

# Accelerating the Development of Polymer Composites: Modeling & Scalable Manufacturing



**Amir Asadi**

**Postdoctoral Fellow  
Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology**

**March 20, 2017**



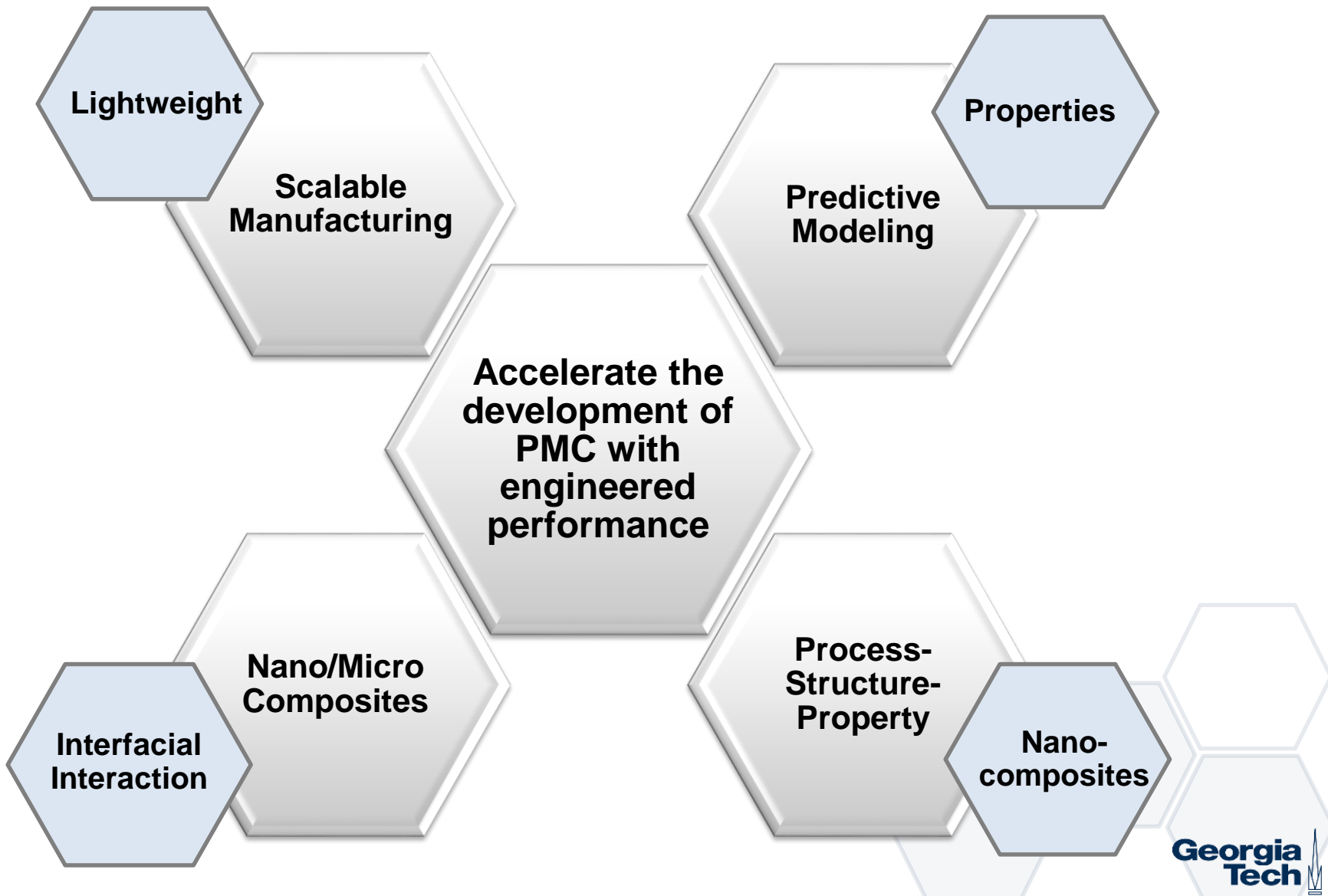
# Outline

- **Past & Current Research**
- **Future Research Lab**
- **Teaching Philosophy**





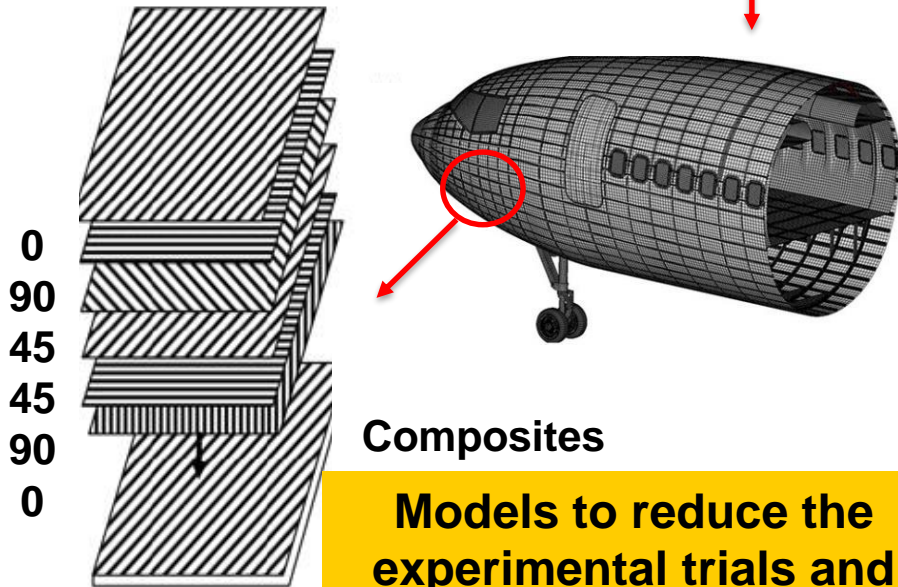
# Research Background





# Challenges/Opportunities in Development of Polymer Composites

Dreamliner: 50% advanced composites



Composites

Models to reduce the experimental trials and cost of development



World's largest autoclave by ASC

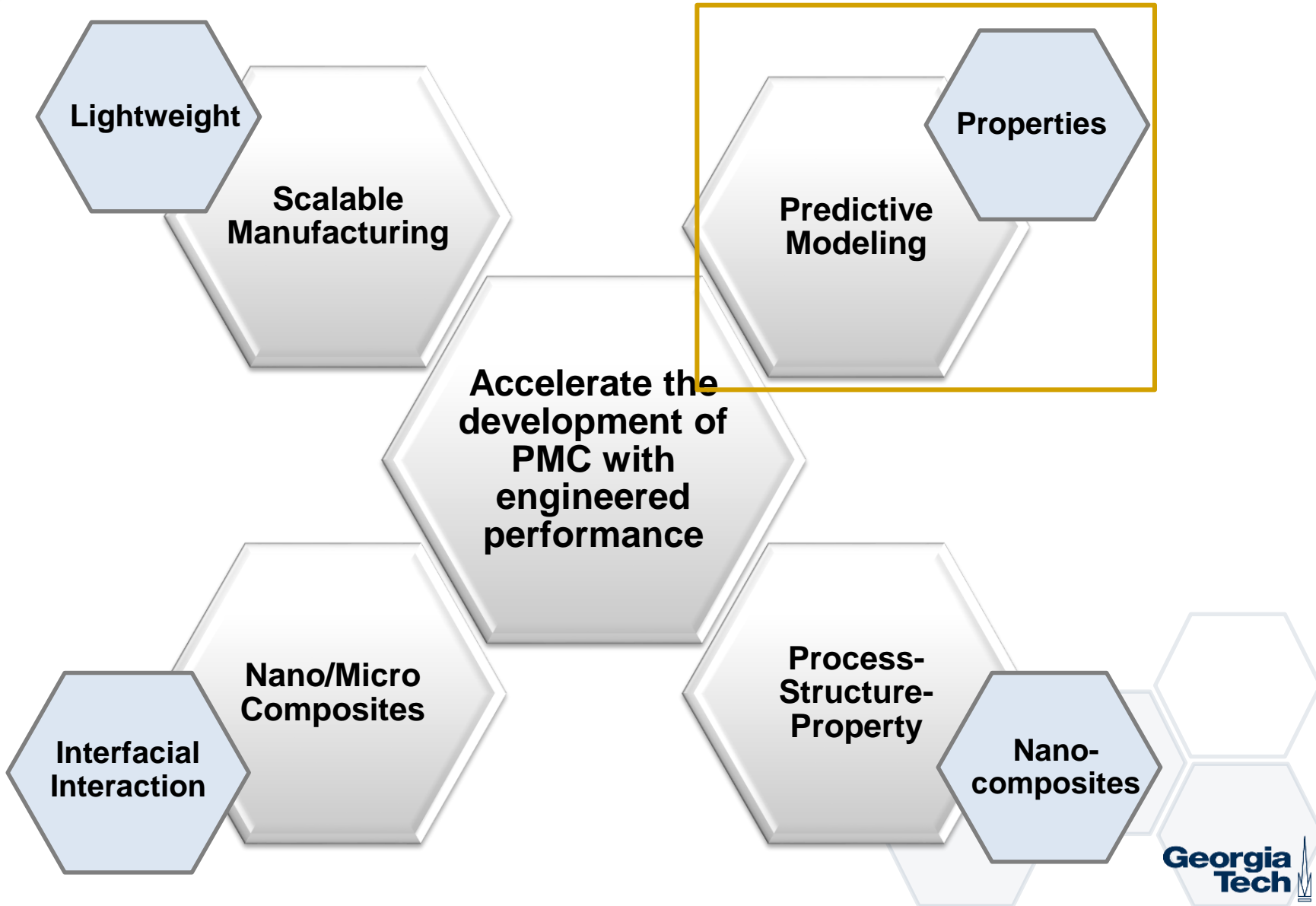
How to achieve the desired properties with a reduced process cycle?

Accelerated development of PMC

1. **Modeling:**  
Understanding/prediction the mechanical behavior
2. **Manufacturing**



# Research Outline



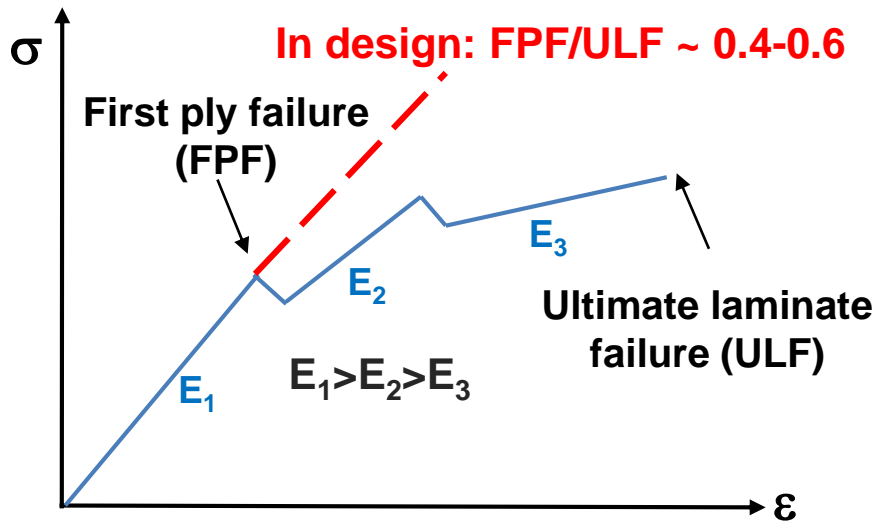


# Application Concern of PMC

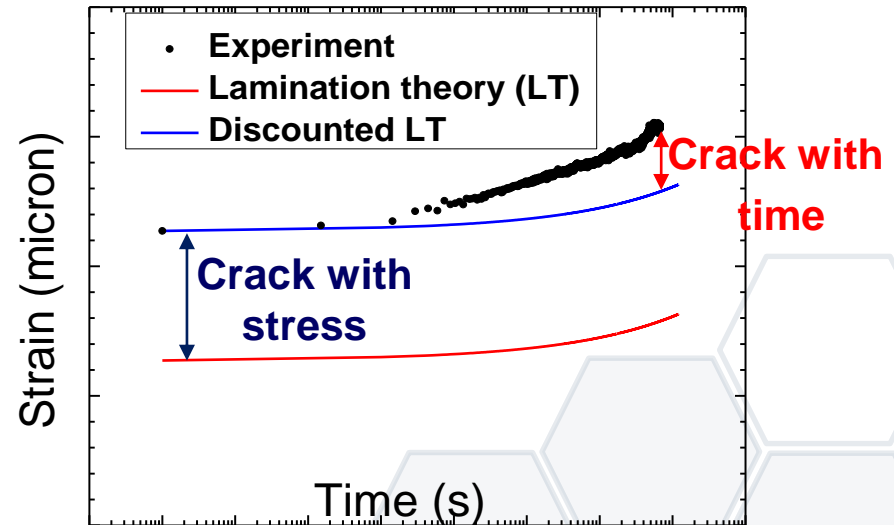
- ❑ Long-term modulus degradation: Creep
- ❑ Long-term strength degradation: Creep-rupture

Viscoelasticity of Polymer Matrix  
+ Damage

Damage progression with stress



Damage evolution with time

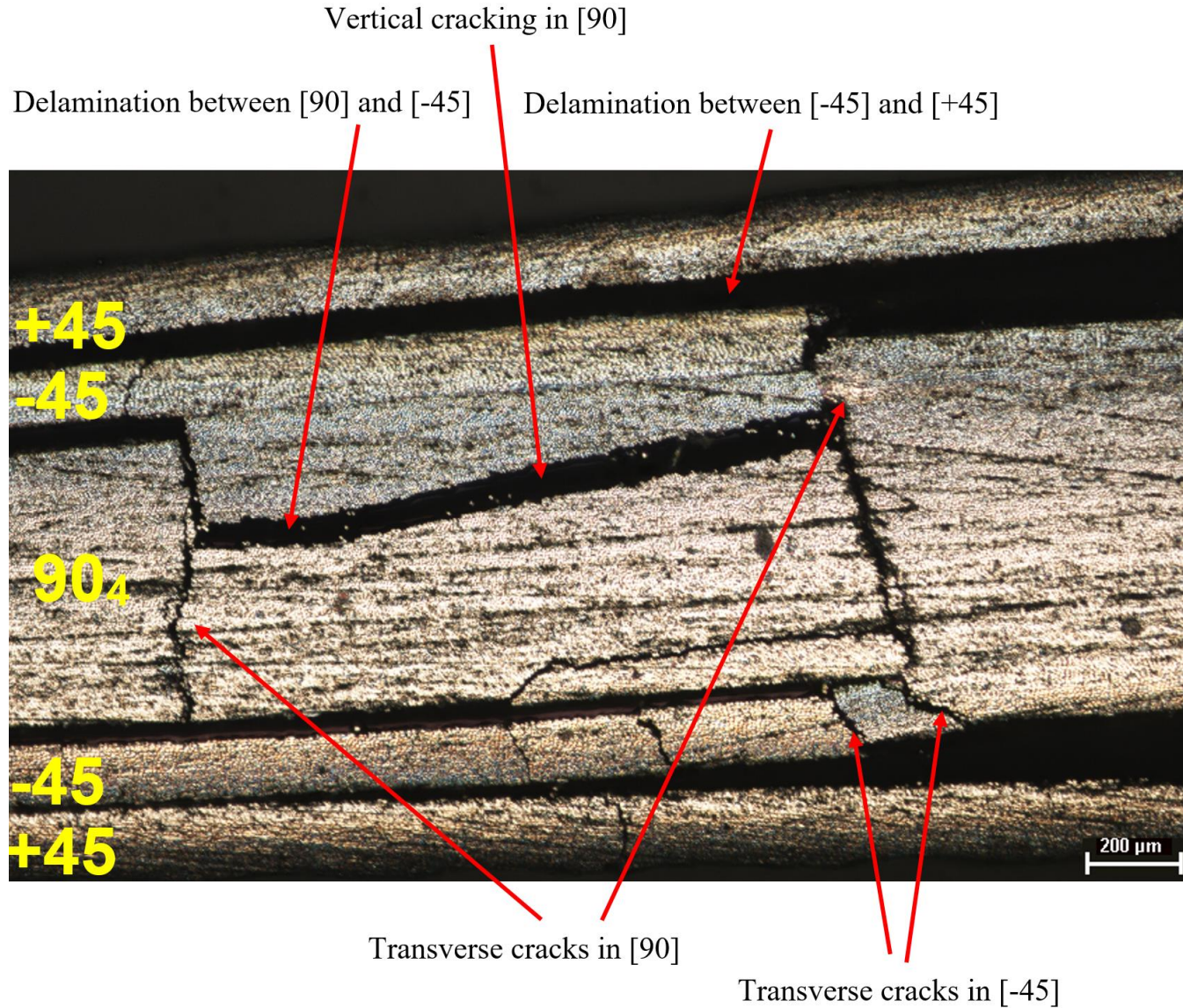


Modulus degradation with cracking

Creep strain with cracking



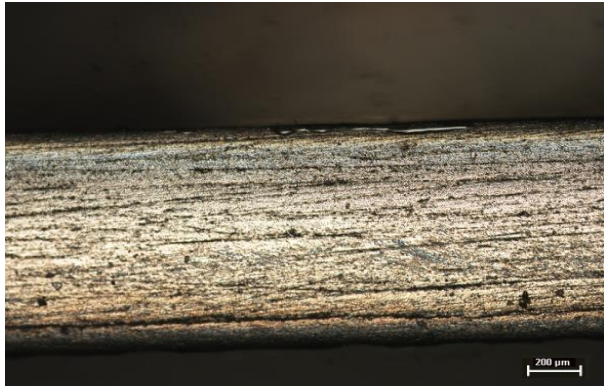
# Damage in Multidirectional Laminates



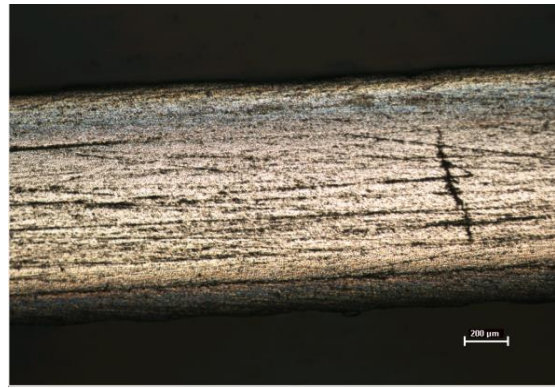


# Evolution of Damage in Multidirectional Laminates

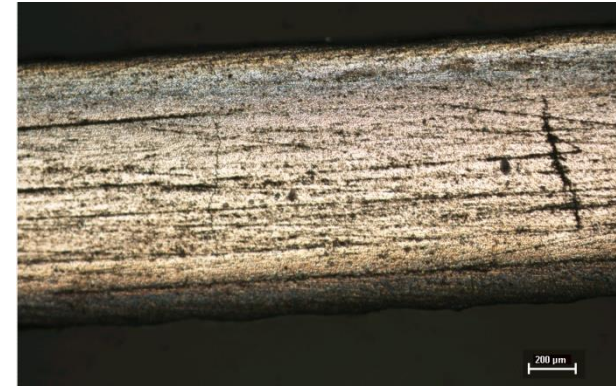
## Damage evolution with stress and time



