

# MATERIALS

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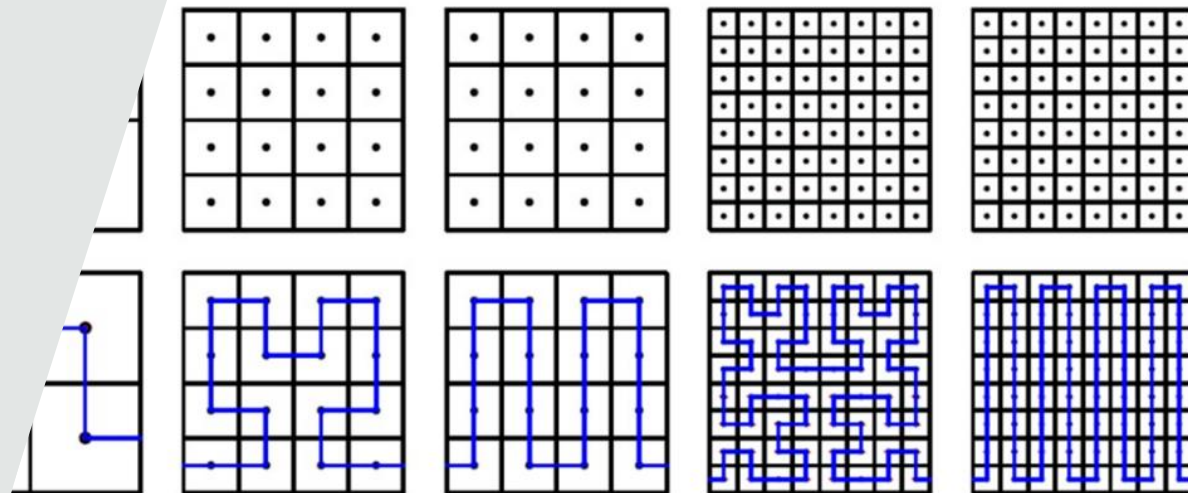
# PLA-HYDROGEL FRACTAL ACOUSTIC COMPOSITE METAMATERIAL FOR SOUND INSULATION

