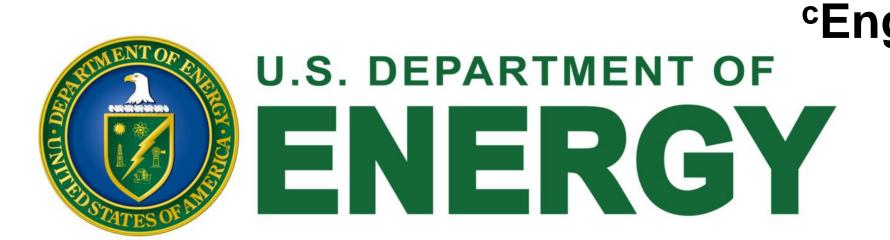
## Backsheet: Correlation of Long-Term Field Reliability with Accelerated Laboratory Testing

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## Introduction

- PV modules are required to service in different types of environment
- Backsheet works as weathering barrier and protects human being from electric shock
- Polymeric backsheet is venerable of UV light, moisture, thermal cycle and other degradation factors
- Study the degradation mechanisms of kinds of commonly used backsheet
- Develop the degradation predictive model
- Based on both real-world and lab exposure and characterization
- Cross-correlation of outdoor and indoor degradation behavior and mechanisms
- Using indoor degradation model to predict backsheet exposed to outdoor conditions





# Experiment design

### Team Members:

• UL, NREL, NIST, Arkema, NEU, CWRU

## Experiment:

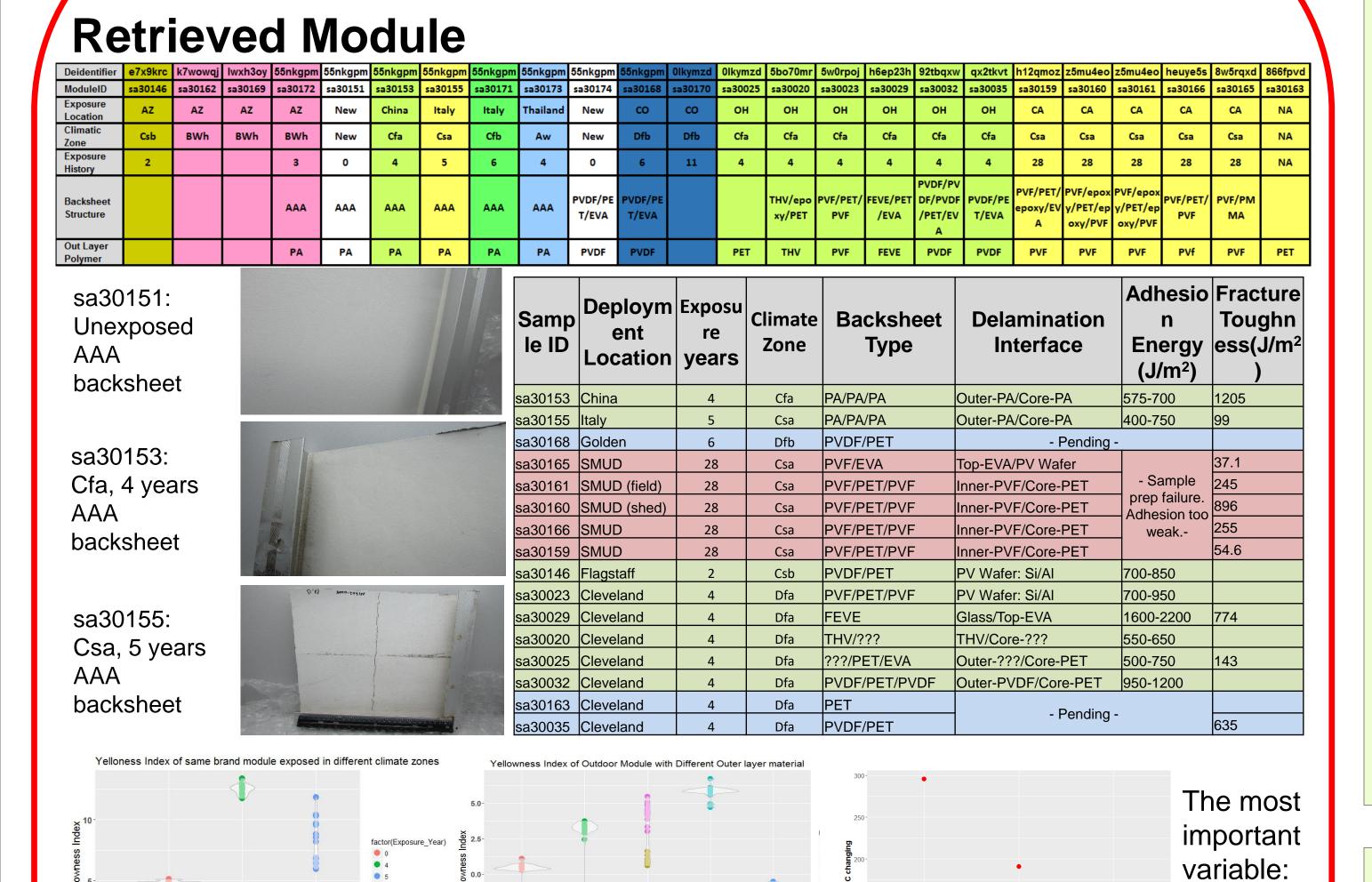
- Identify the population of candidate PV modules brands/models, ages and climatic zones for outdoor and indoor exposures, evaluations and analytics.
- Evaluation of Outdoor exposed Field and Retrieved Modules
- Accelerated laboratory Weathering Exposure and Non-destructive and destructive evaluation of comparable backsheet material coupons
- Develop predictive tests and models based on outdoor field and retrieved module evaluations and indoor accelerated exposures and evaluations using