0 MPa



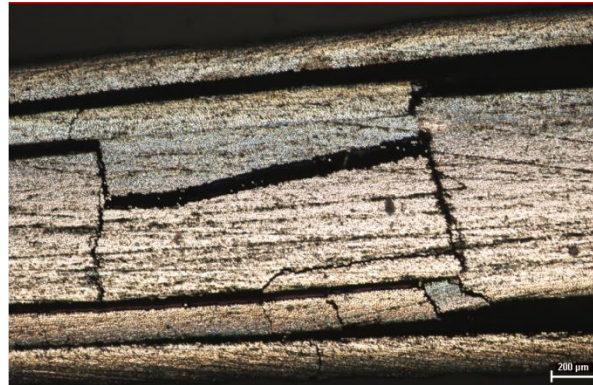
50 MPa



70 MPa



90 MPa



100 MPa

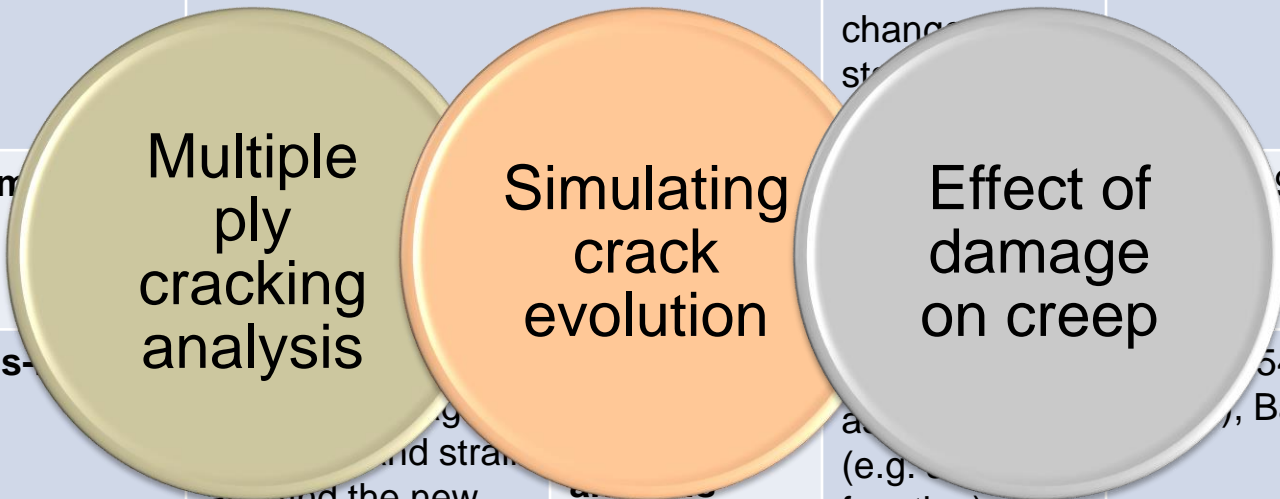






# State of the Art

Model	How it works	Pros & Cons	Prominent studies
<b>Ply discounting</b>	Reduces the modulus of the cracked ply to near a zero value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Simplicity</li> <li>- Artificial change in stress</li> </ul>	Hinton (2002), Anand (2006)
<b>Continuum damage mechanics</b>			(1994), Talreja (1999)
<b>Elastic analysis-</b>			(1954), McCartney (1999), Barbero (2010)
	and find the new stress and strain	(e.g. function)	<b>Hashin (1985-2010)</b>



## My approach:

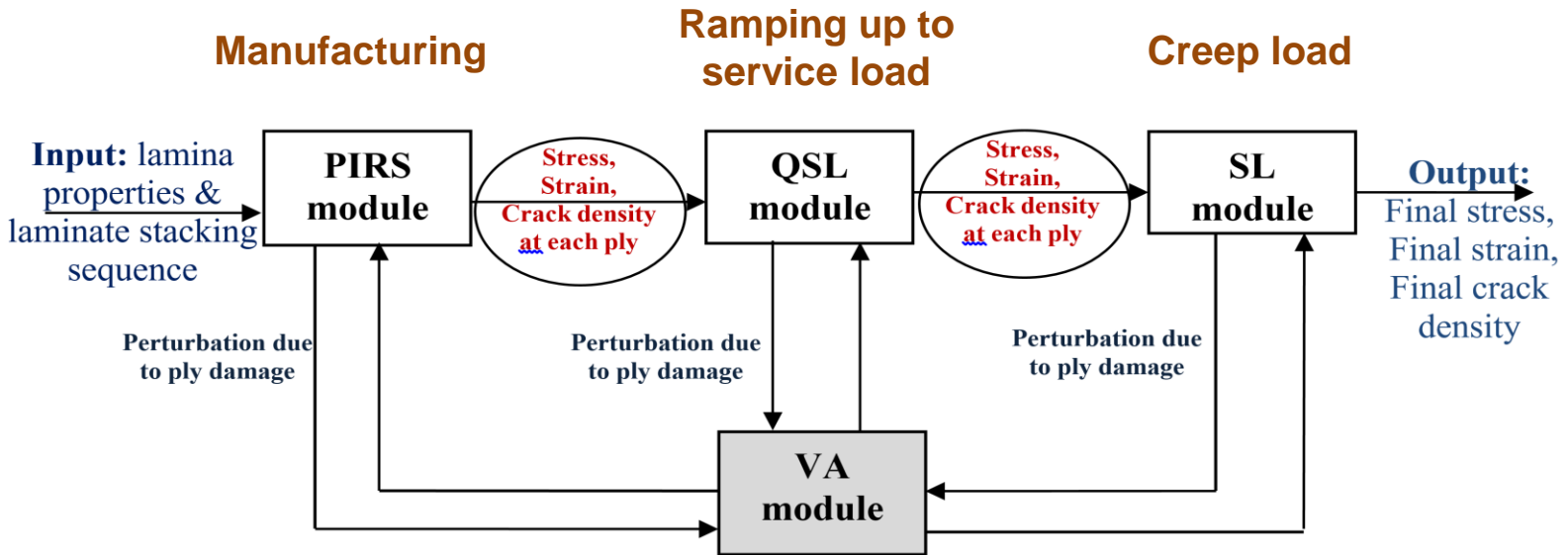
**Variational analysis-based model in a lamination theory model framework to predict the cracking evolution and its effect on creep**

assumptions  
- Complexity

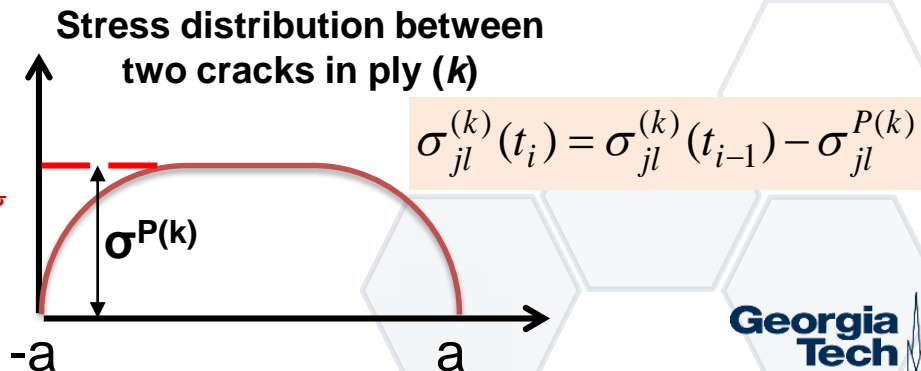
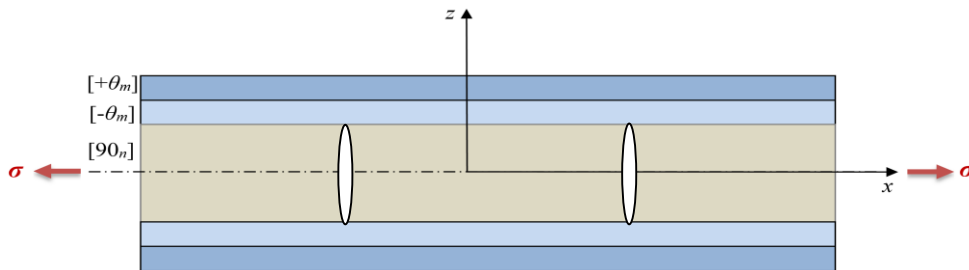


# Creep Model

A successful creep-damage model should consider the history of loading

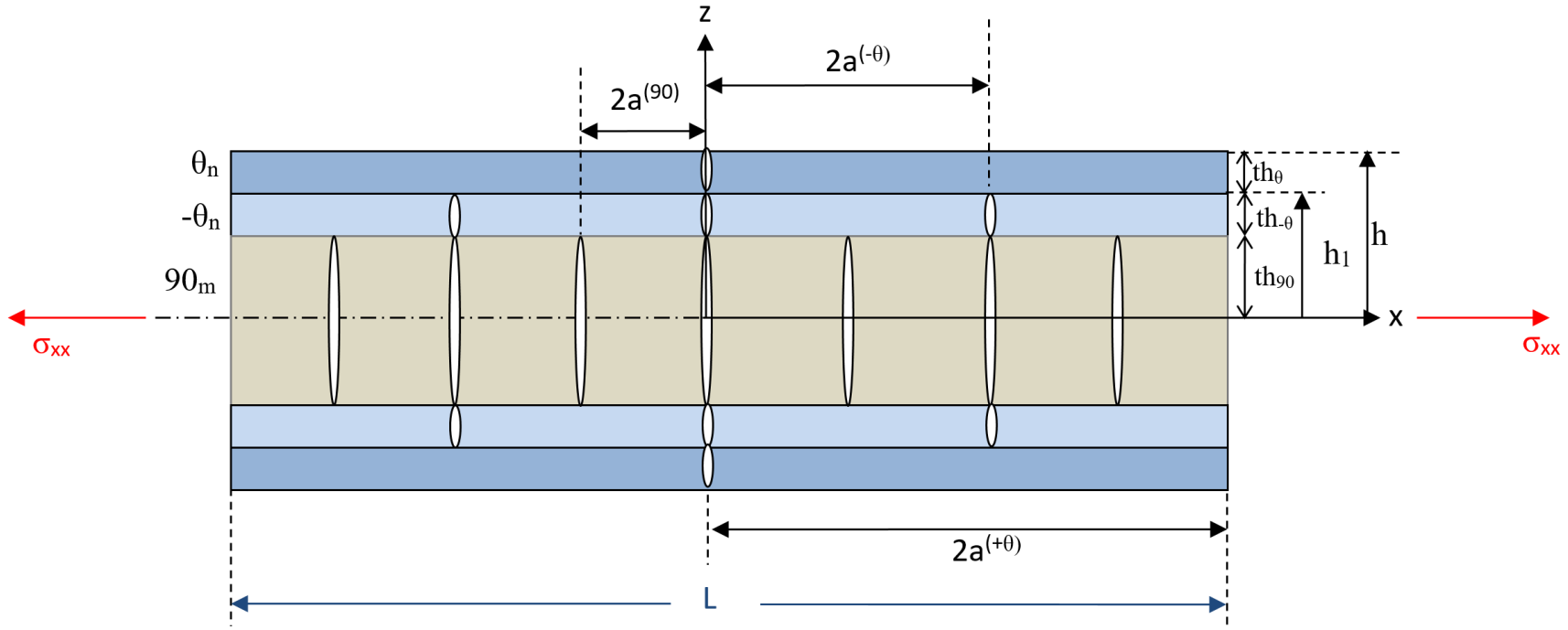


**Variational Analysis (VA):** Finds an admissible stress state in each ply by determining the perturbation in stresses due to cracking in plies of a laminate





# Variational Analysis for Multiple Cracking



$$\sigma_{xx}^{(k)}(t_i, x) = \sigma_{xx}^{(k)}(t_{i-1}) - \varphi^{(k)}(x)$$

**Axial stress perturbation**

$$\sigma_{yy}^{(k)}(t_i, x) = \sigma_{yy}^{(k)}(t_{i-1}) - \eta^{(k)}(x)$$

**Transverse stress perturbation**

$$\sigma_{xy}^{(k)}(t_i, x) = \sigma_{xy}^{(k)}(t_{i-1}) - \psi^{(k)}(x)$$

**Shear stress perturbation**



# How Variational Analysis Solves for Cracking?



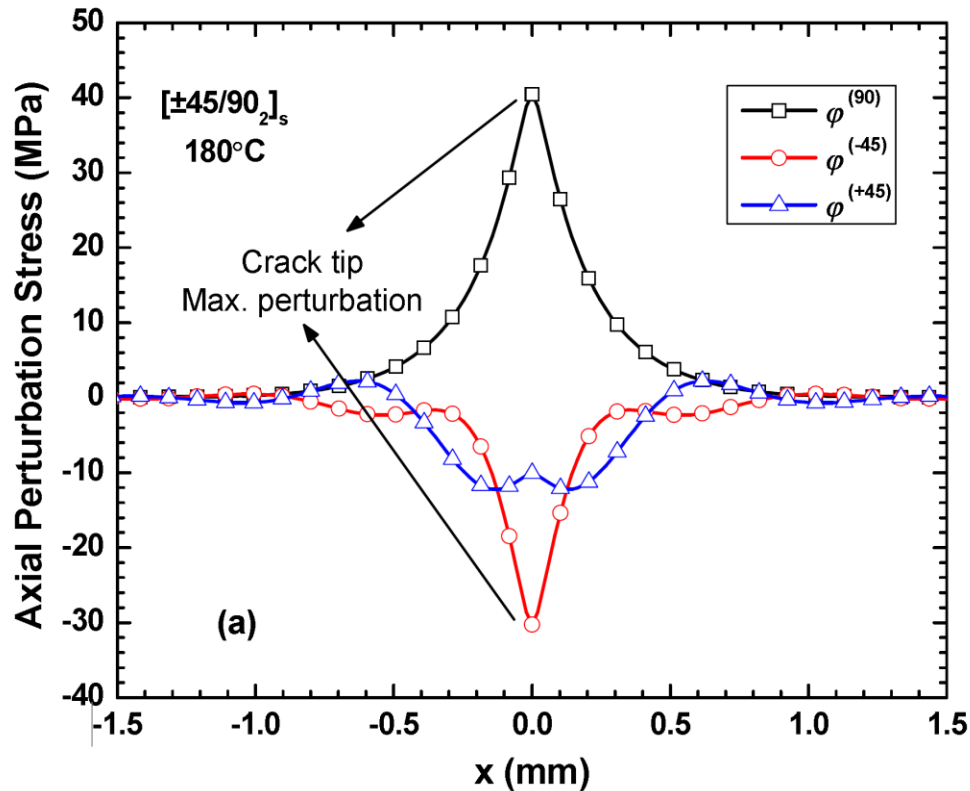
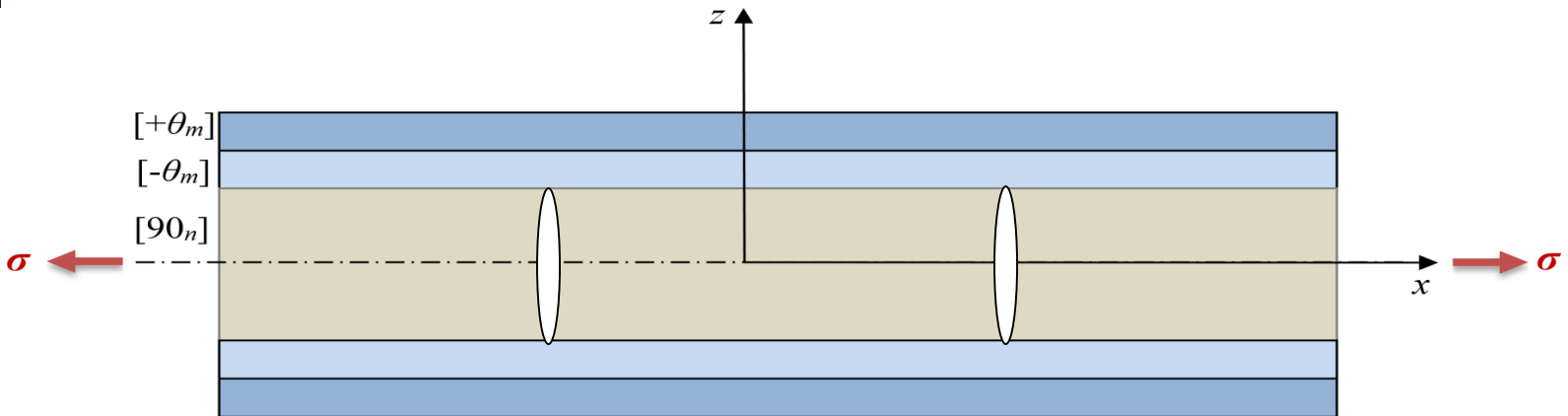
Principle of minimum complementary energy: First variation (minimizing) of complementary energy to each perturbation stress

$$\sigma_{xy}^{(90)}(t_i, x) + A_1 \frac{d^4}{dx^4} \varphi^{(90)}(x) + A_2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \varphi^{(90)}(x) + A_3 \varphi^{(90)}(x) + A_4 \frac{d^4}{dx^4} \varphi^{(-\theta)}(x) + A_5 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \varphi^{(\theta)}(x) + A_6 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \eta^{(90)}(x) + A_7 \eta^{(90)}(x) = 0$$