**Gianni Comandini, Fabrizio Scarpa,  
Mahdi Azarpeyvand, Valeska Ting**

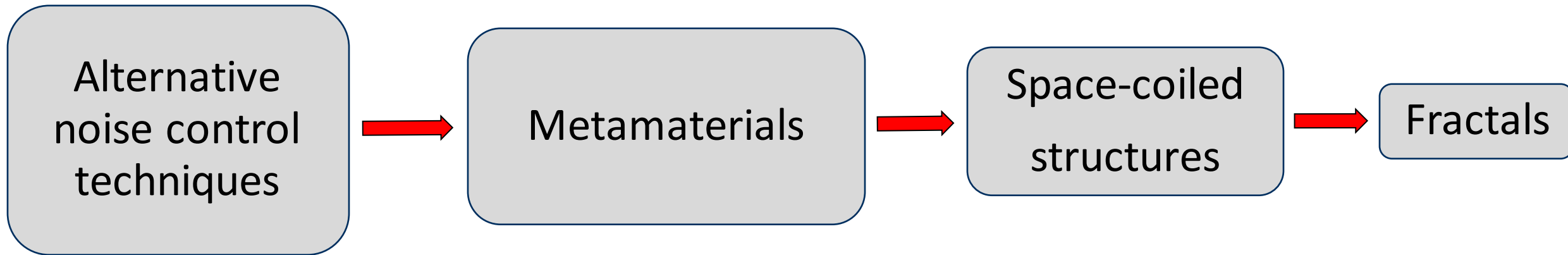
BCI Doctoral Research Symposium

12<sup>th</sup> April 2022

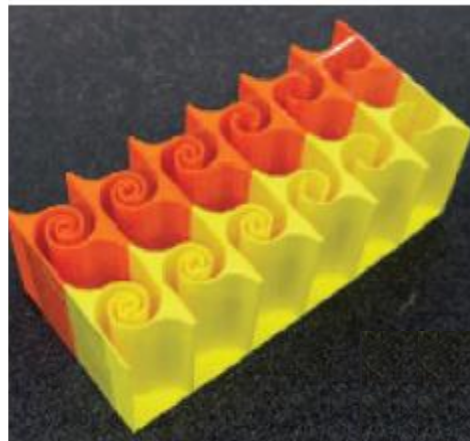
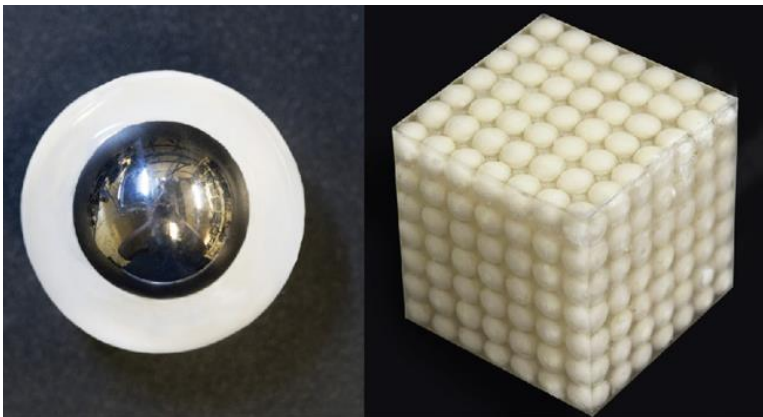
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# Understanding of acoustic metamaterials:



(1)



(2)



(3)

# Manufacturing process

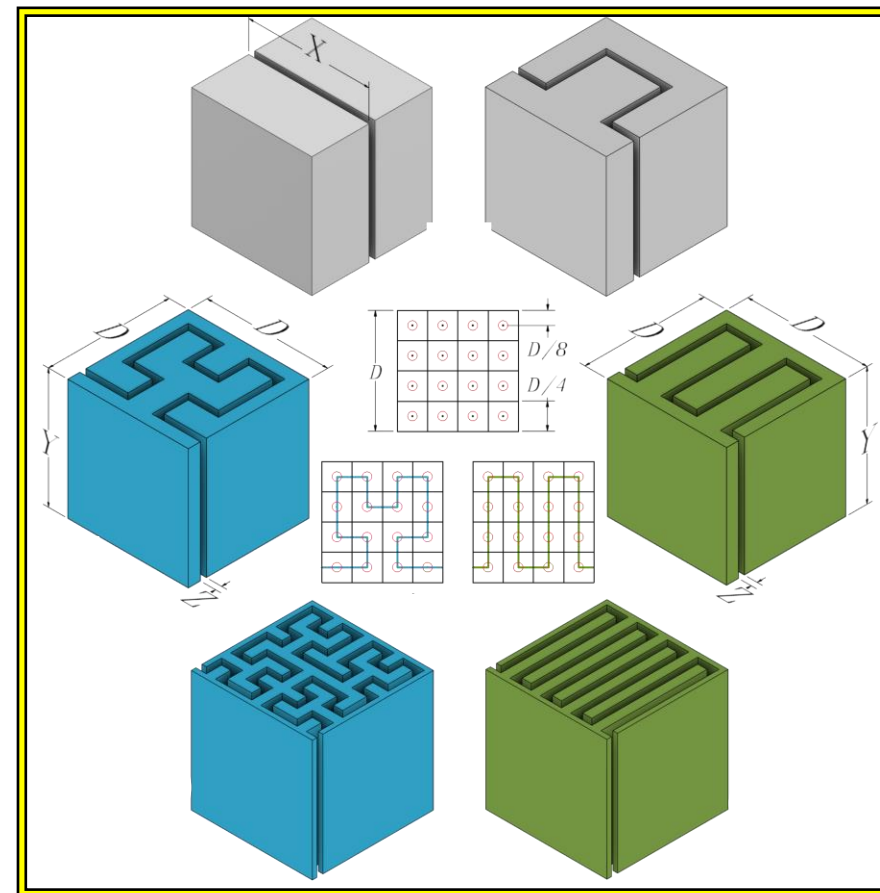
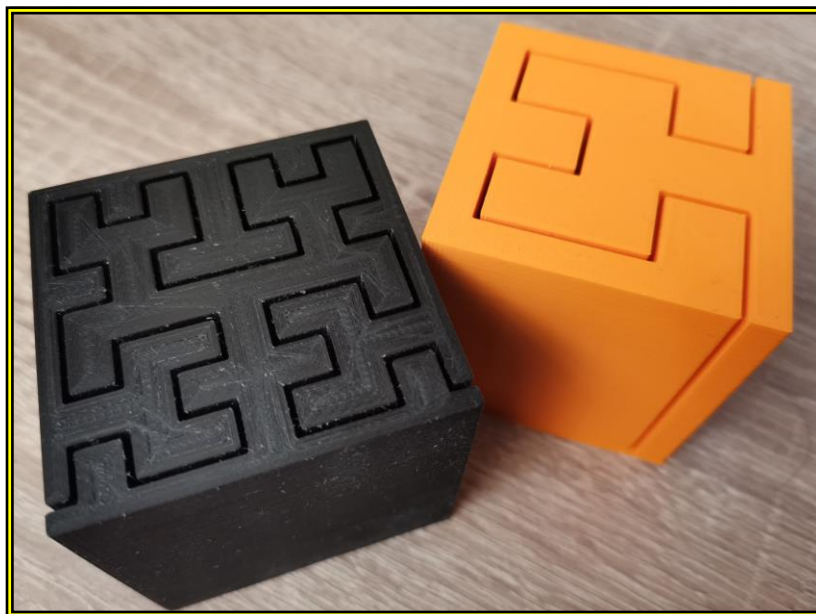


