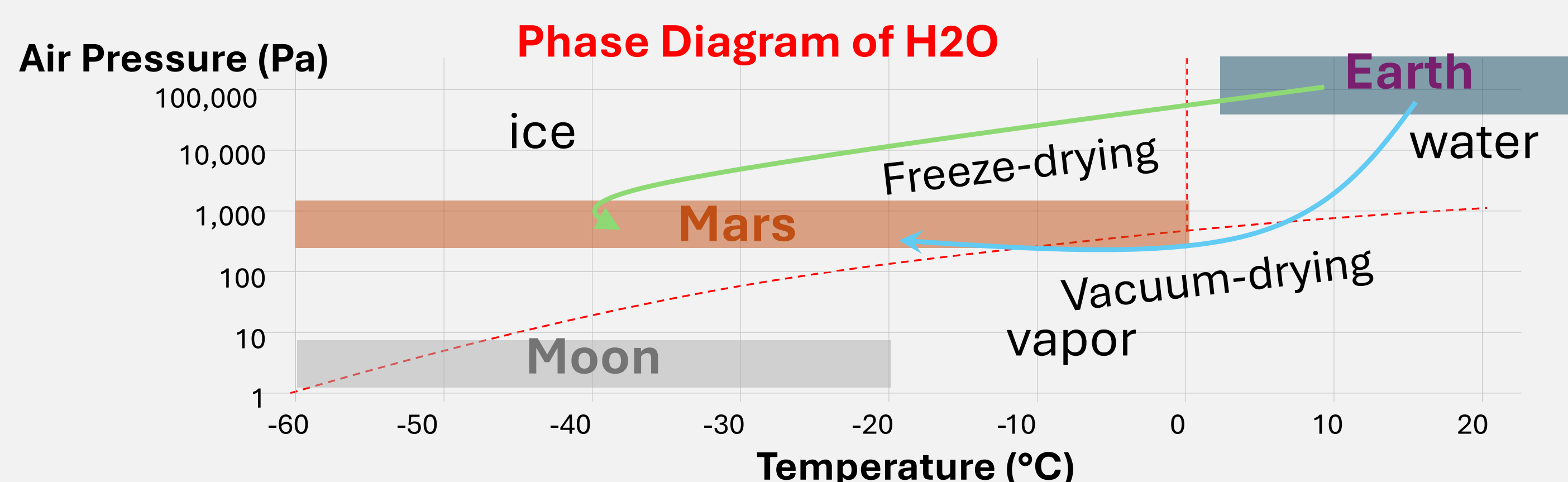


## 3. Curing

### -Bio-LBM curing on Mars T,P



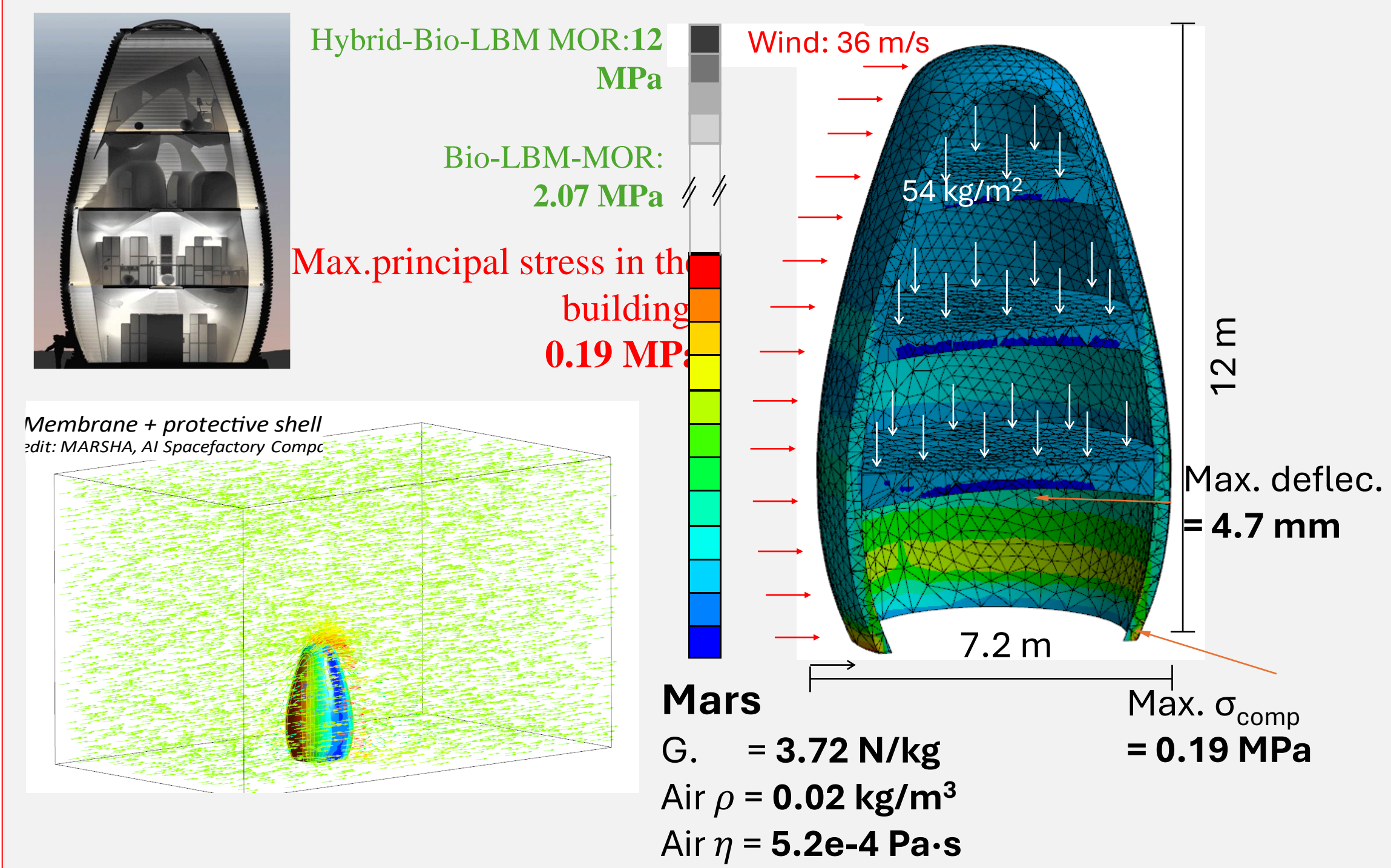
- Possible curing path: freezing-sublimation or vacuum drying
- Phase transition: cause microstructure variations