$$\sigma_{xz}^{(90)}(t_i, x, z) = \frac{d\varphi^{(90)}(x)}{dx} z$$

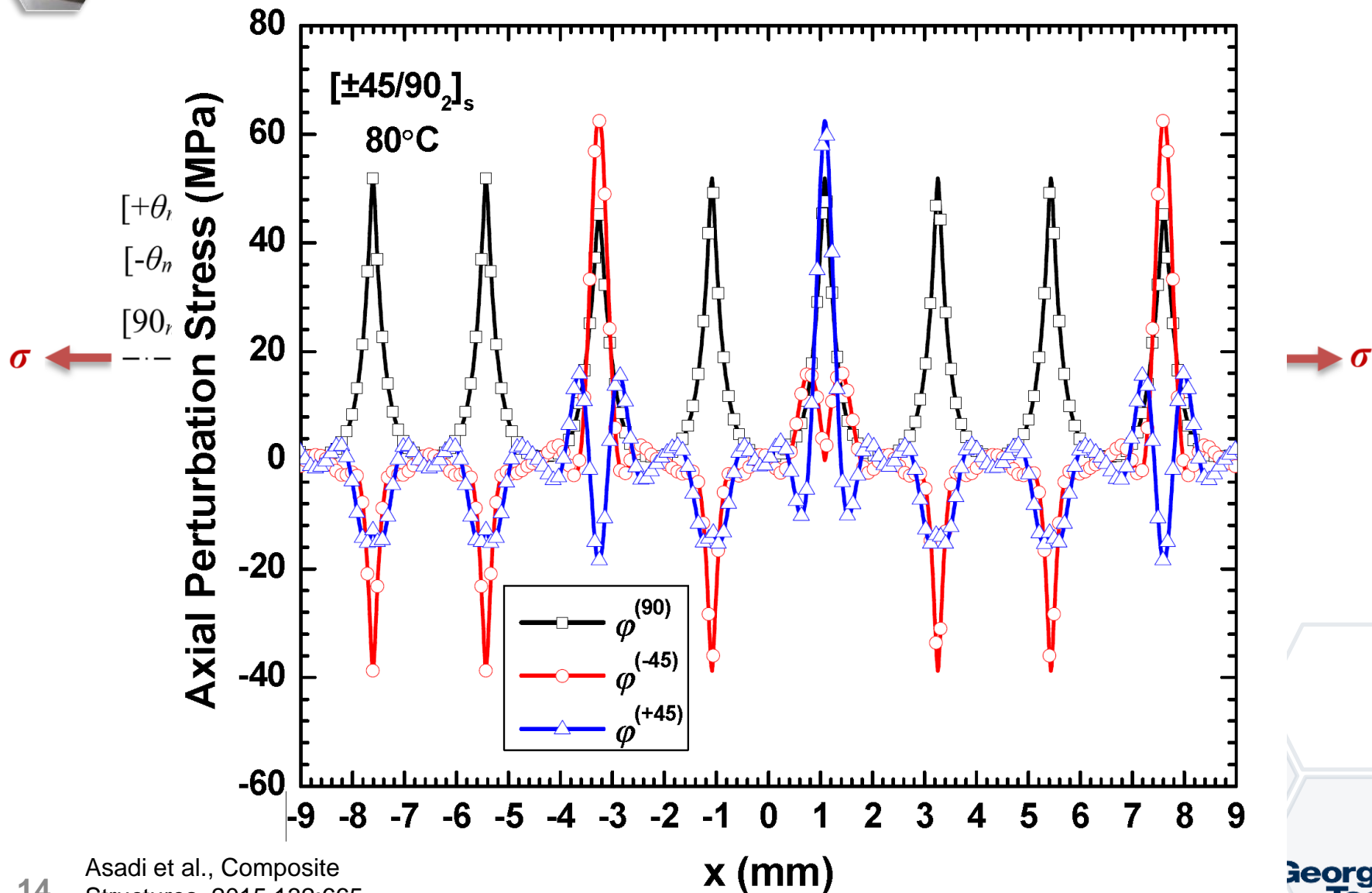


# Single-Ply Cracking: Perturbations





# Multiple-Ply Cracking: Perturbation





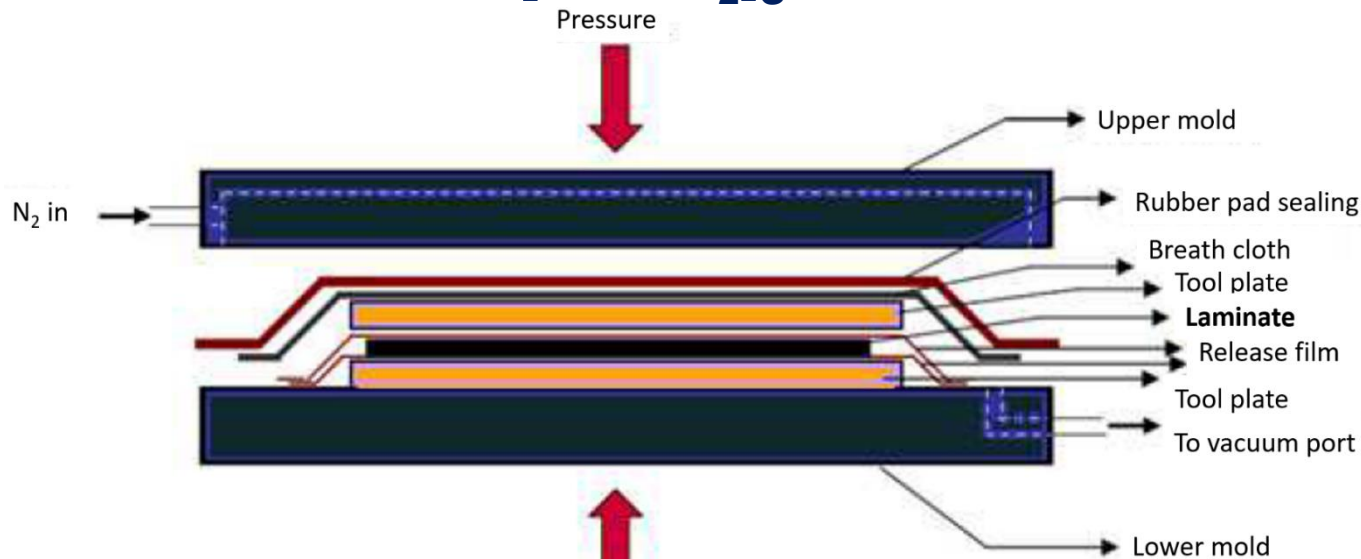
# Experimental Validation of the Model

Composites made with:

- Hexcel F263-7 Epoxy/Toho G30-500 carbon fiber prepreg.



- Autoclave manufacturing for unidirectional [0], [90], [45] and multidirectional  $[\pm 45/90_2]_s$  laminates.



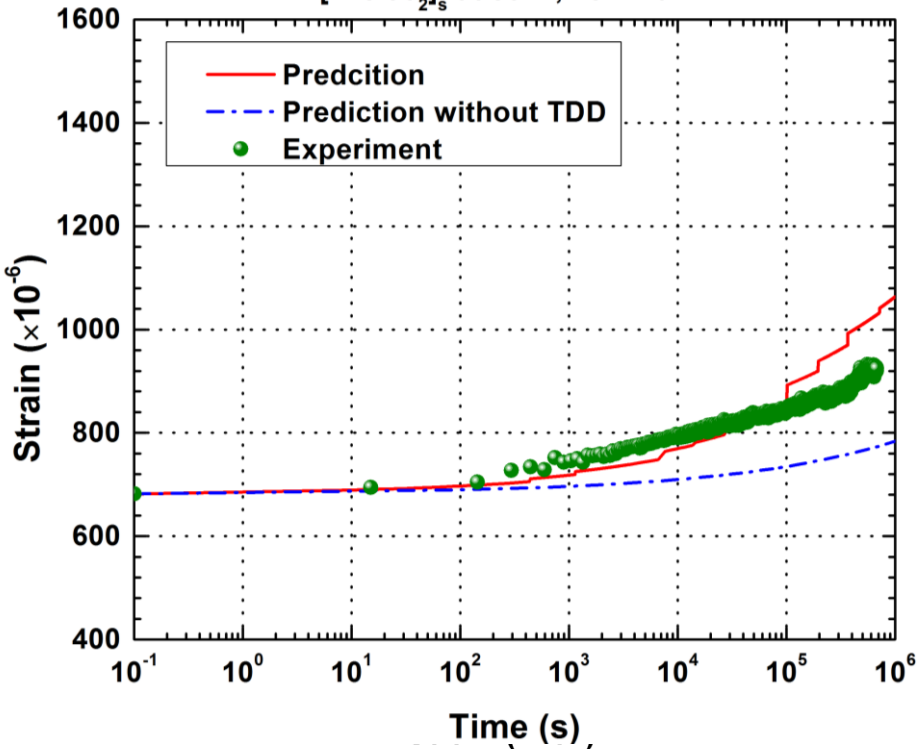
Strain gauge



# Predictions: Effect of Cracking on Properties and Behavior

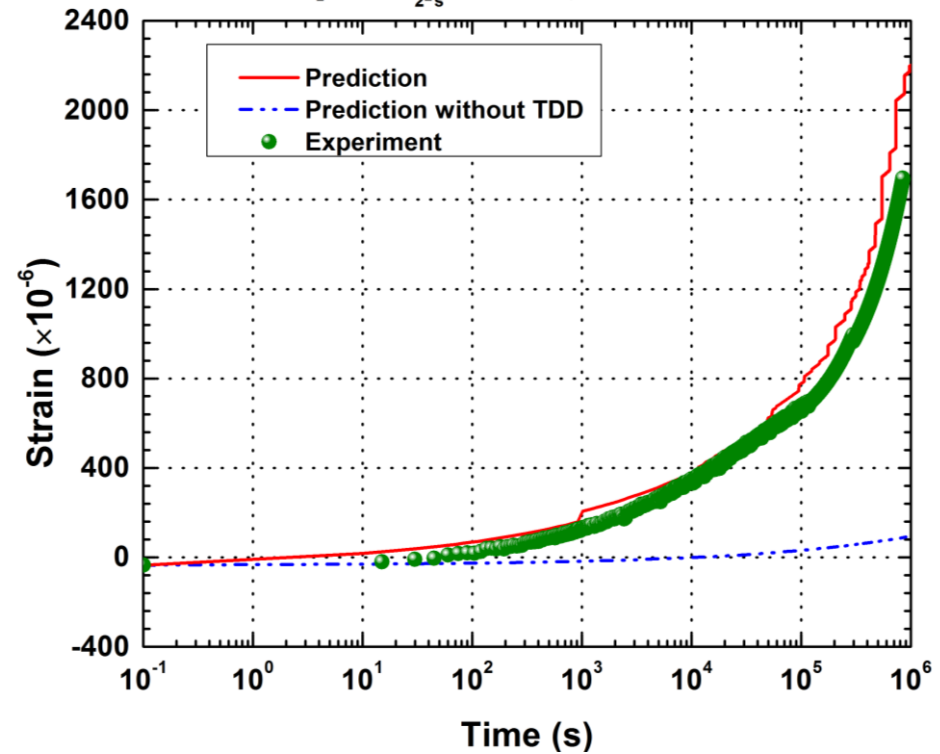


$[\pm 45/90]_{2s}$  at 80°C, 45 MPa



Quasi-static damage prediction with damage  
Stress-strain curve with cracking  
evolution (room temperature)

$[\pm 45/90]_{2s}$  at 180°C, 25 MPa

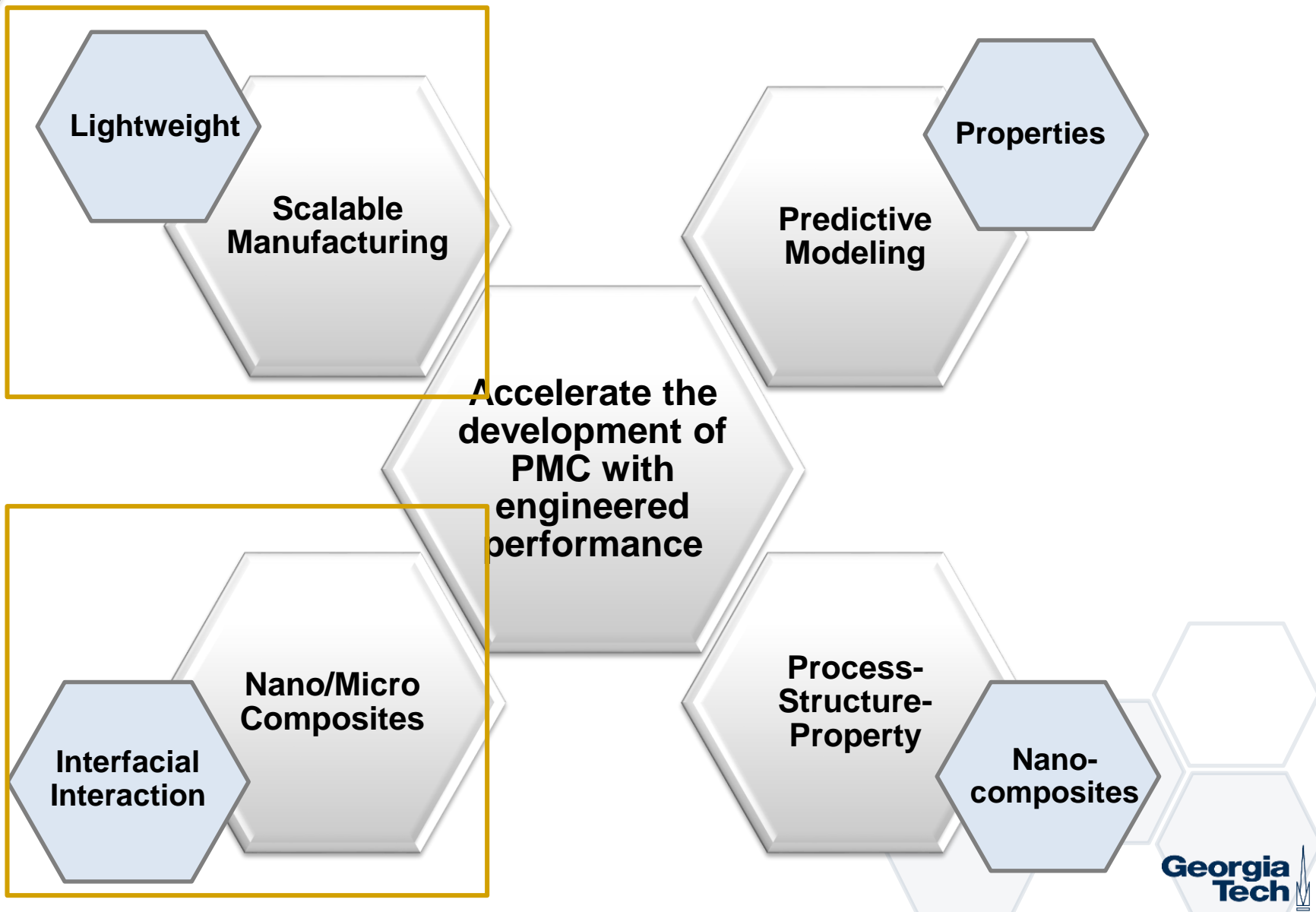


Creep behavior prediction with damage  
Modulus degradation prediction with  
evolution (high temperature)  
cracking





# Research Outline





# Why Lightweight?



71% of US total petroleum



17% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emission



10% weight reduction

6-8% increase in fuel efficiency



28.5 mi/gal in 2012 → 54.5 mi/gal by 2025

U.S. Department of Energy, Annual Energy Review, 2012.

M. Van der Hoeven, CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions From Fuel Combustion-Highlights, International Energy Agency: Paris, France, 2011.

U.S. Department of Energy, Quadrennial Technology Review, 2011.



# Ways to Lightweight

## ➤ Surface

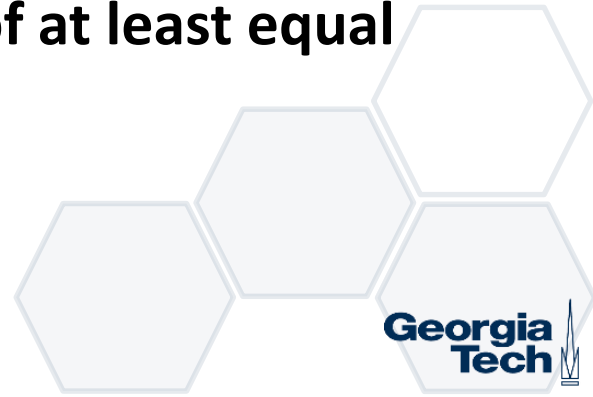
Change the part design, so less material is used.

## ➤ Thickness

Use a stronger material so a thinner part can support the required loads.

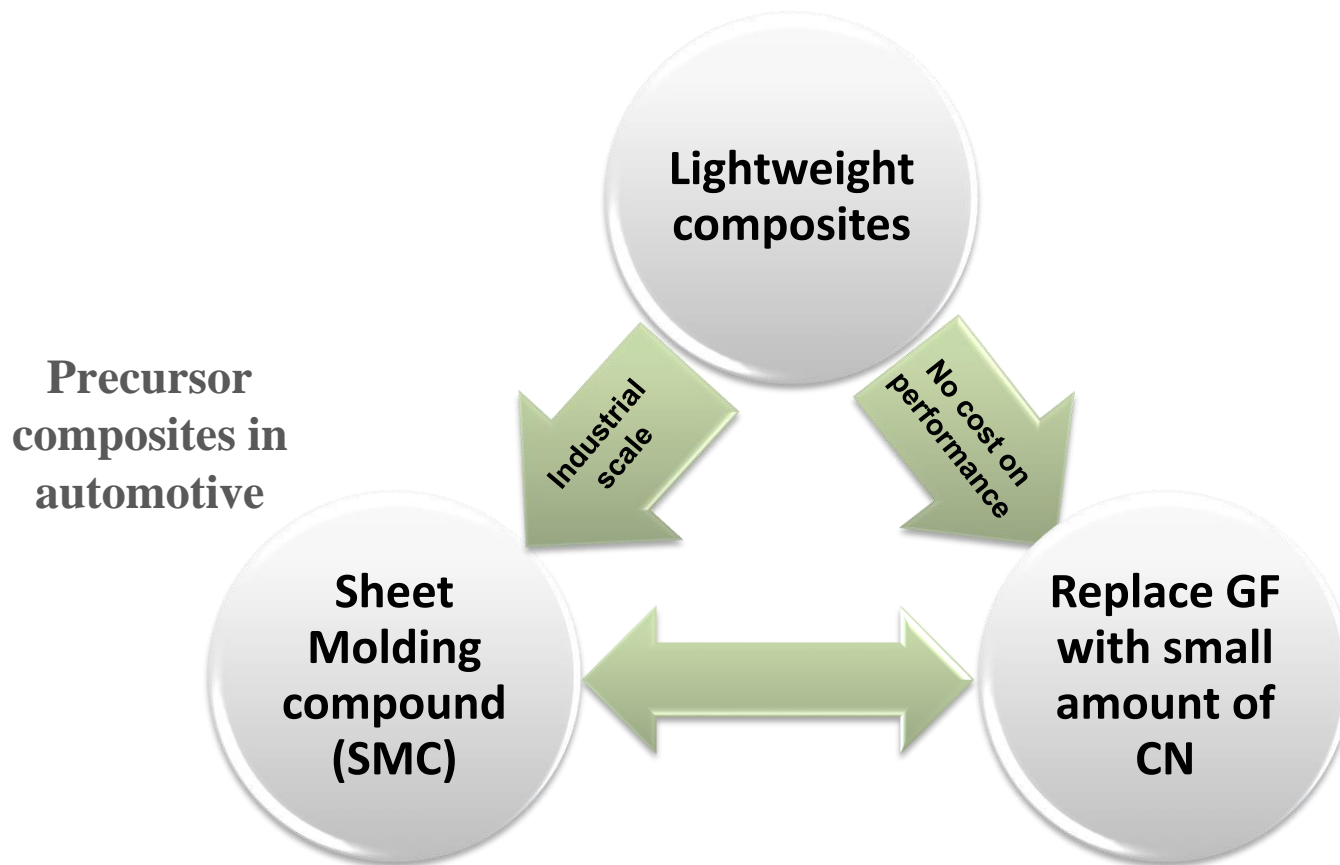
## ➤ Density

Replace the material with a lighter one of at least equal performance.