Open • Submitted: 22 November 2021 • Accepted: 26 January 2022 • Published Online: 07 February 2022

# Sound absorption in Hilbert fractal and coiled acoustic metamaterials

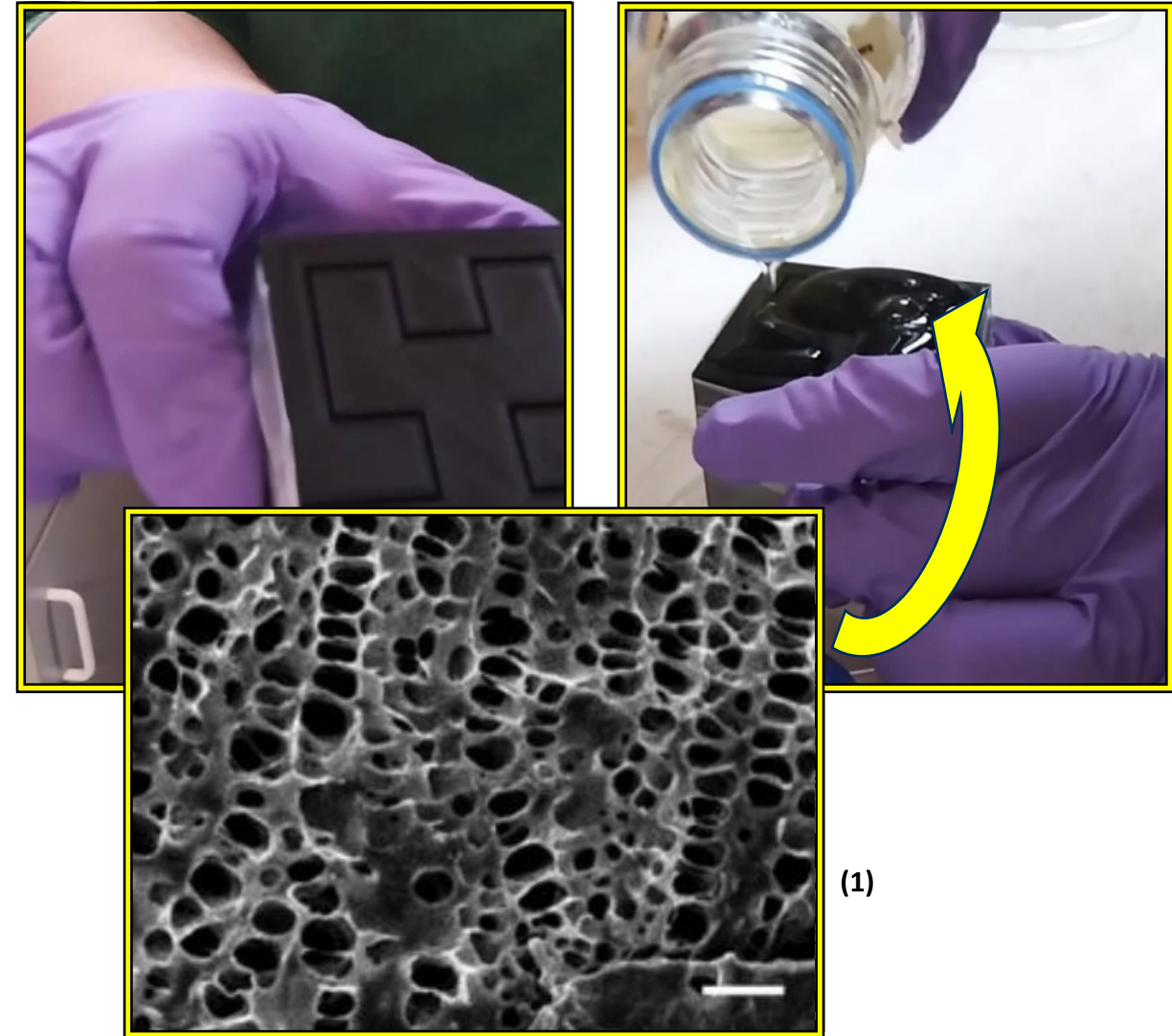
Appl. Phys. Lett. 120, 061902 (2022); <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0079531>