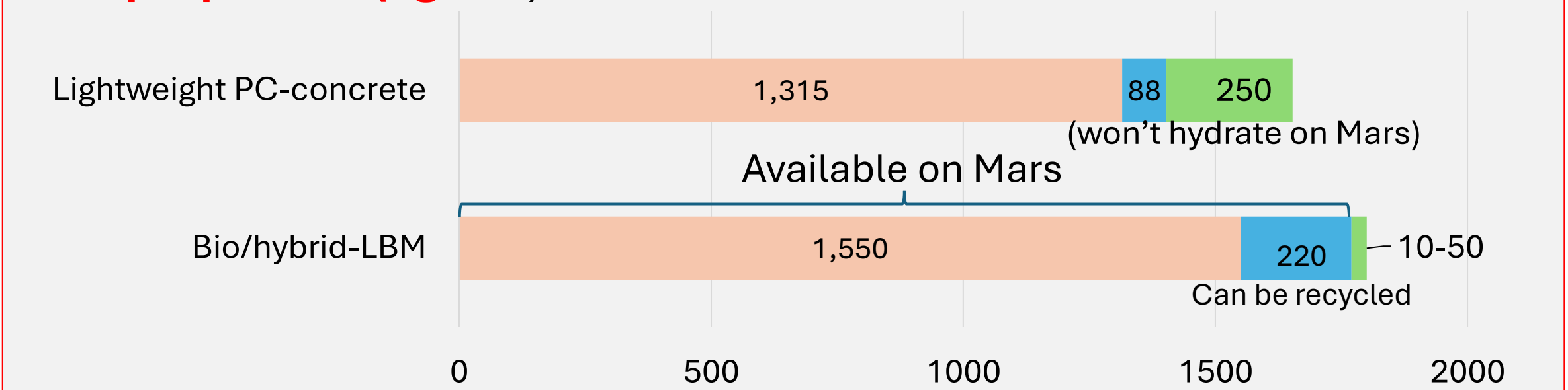
## 4. Building on Mars

### -Structural analysis for Mars loading

#### LBM Habitat on Mars



#### Mix proportion (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)



- Adequate Strength for such an 8 people living dome under
- Mars gravity
- Storm
- High In-situ-resource-utilization (ISRU) efficiency

### -Extra-terrestrial construction (ETC) materials: state of the art

Power generation	Type of generator	Ultralight photovoltaic system
	Rocket payload for generator M(ton)	50
	Specific power P (GJ·d <sup>-1</sup> ·ton <sup>-1</sup> )	22.5 (on Moon), 3.5 (on Mars)
Key aspects	Previously studied	Proposed
Power conversion	Heating technology	In-situ heating by laser or microwave
	Energy conversion efficiency $\eta$	0.013 (laser) 0.05 (microwave)
Feedstock melting	Feedstock/melting temperature T(°C)	Regolith, >400 °C
	Heat for unit feedstock Q (GJ·ton <sup>-1</sup> )	2.45
Material formation	Material binder formed	Ceramics, alloy, cement
	Material yield by unit binder V (m <sup>3</sup> ·ton <sup>-1</sup> )	0.4
	Material compressive strength	4.5 MPa
	Time needed to make 1 m <sup>3</sup> of material Q/( $\eta$ PMV)	3.7 h (on Moon) 24 h (on Mars)
	Time needed to make a full-scale shelter	22 d (on Moon) 141 d (on Mars)
		<1 h (on Moon and Mars) 2.4 h (on Moon) 16 h (on Mars)

Lunar regolith simulant formed material by concentrated solar light sintering and laser sintering