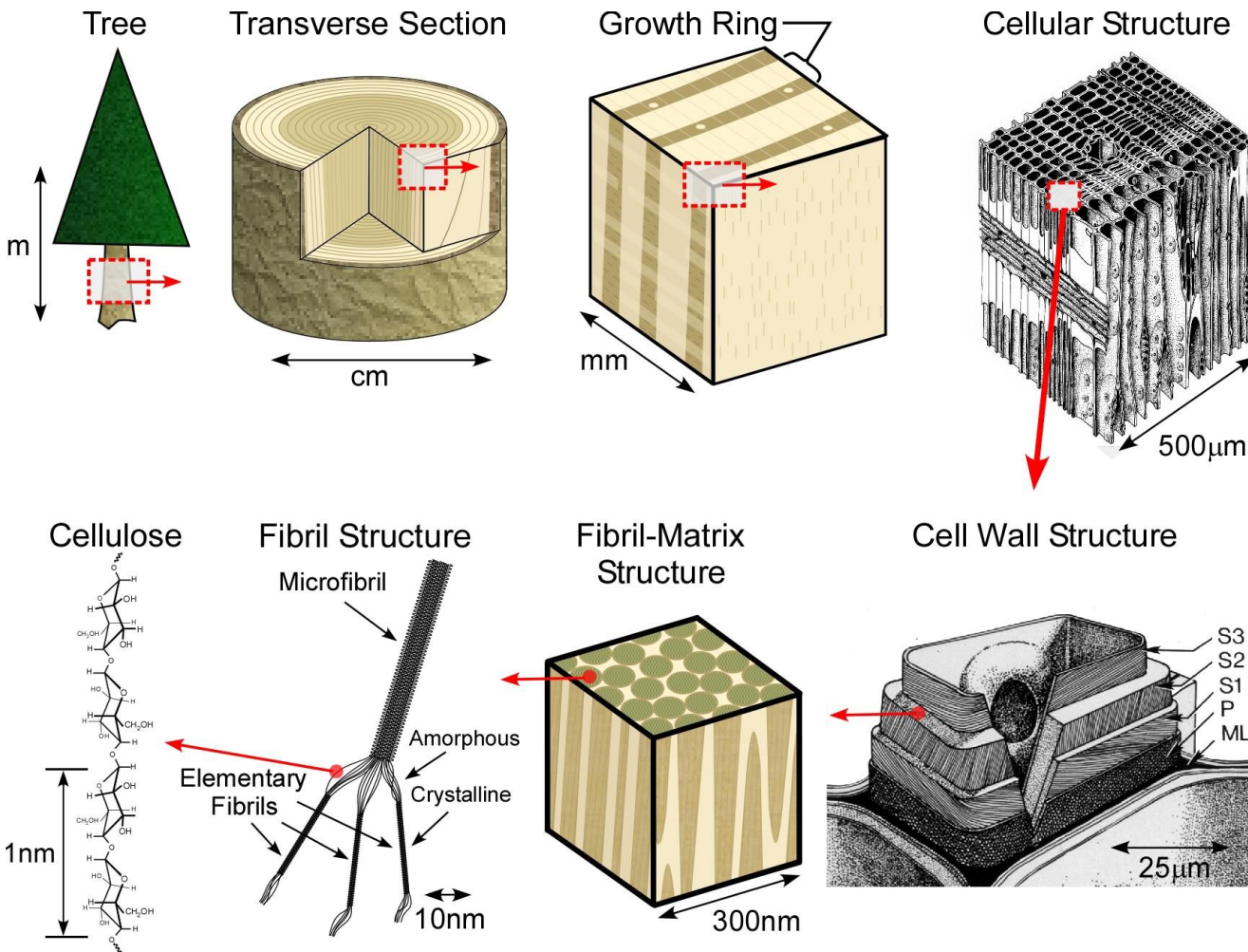
# Our Approach to Make Polymer Composites Lighter



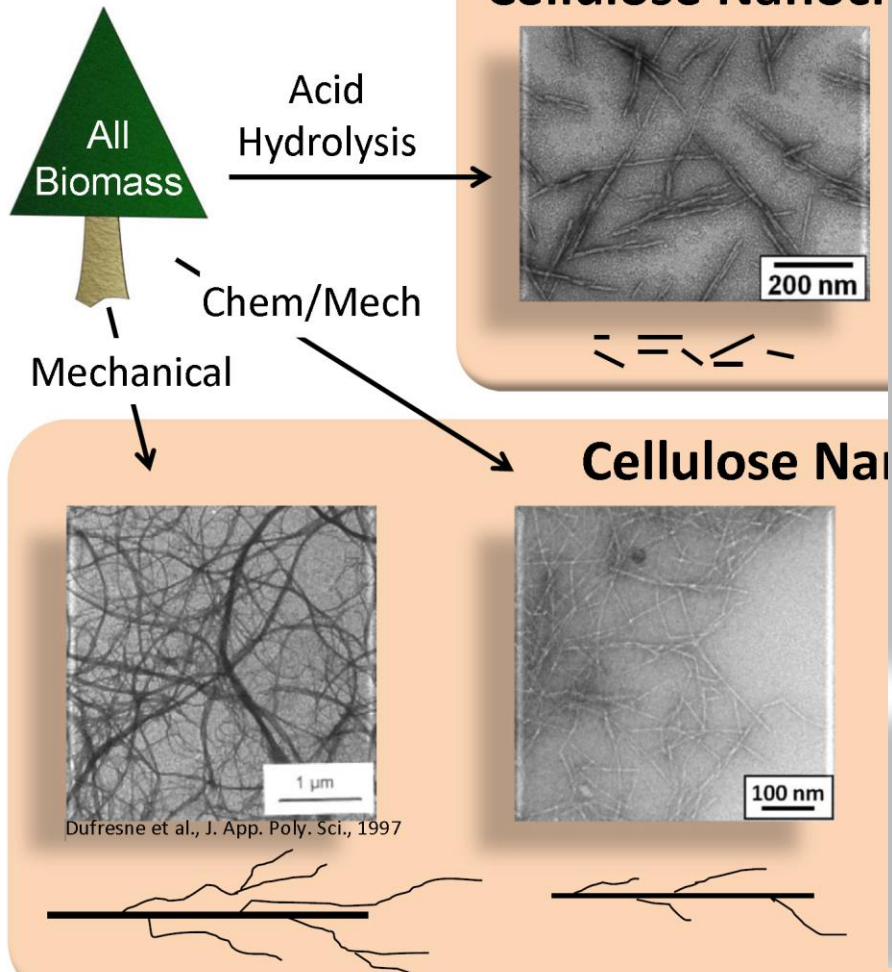
**Challenge: Scalable techniques to introduce nanocellulose (CN) into SMC lines**



# What is Cellulose?



# Cellulose Nanoparticles



## Mechanical Properties:

- Tensile Strength: 2-7.5 GPa
- Elastic Modulus: 120-220 GPa

Material	Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Tensile Strength (GPa)	Elastic Modulus (GPa)
<b>CNs</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2 - 7.5</b>	<b>120-220</b>
Pulp Fiber	0.8-1.2	0.3-1.4	5-45
Kevlar-49 fiber	1.4	3.5	124-130
Glass fiber	1.5	4.8	86
Carbon fiber	1.8	1.5 - 5.5	150-500
Steel Wire	7.8	4.1	210
Carbon Nanotubes	--	11-63	270-950

## Thermal:

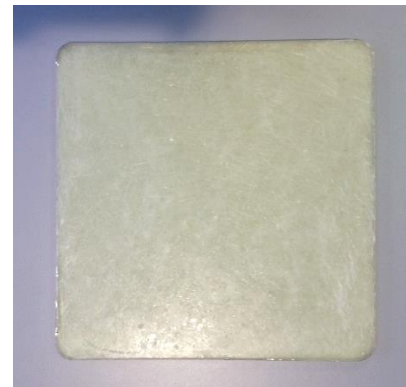
- Expansion:  $4-6 \times 10^{-6}/K$
- Degradation: 200-300 C



# Sheet Molding Compound (SMC) Manufacturing: Thermoset Polymers



# SMC Processing





# GATECH SMC & Materials



**A unique SMC at Georgia Tech:**

- 1) Similar to industrial SMC machine but in a smaller scale (12" wide products)**
- 2) Capable of manufacturing of**
  - a) short glass fiber composites**
  - b) continuous carbon fiber composites**
  - c) fiber mat composites**



**Glass fibers roving rack**

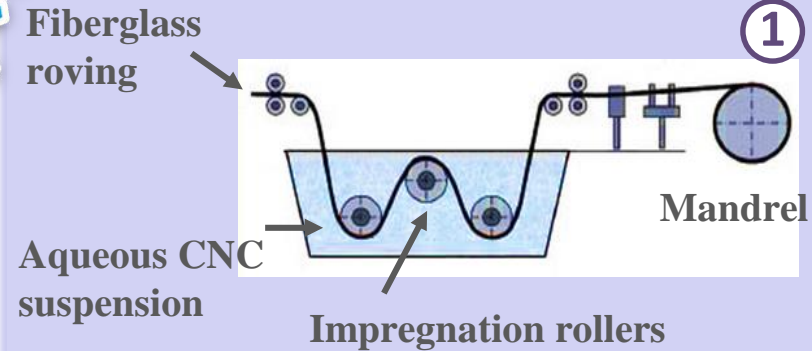
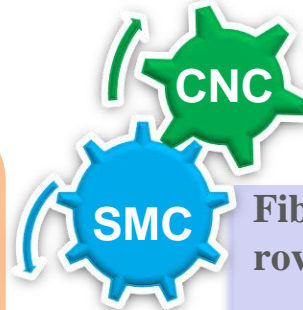
## **Materials**

- 1. Owens Corning ME 1510 glass fibers: suitable for SMC and epoxy**
- 2. US Composites epoxy 150+polyamide**
- 3. Cellulose Nanocrystals (CNC): Freeze-dried & aqueous suspension: US Forest Service**

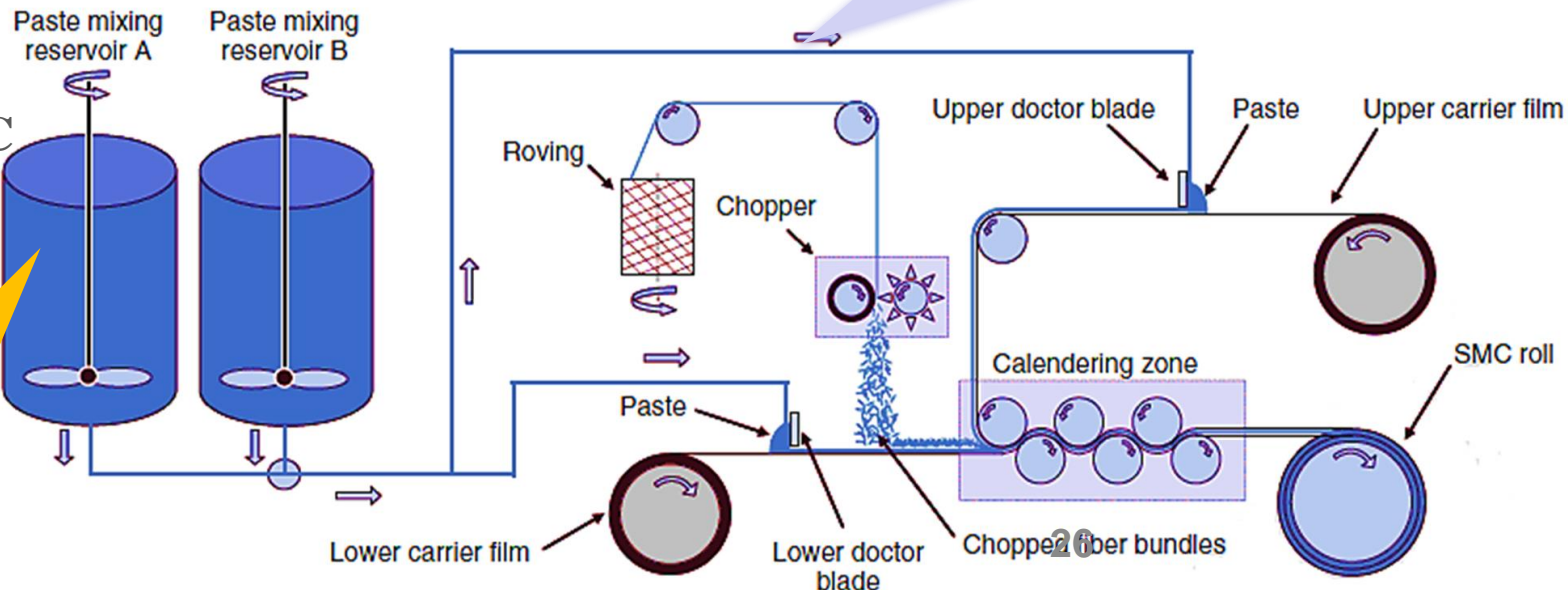
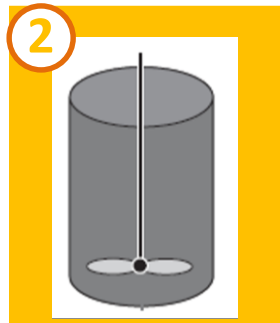


# Scalable Techniques to Introduce CNC in SMC

- i. Coating glass fibers with CNC
- ii. Dispersing CNC in polymer matrix

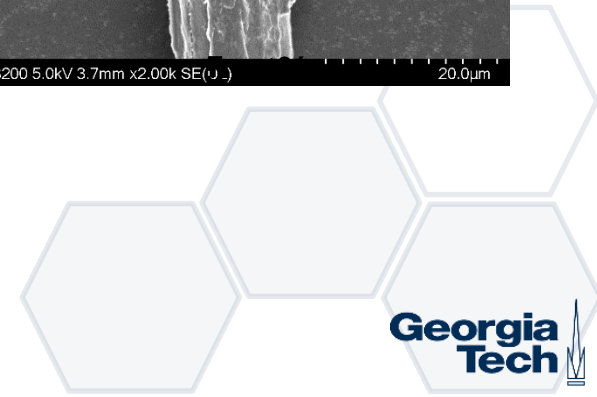
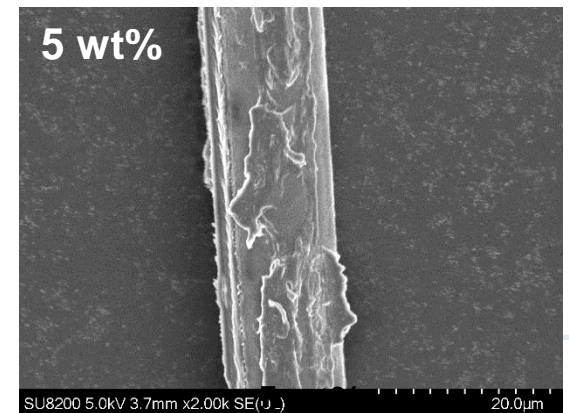
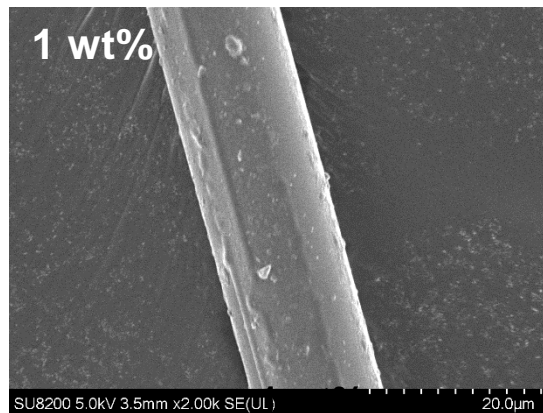
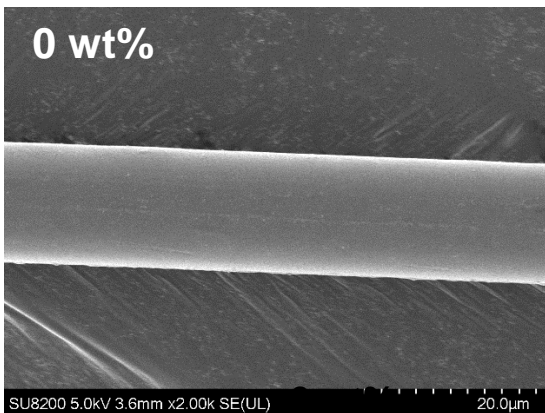
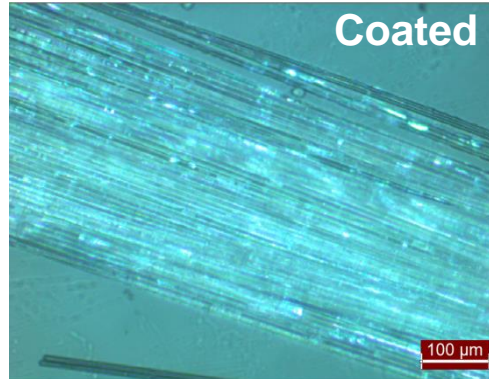
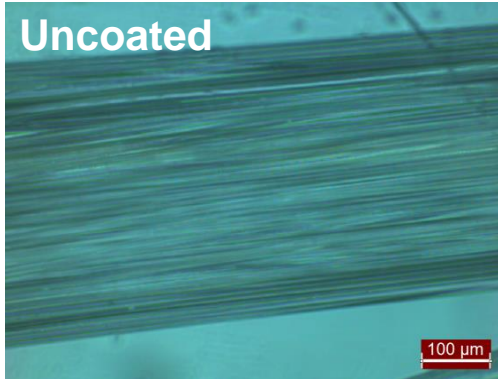


Dispersing CNC in the resin





# I. Coating Glass Fibers with CNC

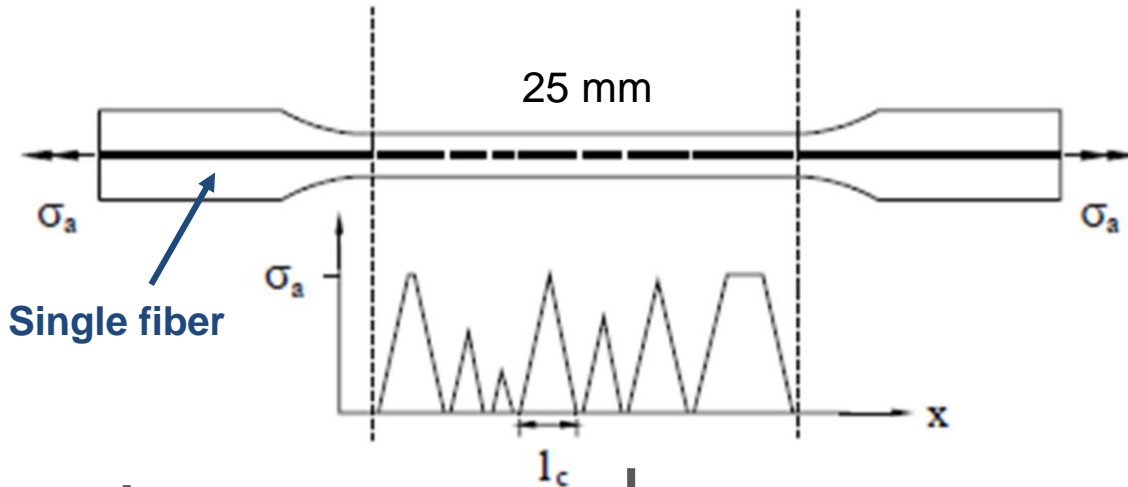




# I. CNC Effect on Interfacial Shear Strength

## Load transfer efficiency from matrix to GF

### Single Fiber Fragmentation (SFF) Test



$$\tau_i = \frac{d_f \sigma_f}{2l_c} = \frac{3d_f \sigma_f}{8\bar{l}}$$

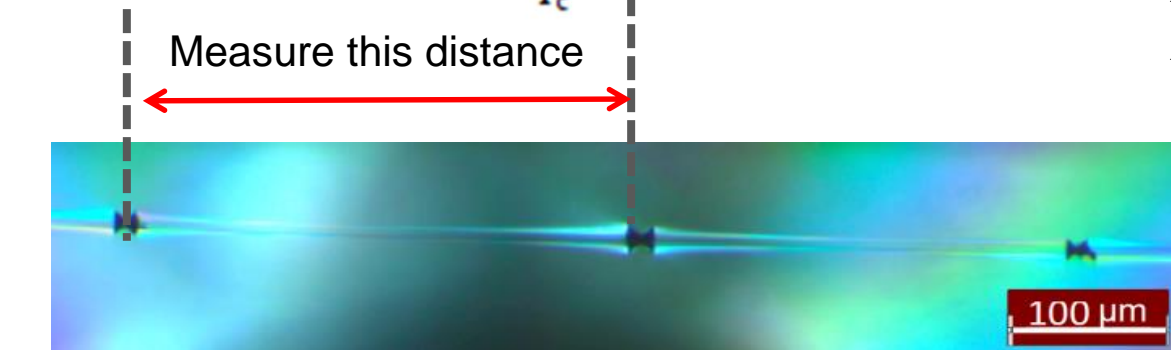
$\tau_i$ : IFSS;