 G. Comandini<sup>1,a</sup>,  C. Khodr<sup>2,b</sup>,  V. P. Ting<sup>1,c</sup>,  M. Azarpeyvand<sup>3,d</sup>, and  F. Scarpa<sup>1,e</sup>



# Composite fabrication

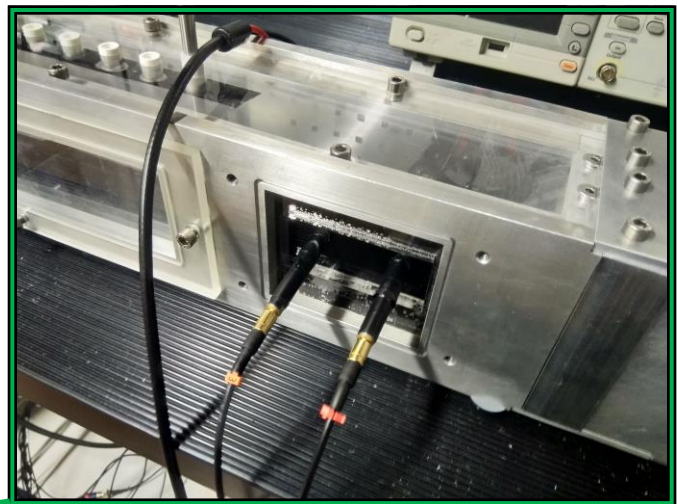
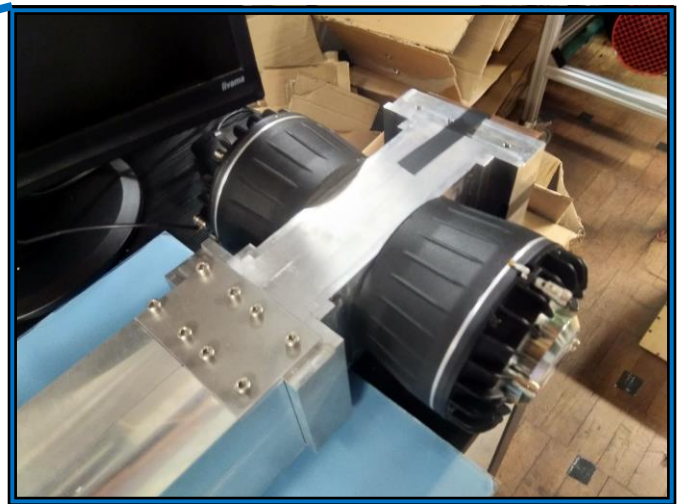
- F127 alginate hybrid gel biocompatible with sterilized water used as infill material
- Microporous structure
- Interesting acoustics properties that have not been fully investigated as yet