Stress/Mechanism/Response network modeling of training dataset with candidate module selection and validation using testing datasets.



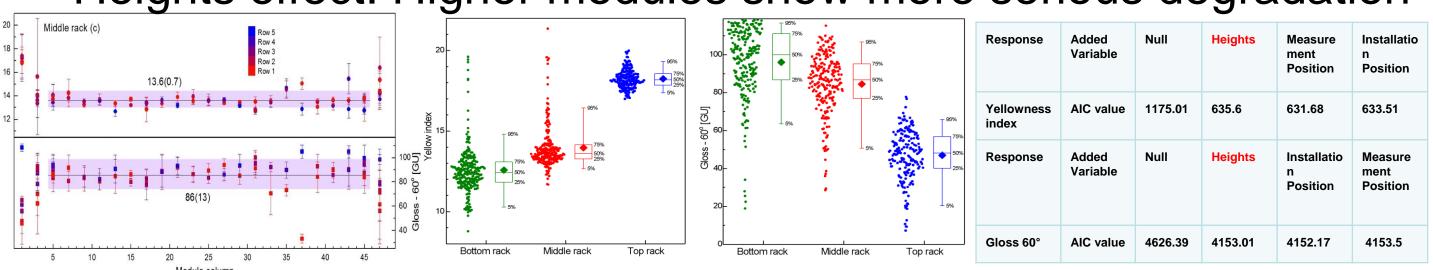


## RESULTS



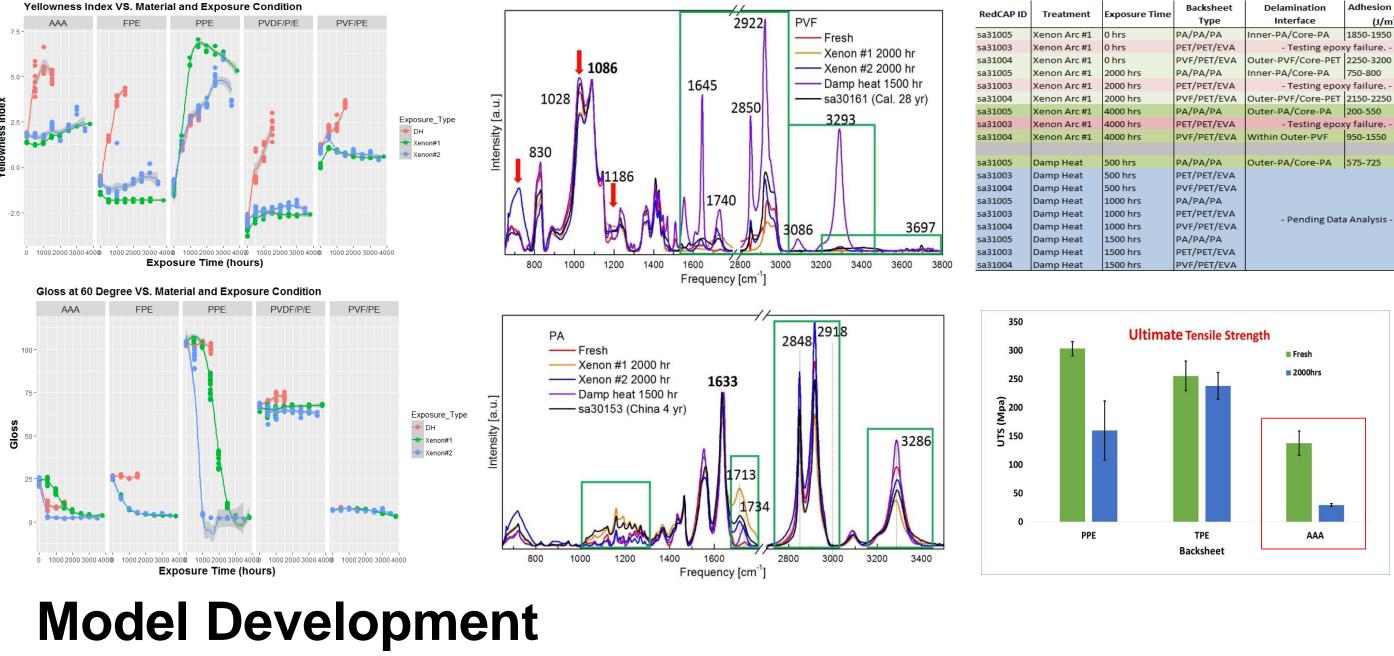
### Field Survey

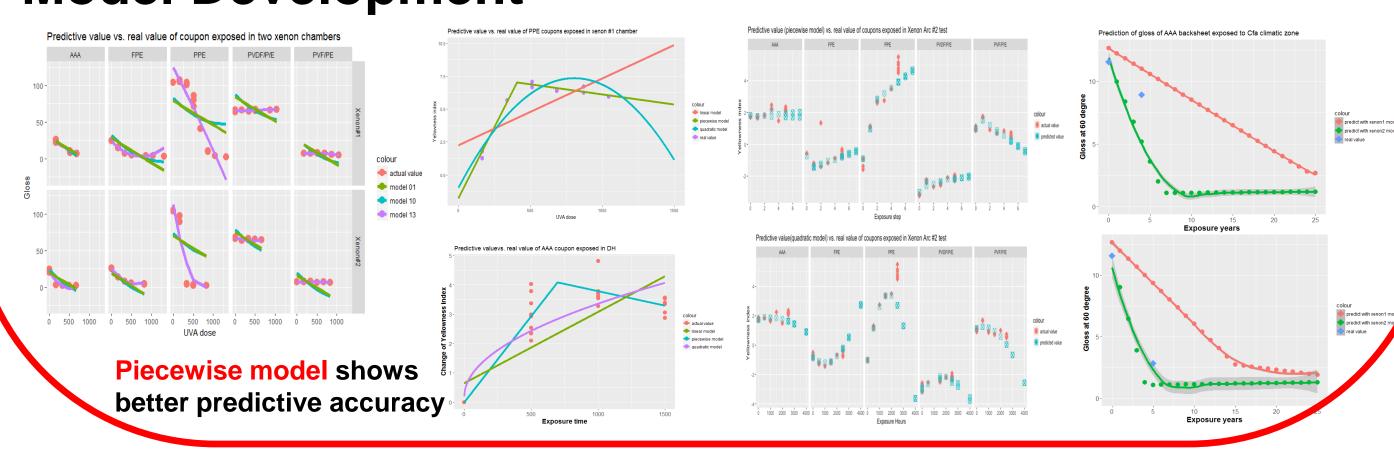
- Edge effect: Module installed at the edge in one row degrade faster than that installed at the center
- Heights effect: Higher modules show more serious degradation



### **Indoor Exposure**

- Material: AAA, FPE, PPE, PVDF/PET/EVA, PVF/PET/EVA
- Exposure condition: DH, xenon#1, xenon#2





# Technology

Non-destructive evaluations:

- Colorimetry
- Gloss meter
- Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
- UV-Visible Spectroscopy
- Profilometer: crack quantification

#### **Destructive Test:**

- Tensile test
- Cantilever beam test
- V-peel test

### Data management:

- High Performance Computing (HPC)
- SLURM Job
- HBase

#### Data Analysis:

• Rstudio: "sgSEM", "segmented", "MCMCglmm" packages ...

# Output

climatic

Development of predictive and semi-gSEM models of backsheet degradation under multi-factor accelerated weathering exposure, Society of Plastic Engineers, Antec, 2016
Backsheet: Correlation of Long-Term Field Reliability with Accelerated Laboratory Testing, NREL PVRW, 2016