$d_f$ : fiber diameter;

$\sigma_f$ : fiber strength

$l_c$ : fiber critical fragment length

$\bar{l}$ : average length of fragments



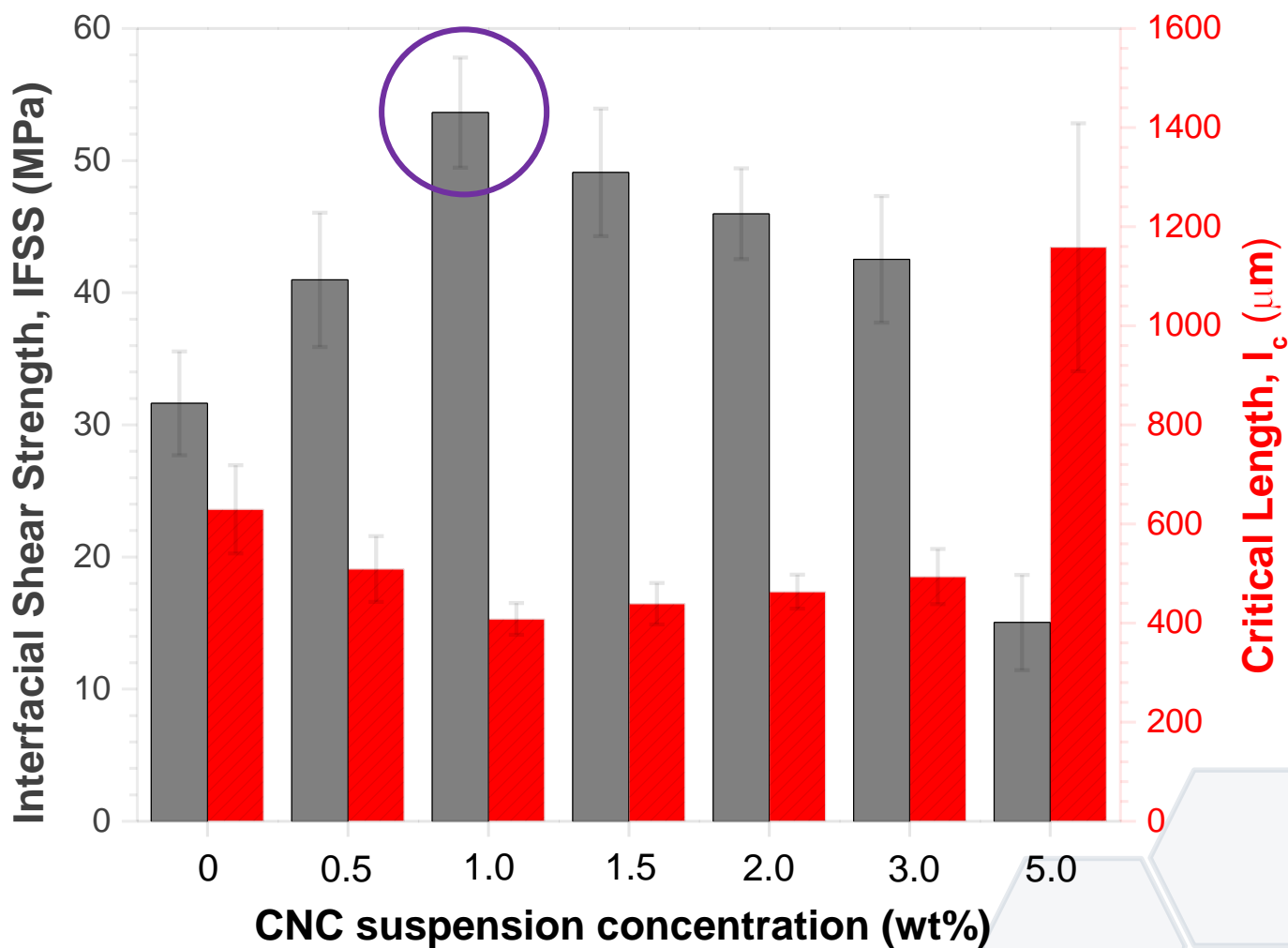
Polarized light micrograph of single GF after SFF test





# I. CNC Effect on Interfacial Shear Strength

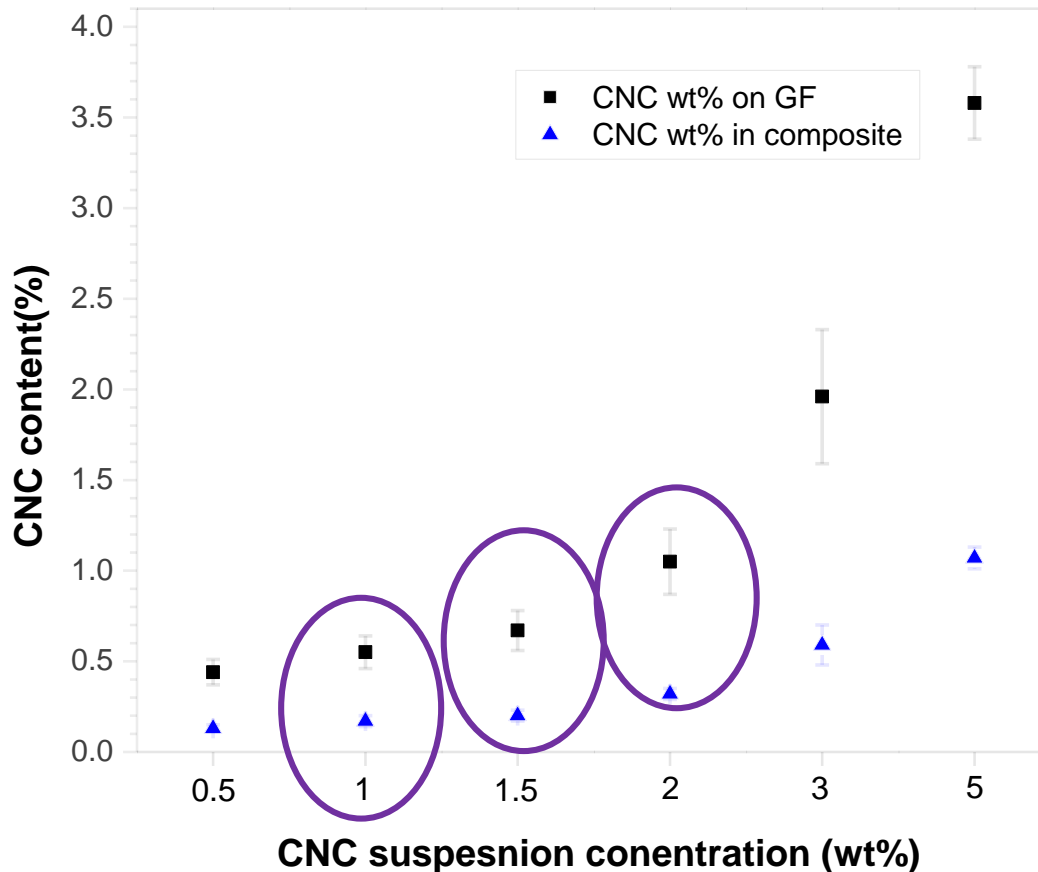
70% increase



# I. CNC Content on GF and Composite



## Thermogravimetry (TGA) results

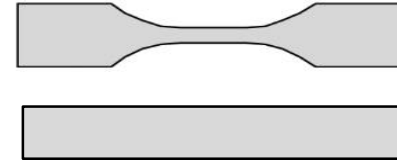
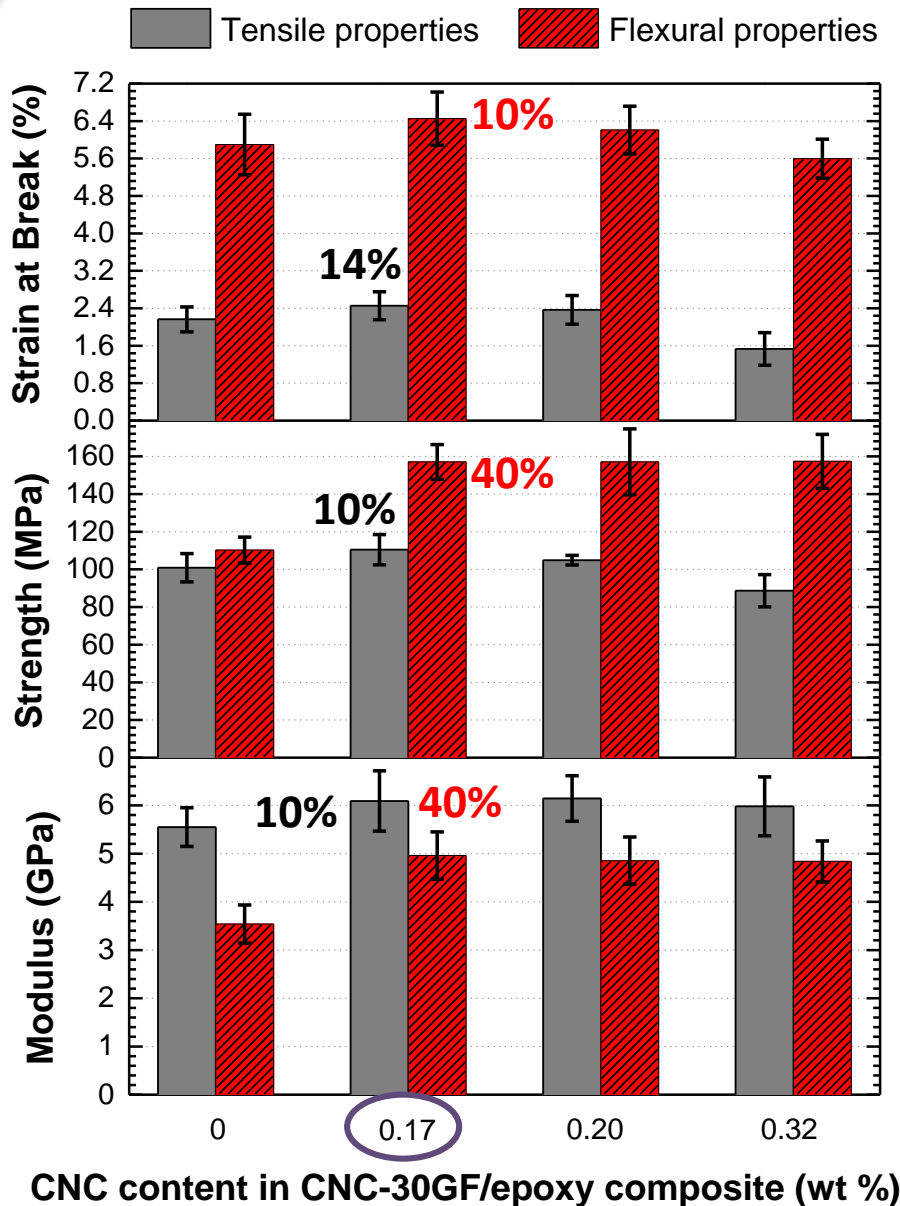


CNC wt% in aqueous suspension	CNC wt% in a 30GF/epoxy composite
0.5	0.13
1	0.17
1.5	0.2
2	0.32
3	0.59
5	1.07

**Highest IFSS  
to make  
composites**



# I. Tensile and Flexural Properties of CNC-30GF/Epoxy Composites



## Tensile Properties

- ↑ or – Modulus
- ↑ or – Strength
- ↑ or – Strain at break

## Flexural Properties

- ↑ Modulus
- ↑ Strength
- – Strain at break

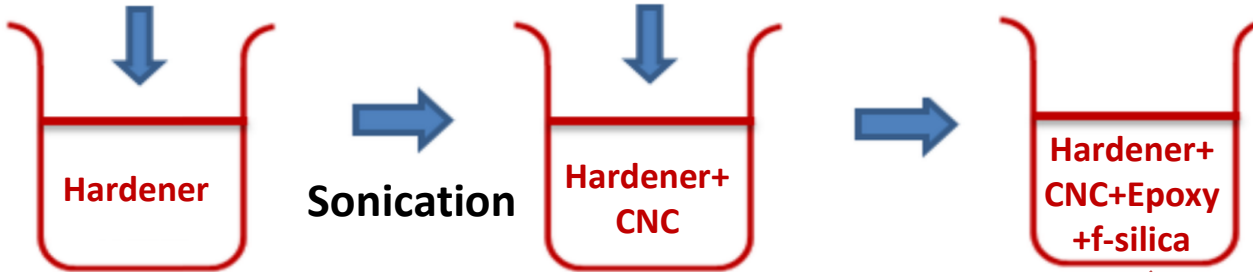
# II. Reinforcing Polymer Matrix with CNC prior to Use in SMC