# Testing set up

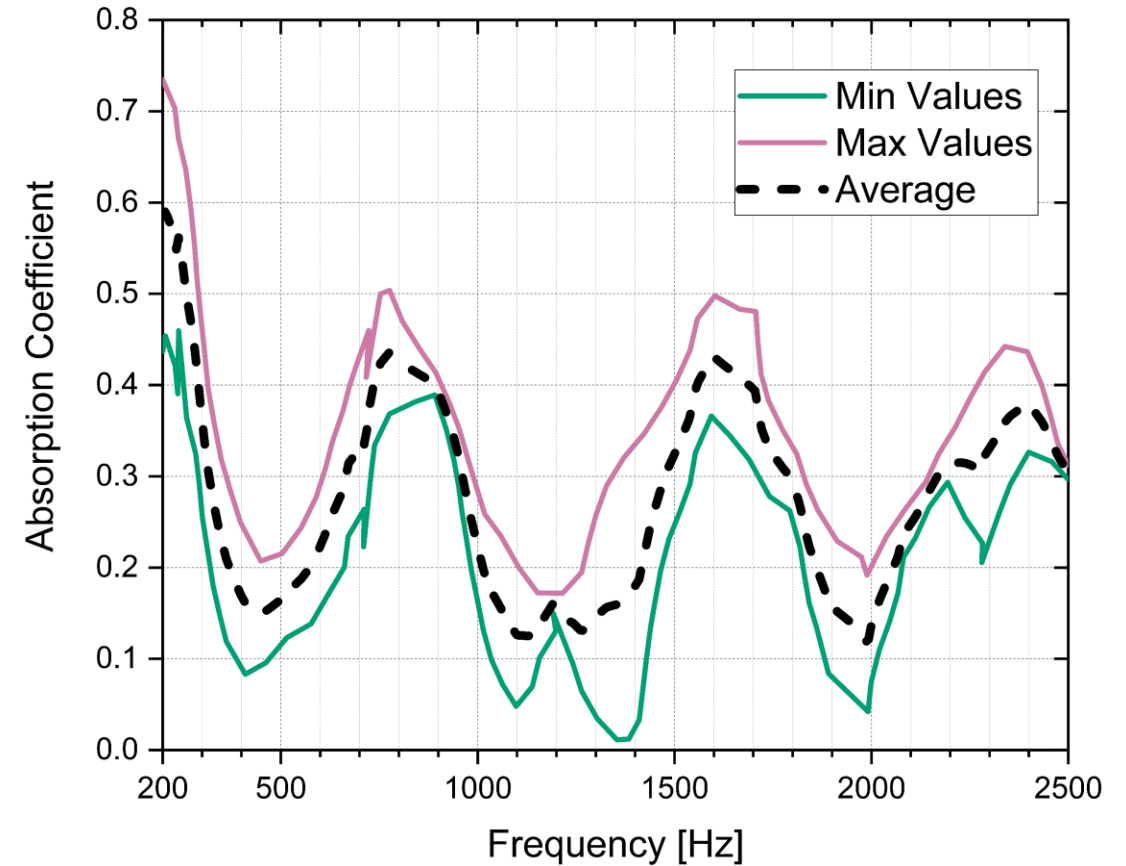


(1)



# Composite metamaterial preliminary results

- Average acoustic absorption with maxima and minima values
- Absorption coefficient  $\sim 0.5$  around 200 Hz
- All the measurements made using two samples with hydrogel and 7 measurements each.





# International Placement



# Next steps

- A poroelastic COMSOL model of the hydrogel inside the metamaterial
- Understanding the physics behind the high energy dissipation at low frequency ranges
- Evaluate how the manufacturing process of the hydrogels affects the acoustic performances

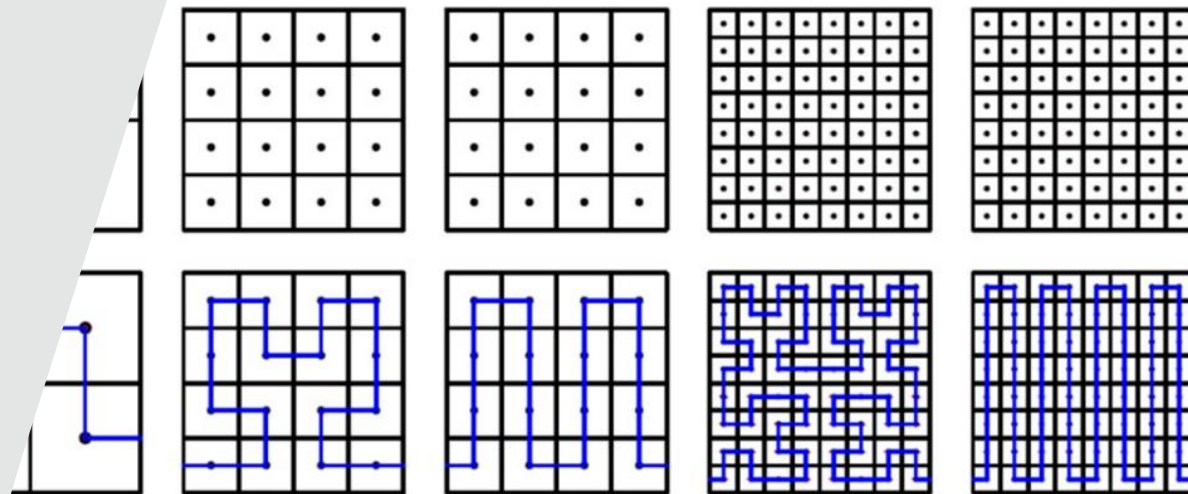
# Acknowledgements

- The support of UK EPSRC through the ACCIS Composites Centre for Doctoral Training
- My Supervisors, Valeska Ting, Fabrizio Scarpa and Mahdi Azarpeyvand
- Paul Weaver
- All the BCI and Aeroacoustics Technicians