•Characterization of the Adhesion Integrity in Photovoltaic Panels using Various Thermomechanical Blister Tests, 39th Annual Meeting of Adhesion Society, 2016

Cross-correlation of Backsheet Degradation between Real-World Exposures Modules and Accelerated Exposures of Backsheet Materials, SPIE, 2016
Photovoltaic module backsheet degradation and differential exposure conditions due to

site design, NREL PVRW, 2016
•Stress/ Response Degradation Model of Photovoltaic Modules Exposed in Different

Climatic Zones, NREL PVRW, 2017
•Degradation Models of Photovoltaic Module Backsheets Exposed to Diverse Real World Condition, PVSC, 2017

•Photovoltaic Array Differential Backsides Exposure Conditions: Backsheet Degradation and Site Design, IEEE Journal, 2017

•A Novel Testing Method for Characterizing Interfacial Adhesion in Solar Photovoltaic Modules, Adhesion Society, 2017 Annual Meeting

•Correlation of Outdoor and Indoor exposure of PV Module backsheet with AAA Material, PVSC, 2017

## Future Work

- Continue looking for more field modules that expose to different climatic zones
- Conduct field survey at additional sites
- Start three new indoor exposures
- Non-destructive and destructive evaluations on new obtained retrieved submodules and indoor exposed coupons
- Incorporate effect of humidity and real weather data, and improve degradation model

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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