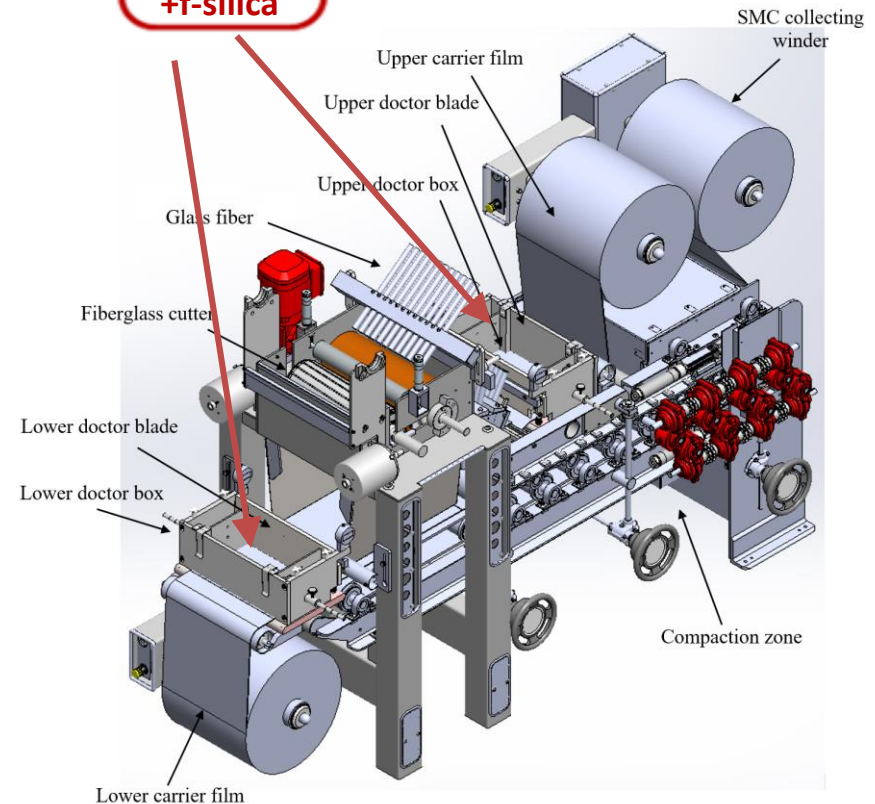
Freeze-dried CNC

Epoxy+fumed silica

SMC resin



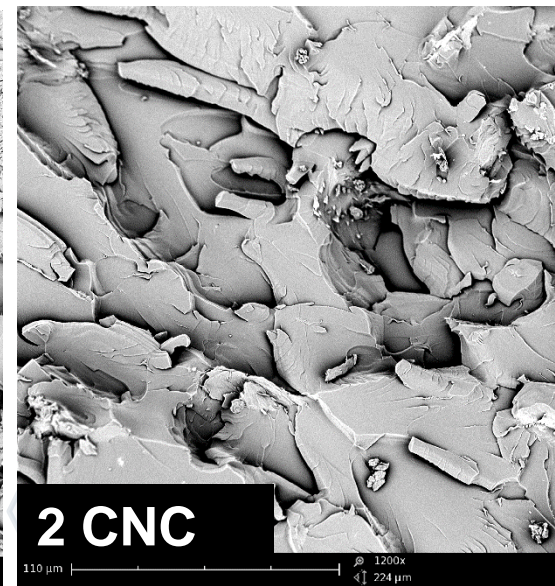
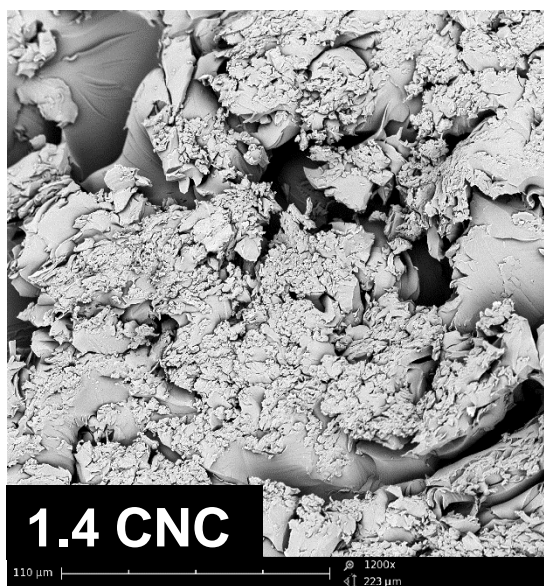
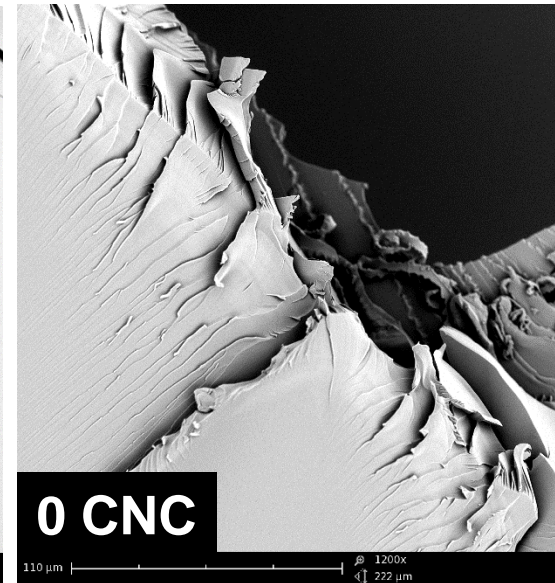
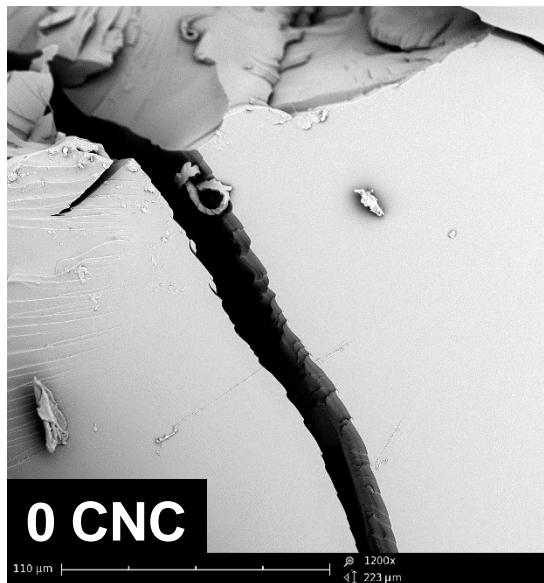
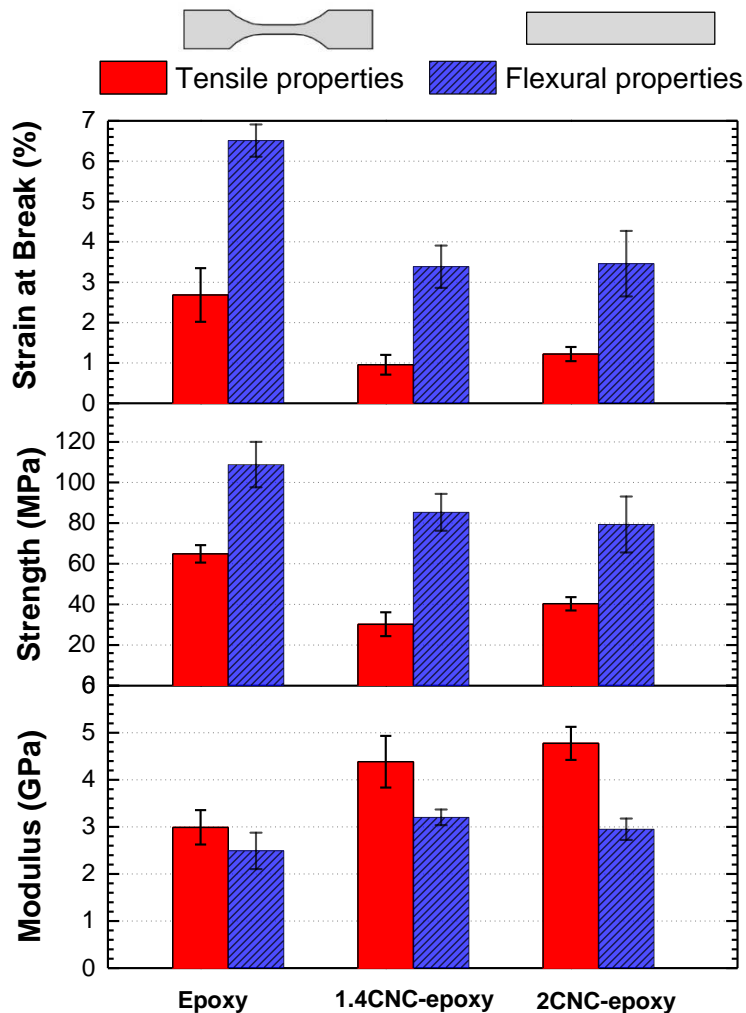
CNC wt% in the neat resin	CNC wt% in a 35GF/epoxy composite
0	0
0.2	0.15
0.4	0.3
0.7	0.5
1.4	0.9





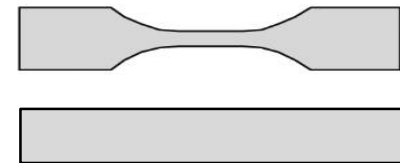
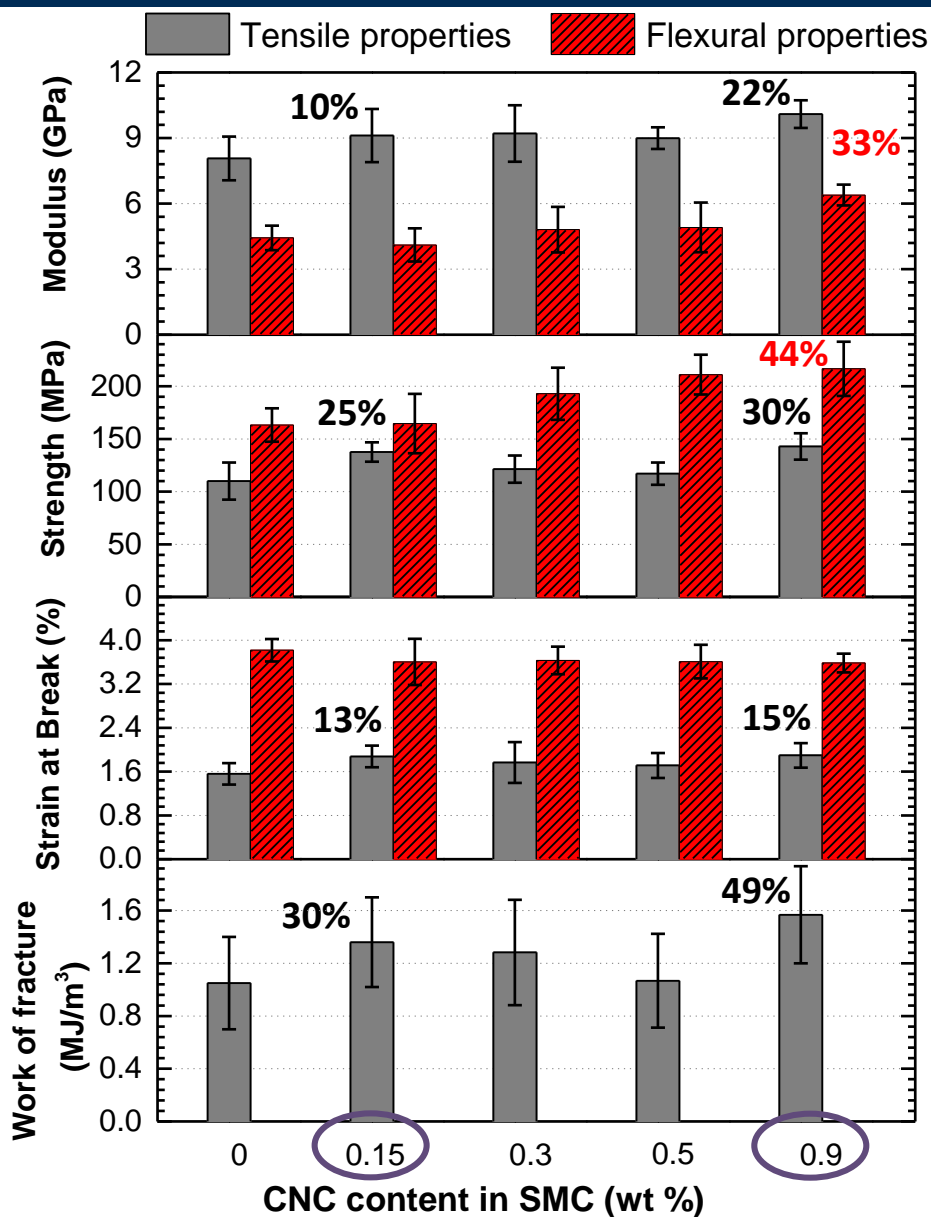


# II. Tensile and Flexural Properties of CNC-epoxy Composites





# II. Tensile and Flexural Properties of SMC 35GF/CNC-epoxy Composites

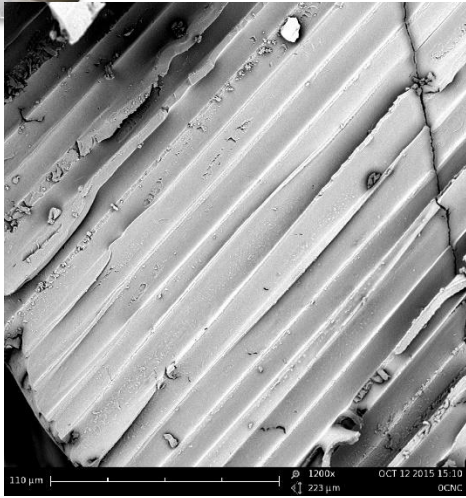


**ANOVA Verified**

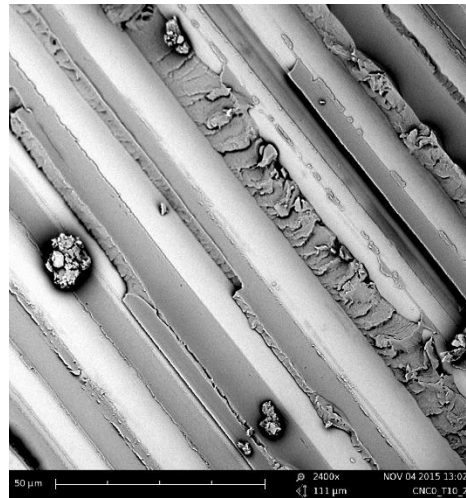
Asadi et al., Composites Part A  
2016,88:206



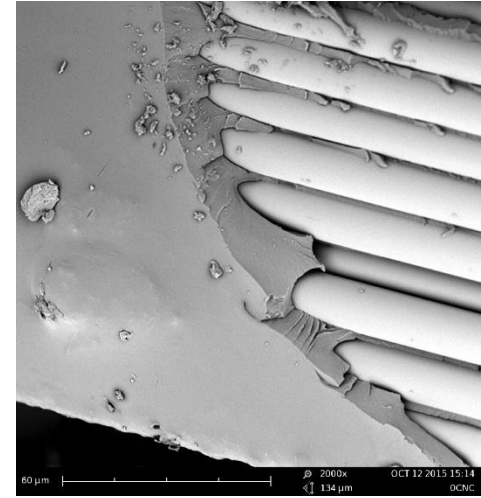
# II. Tensile Fracture Surface Morphology of SMC 35GF/CNC-epoxy Composites



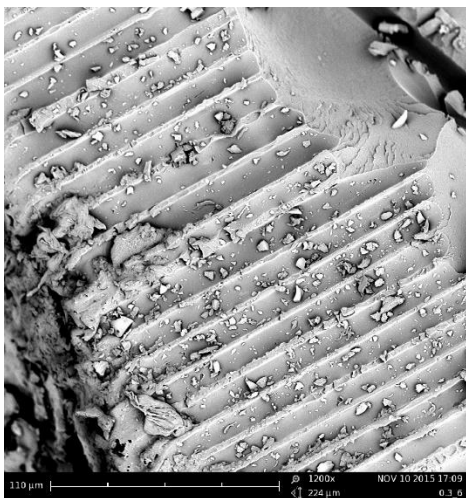
0 CNC wt%



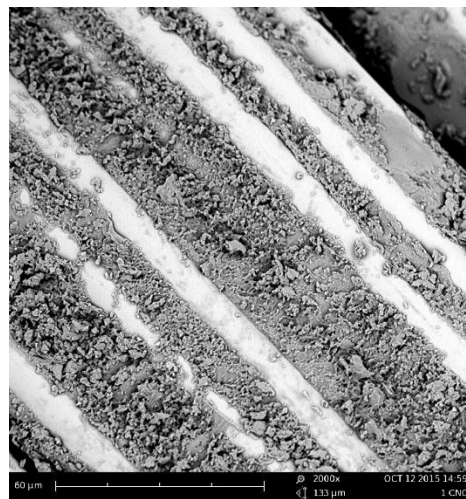
0 CNC wt%



0 CNC wt%



0.3 CNC wt%

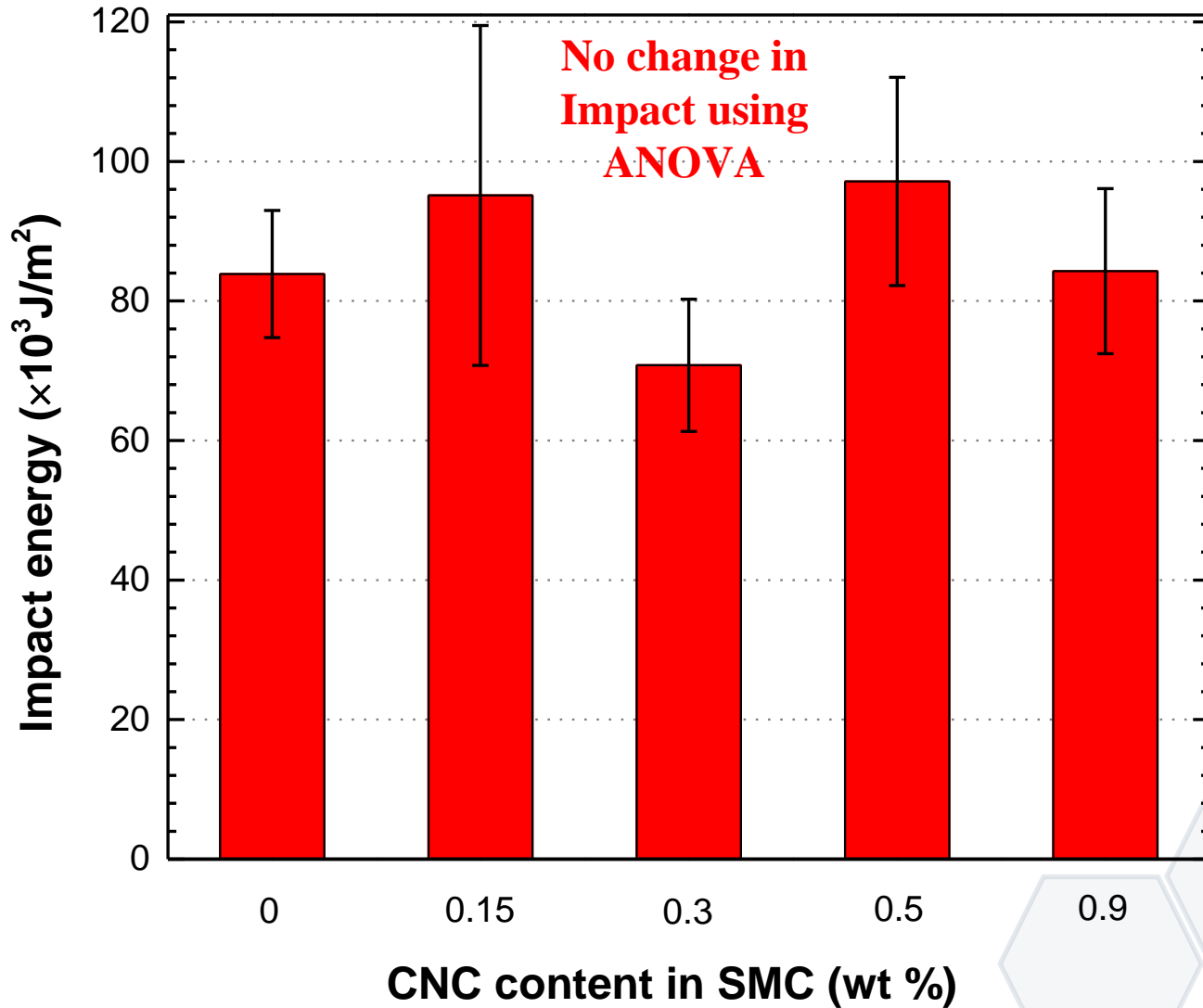


0.15 CNC wt%



0.9 CNC wt%

## II. Impact Properties of SMC 35GF/CNC-epoxy Composites

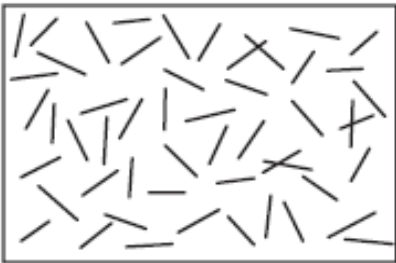




## II. Theoretical Guidelines for Light Weighting

**Goal:** Determine the CNC and GF content of a GF/CNC-epoxy composite so that it has the same specific modulus with 35 wt% GF/epoxy composites

### Discontinuous randomly distributed fiber/composite



$$E_{Composite} = \frac{3}{8} E_{11} + \frac{5}{8} E_{22}$$

$$E_{11} = E_m \left( 1 + 2 \frac{l_f}{d_f} \eta_L v_f \right) / (1 - \eta_L v_f)$$

$$E_{22} = E_m (1 + 2 \eta_L v_f) / (1 - \eta_L v_f)$$

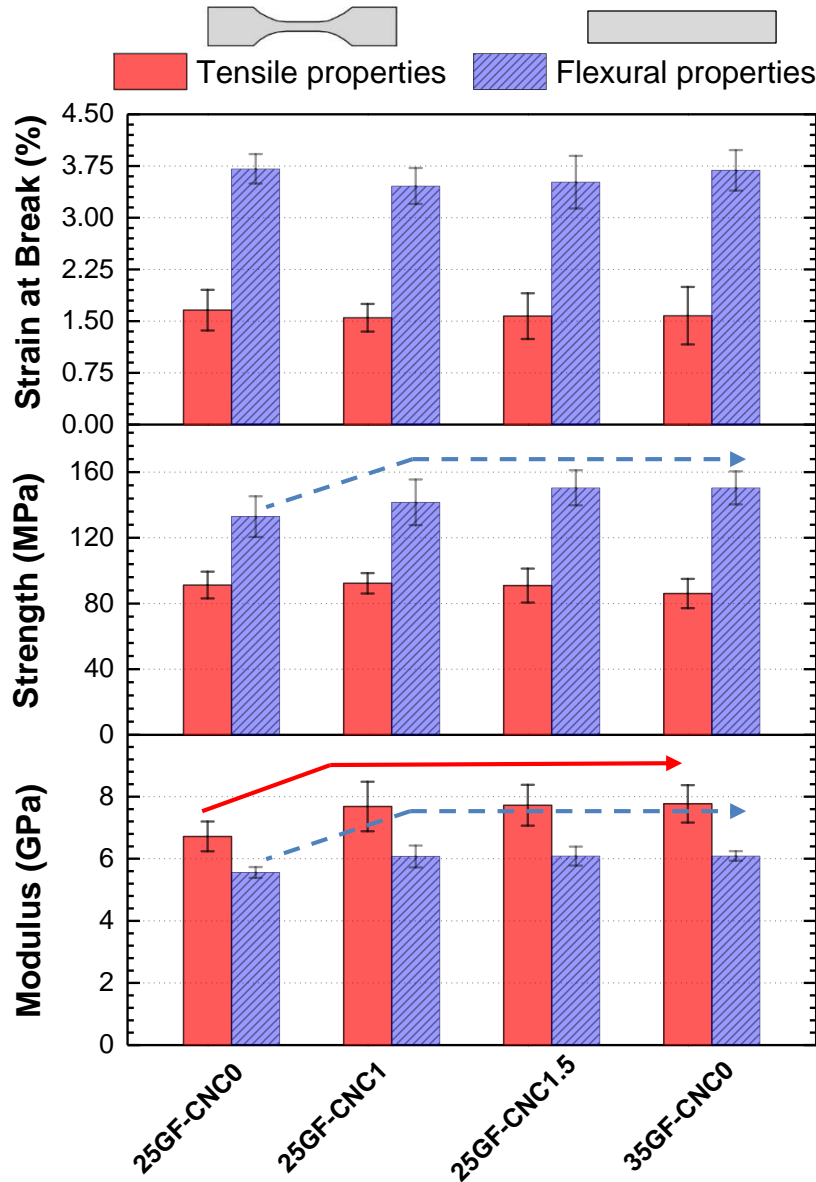
$$\eta_L = \left( \frac{E_f}{E_m} - 1 \right) / \left( \frac{E_f}{E_m} + 2 \frac{l_f}{d_f} \right)$$

$$\eta_T = \left( \frac{E_f}{E_m} - 1 \right) / \left( \frac{E_f}{E_m} + 2 \right)$$

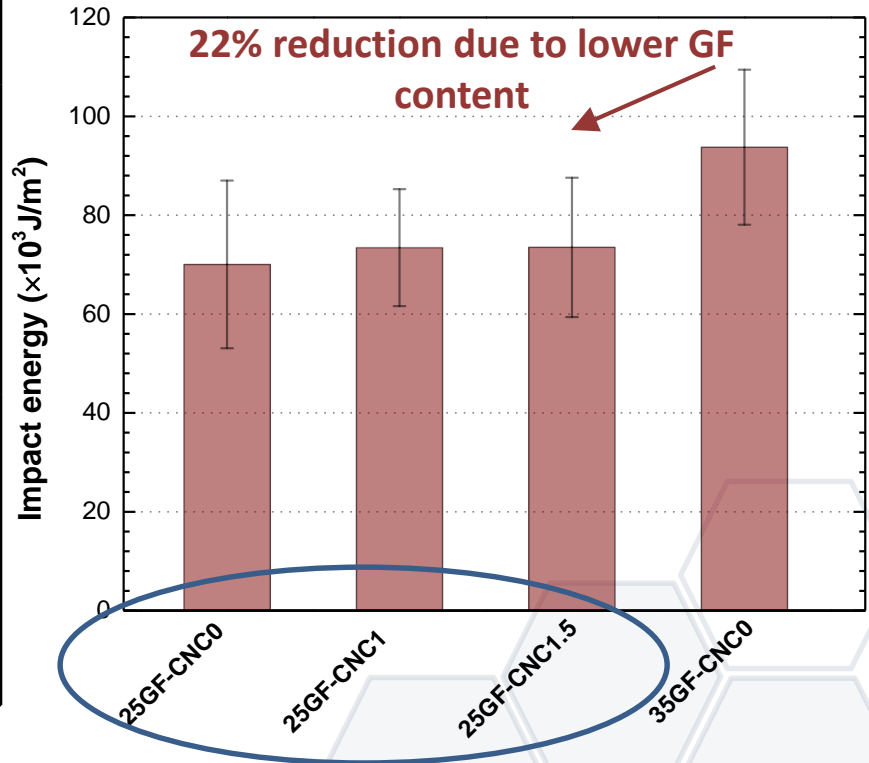
**Density:** 
$$\rho_c = \frac{1}{(w_f / \rho_f) + (w_m / \rho_m)}$$

Sample	$E_c$ (GPa)	$\rho_c$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$E_{c, \text{specific}}$
25GF/epoxy	6.3	1.37	4.6
25GF/1CNC-epoxy	7.4	1.37	5.4
25GF/1.5CNC-epoxy	7.8	1.37	5.7
35GF/epoxy	8.0	1.46	5.5

# II. Light Weighting Achieved



➔ **10% reduction in GF wt%**  
**8% reduction in density**

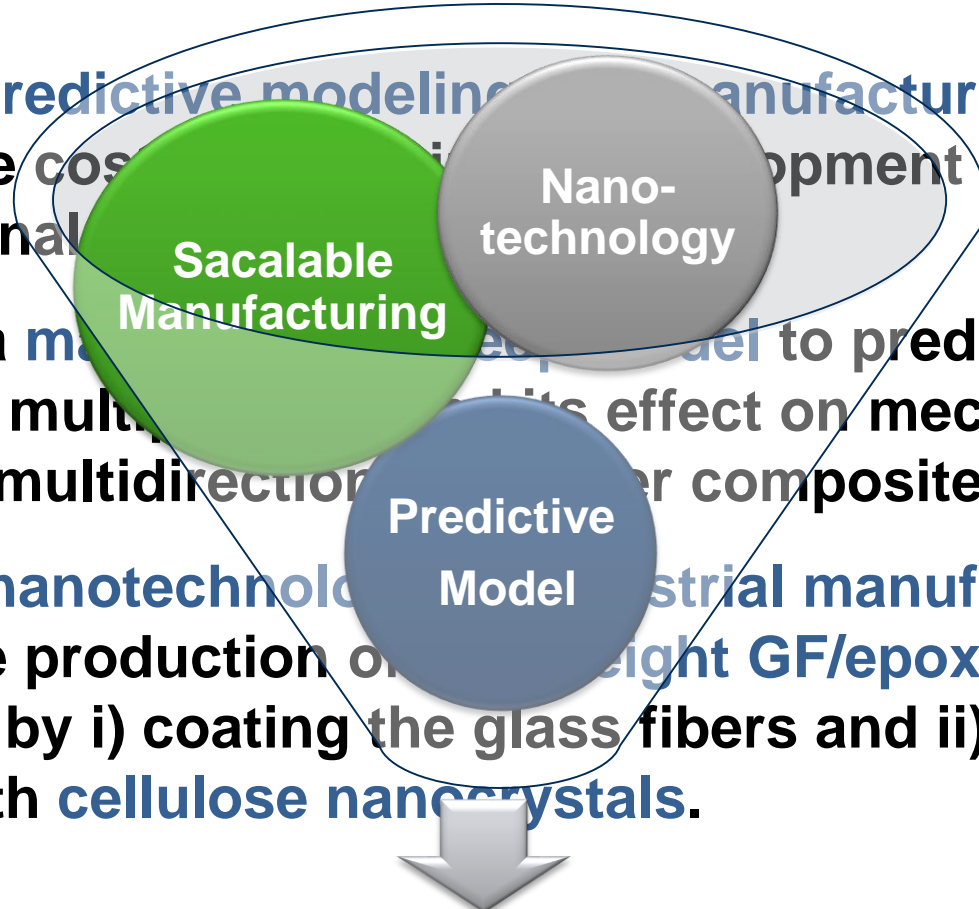


**No effect of CNC on Impact**



# Summary

- Combined **predictive modeling** and **manufacturing** to minimize the cost and accelerate the development of multifunctional composites.
- Developed a **predictive model** to predict the **damage evolution** in multifunctional composites and its effect on mechanical behavior in multidirectional fiber composite laminates.
- Introduced **nanotechnology** in industrial manufacturing for high volume production of lightweight **GF/epoxy SMC composites** by i) coating the glass fibers and ii) reinforcing the resin with **cellulose nanocrystals**.



**Accelerate the development of multifunctional (hybrid and nano) composites with engineered performance**



# Research Lab in 2032

## Manufacturing and Mechanics of

### Applications

- Automotive
- Aerospace
- Marine
- Wind Energy
- Biomedical and tissue engineering
- Electronics and heat transfer

### Collaborations

- National labs
- Government agencies
- Industries
- Public-Private Partnership
- Universities

Nanomaterials  
into industrial  
manufacturing

New synthesis  
and sintering  
methods

Additive  
manufacturing  
of thermoset  
nanocomposite

Automation in  
composites  
manufacturing





# MMC Lab by 2022

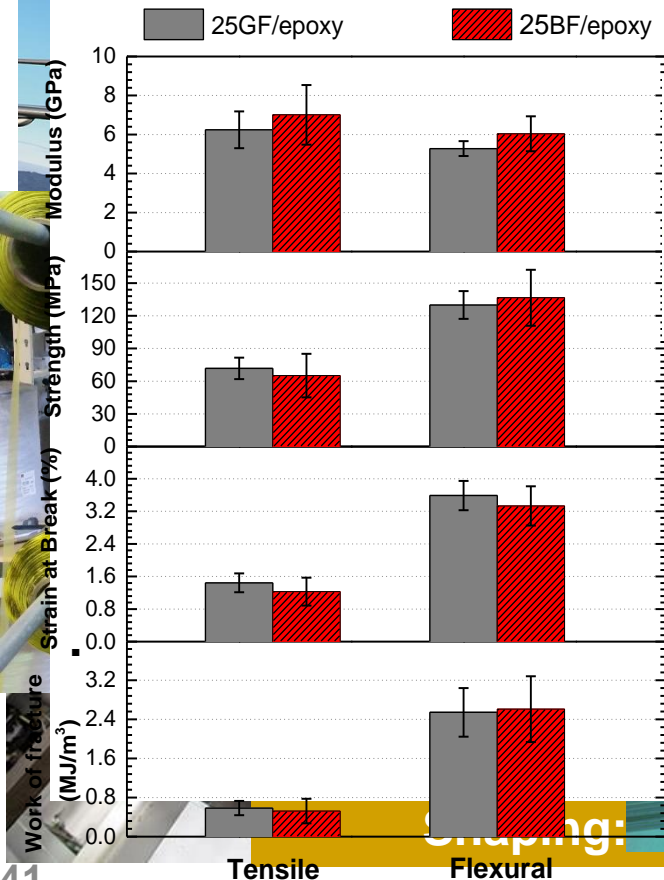
Cellulose  
and

Basalt fibers in SMC

synthesis  
ion

## Funding Targets

Extension of the current work to add nanomaterials for light weighting, the optimum process conditions, e.g. time, temperature and pressure for fast production



+



Glass/epoxy  
SMC composite



Basalt/epoxy SMC  
composite

- Department of Energy

- National lab

- US Forestry

- NSF

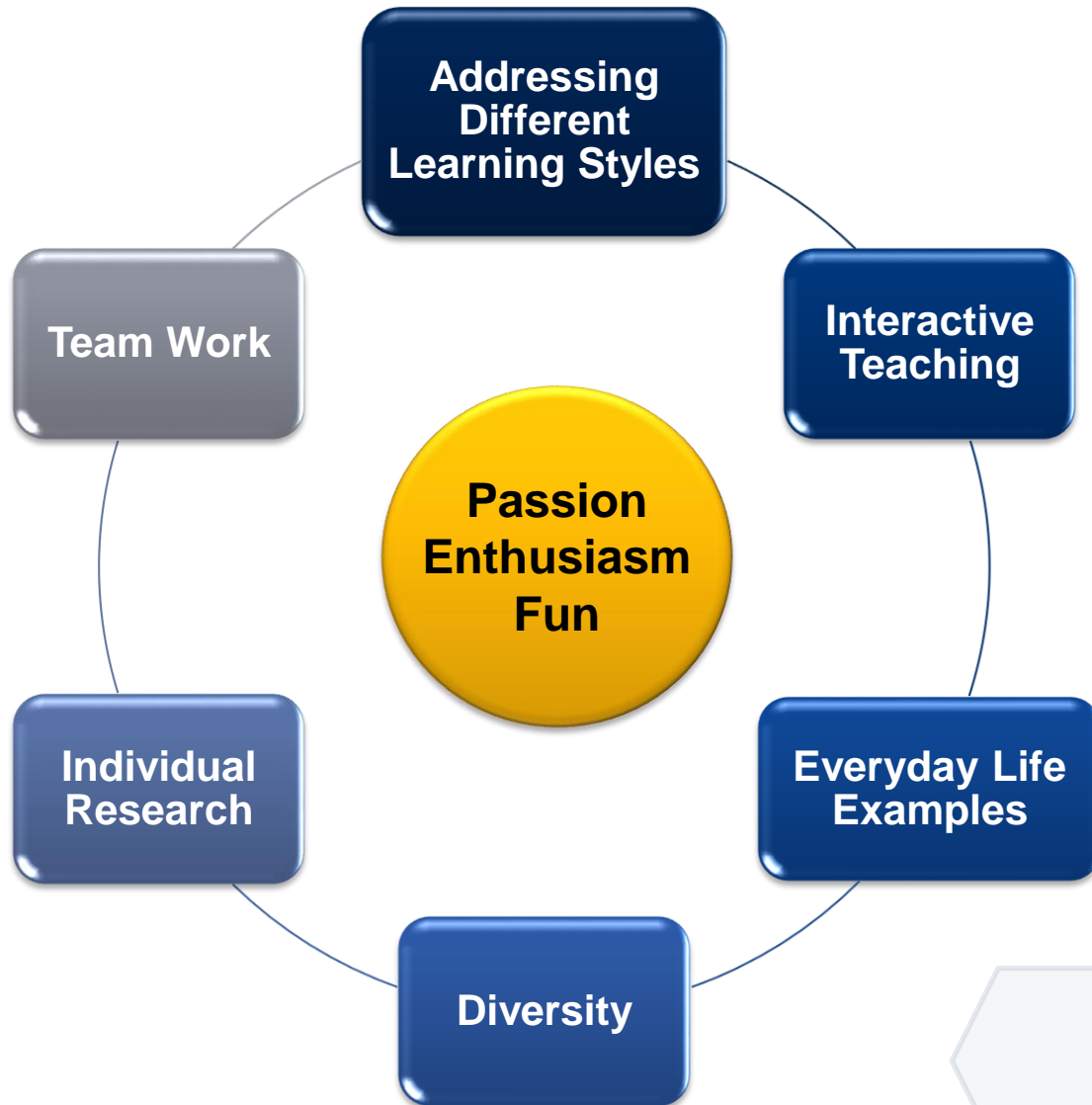
- Automotive Industries

- Aerospace Industries

- Fiber Manufacturer

- Biomedical Industries

# Teaching Philosophy





# Courses

## Taught Courses

- ✓ **Composite Materials (GA Tech)**
- ✓ **Engineering Materials (UofM)**
- ✓ **Introduction to Thermal Sciences (UofM)**

## Interested to teach at ASU

**MET 418:** Composites Materials Manufacturing  
**MFG 482:** Materials Science in Manufacturing  
**MFG 385:** Design for Manufacturing  
**MET 300:** Applied Material Science  
**MET 345:** Advanced Manufacturing Processes  
**EGR 343:** Mechanics of Solid Materials  
**EGR 218:** Materials and Manufacturing Processes  
**MET 230:** Introduction to Engineering Materials  
**MET 213:** Applied Mechanics of Materials

## New Graduate-Level Courses

### **Process-structure-property in nanocomposites<sup>1</sup>**

Providing a roadmap to design the compounding and shaping to achieve the desired properties

**A. Asadi, K. Kalaitzidou.** A book chapter on “Process-Structure-Property Relationship in Polymer Nanocomposites”, Elsevier, 2017

# Acknowledgement



Prof. Kyriaki Kalaitzidou



Dr. Robert J. Moon



Volkswagen



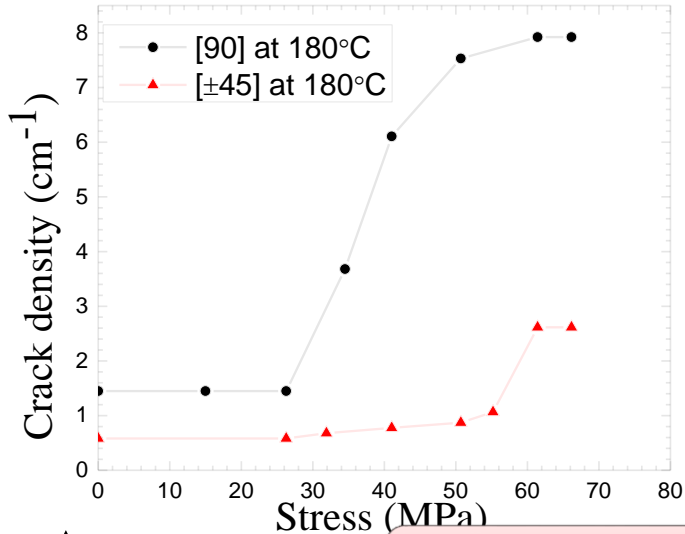


***Thank You!***

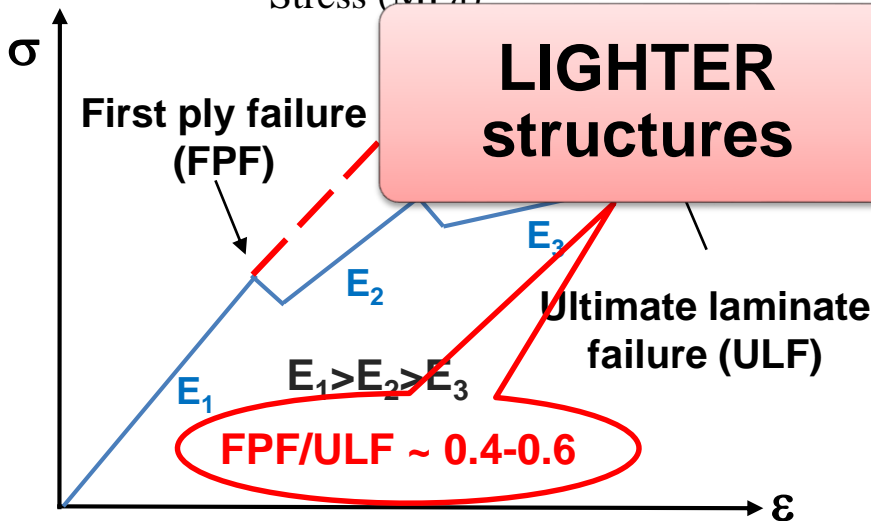
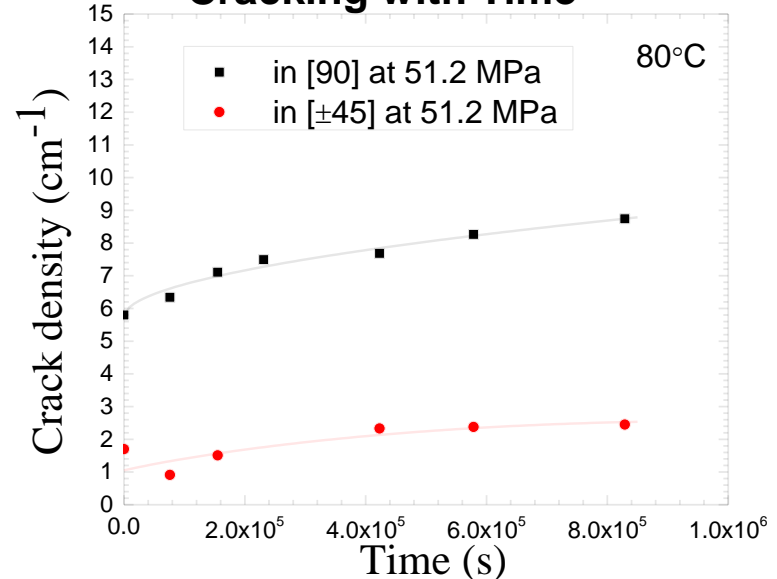
# Effect of Damage on Composite Behavior



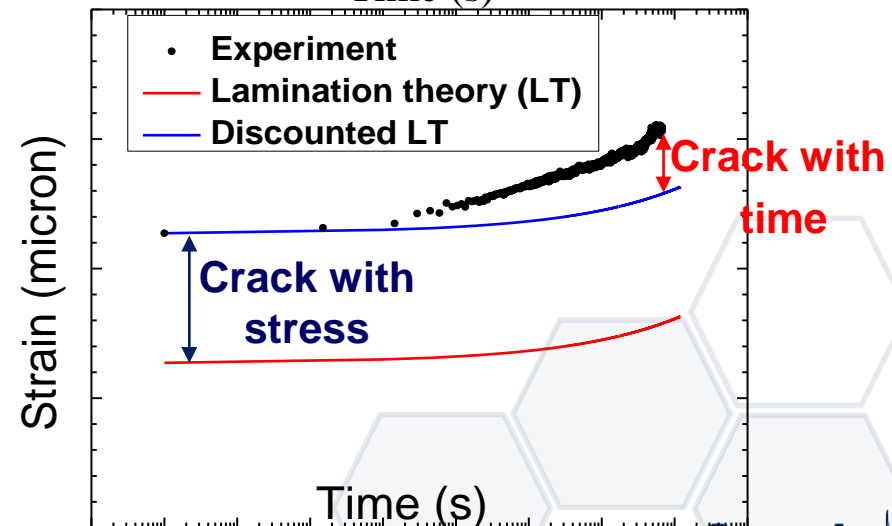
## Cracking with Stress



## Cracking with Time



Modulus degradation with cracking

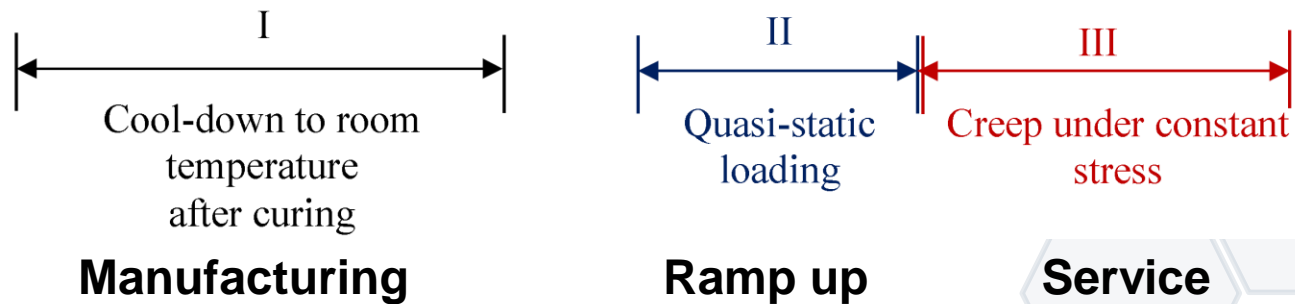
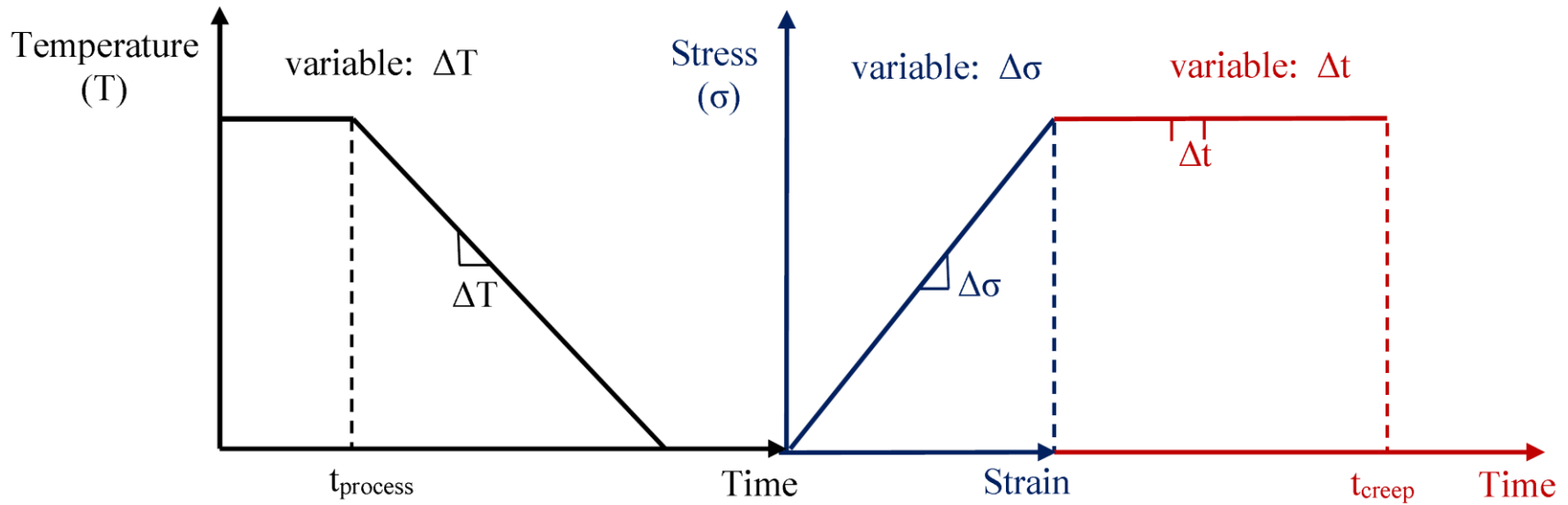


Creep strain with cracking



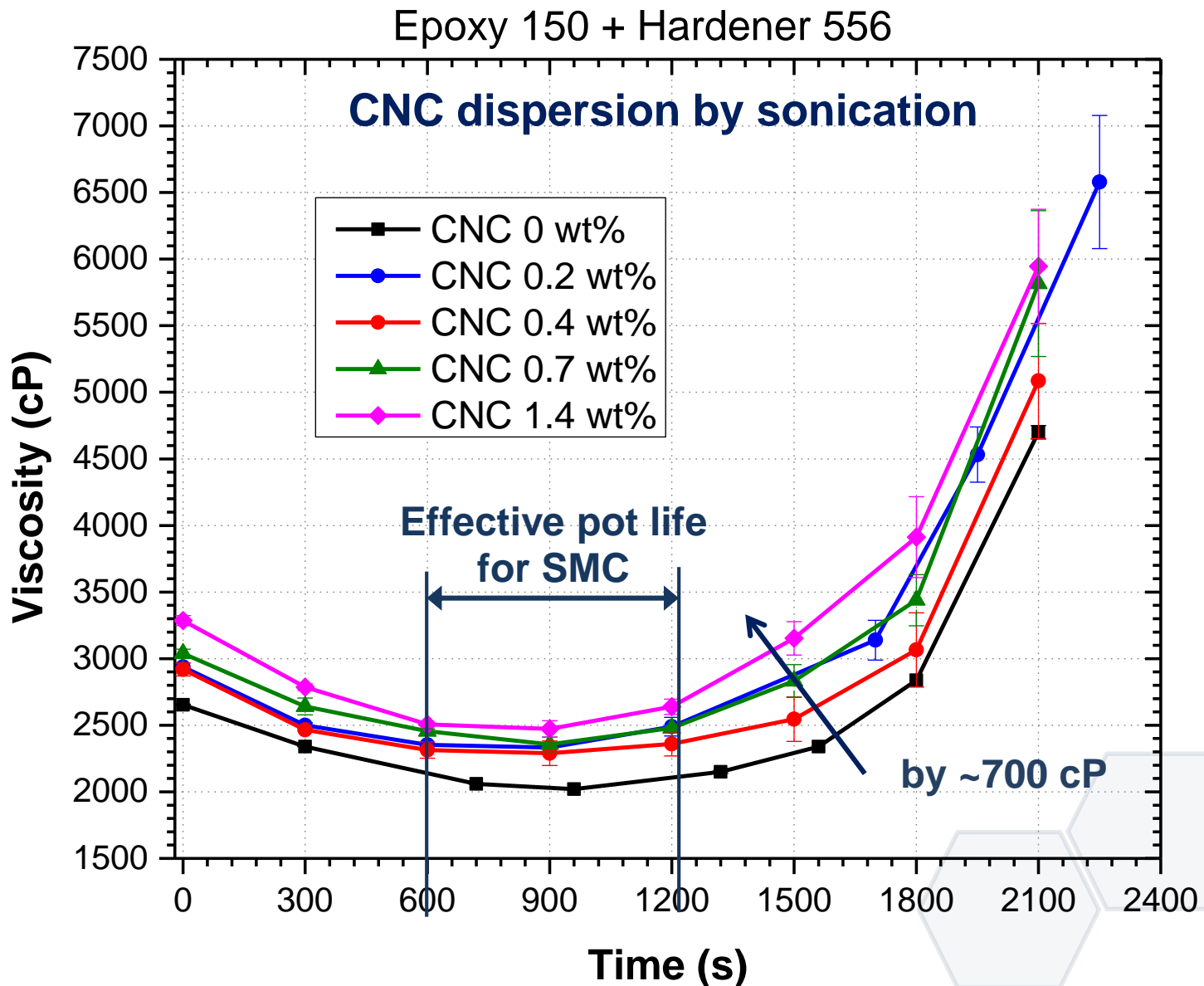
# What is Important in a Creep Model?

A successful creep-damage model should consider the history of loading



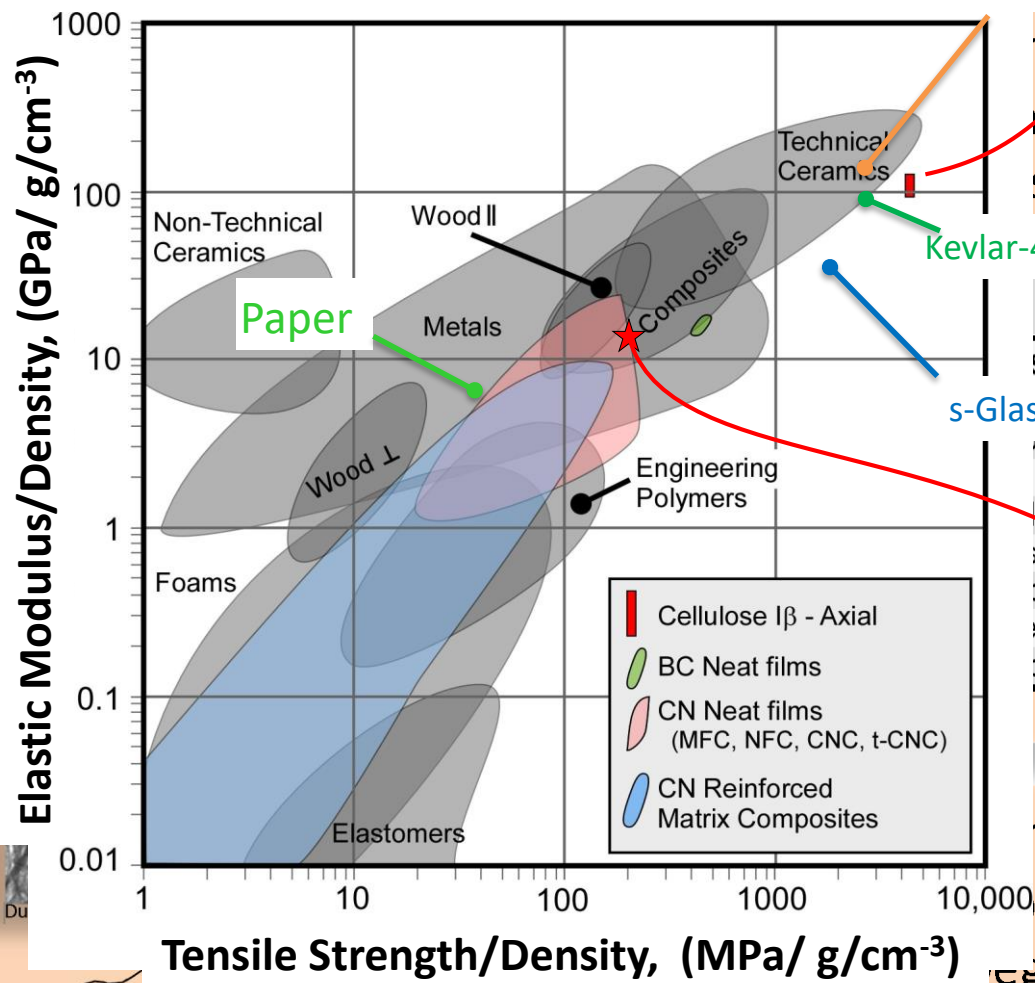


# CNC Effect on the Viscosity of Epoxy





# Cellulose Nanoparticles

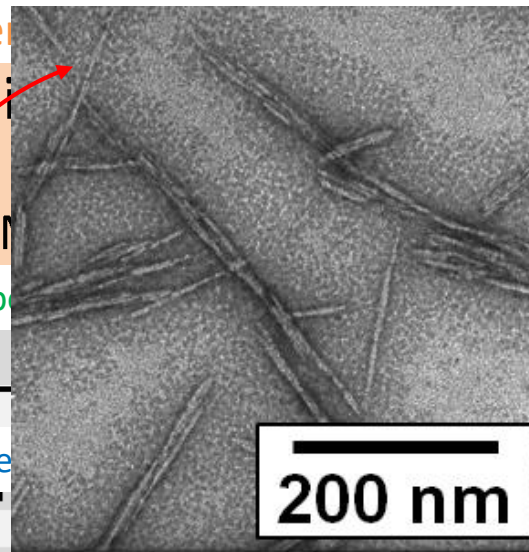


Carbon Fiber

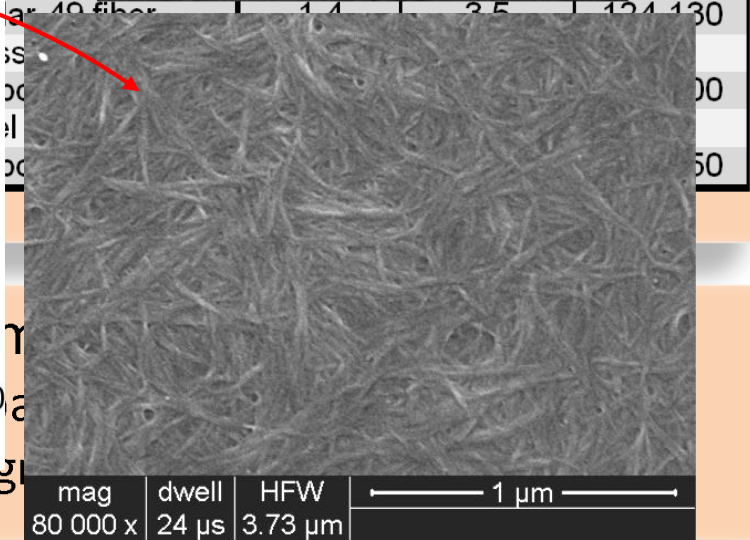
nanofiber  
Kevlar-49 Fiber  
Elastic Modulus (GPa)

Kevlar-49 Fiber

s-Glass Fiber



200 nm



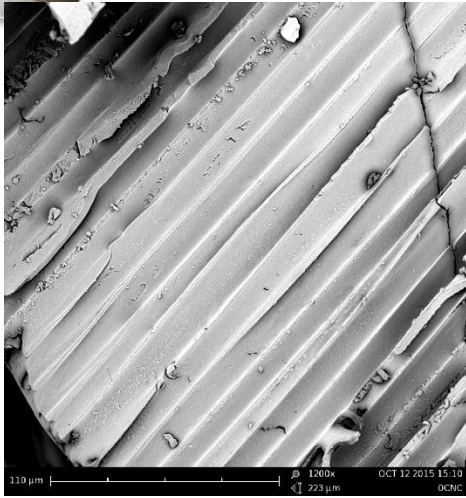
mag 80 000 x  
dwell 24 μs  
HFW 3.73 μm

1 μm

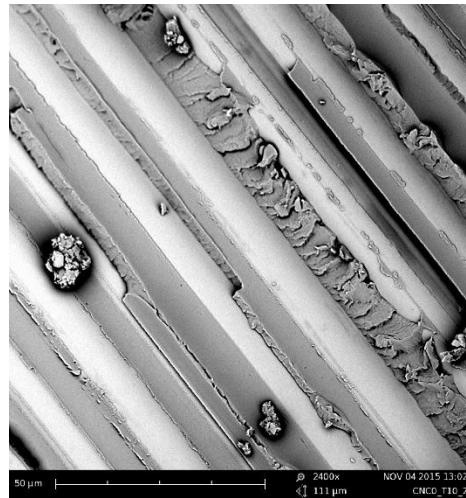
Elastic Modulus (GPa)
10-220
5-45
1-130
0-100
0-50



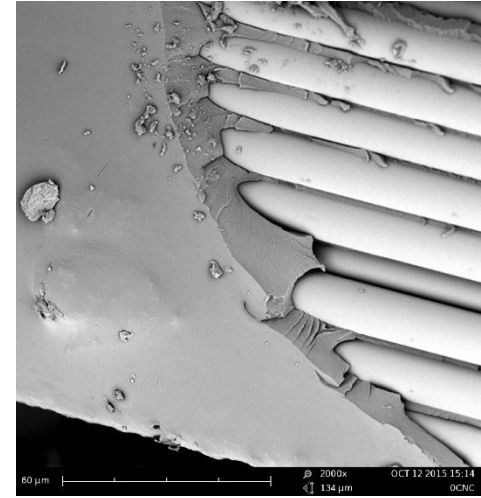
# II. Tensile Fracture Surface Morphology of SMC 35GF/CNC-epoxy Composites



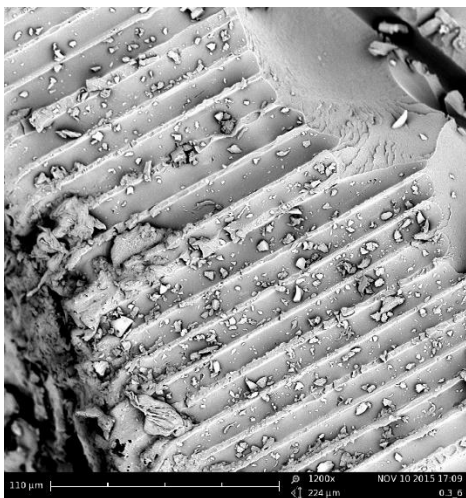
0 CNC wt%



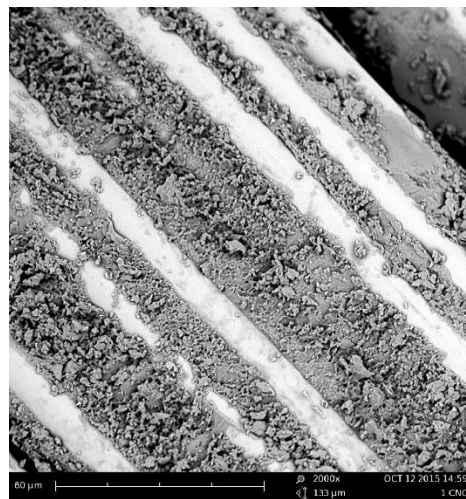
0 CNC wt%



0 CNC wt%



0.3 CNC wt%



0.15 CNC wt%



0.9 CNC wt%