# Thanks for listening

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# **The influence of the humidity on the mechanical properties of 3D printed continuous flax fibre reinforced poly(lactic acid) composites.**

24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Supervisor: Fabrizio Scarpa

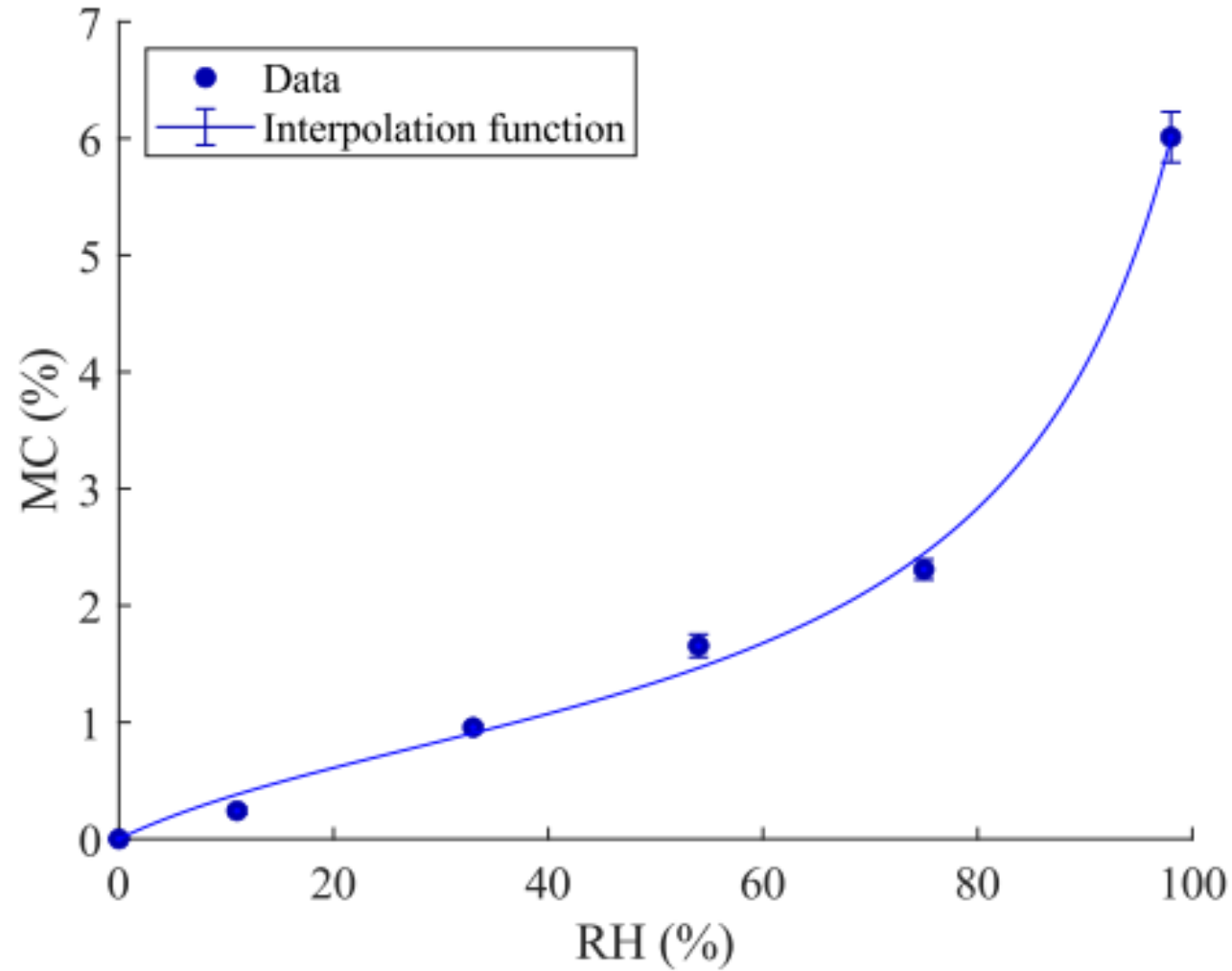
Charles de Kergariou

CDT 2018

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# Context



## Questions I wanted to solve

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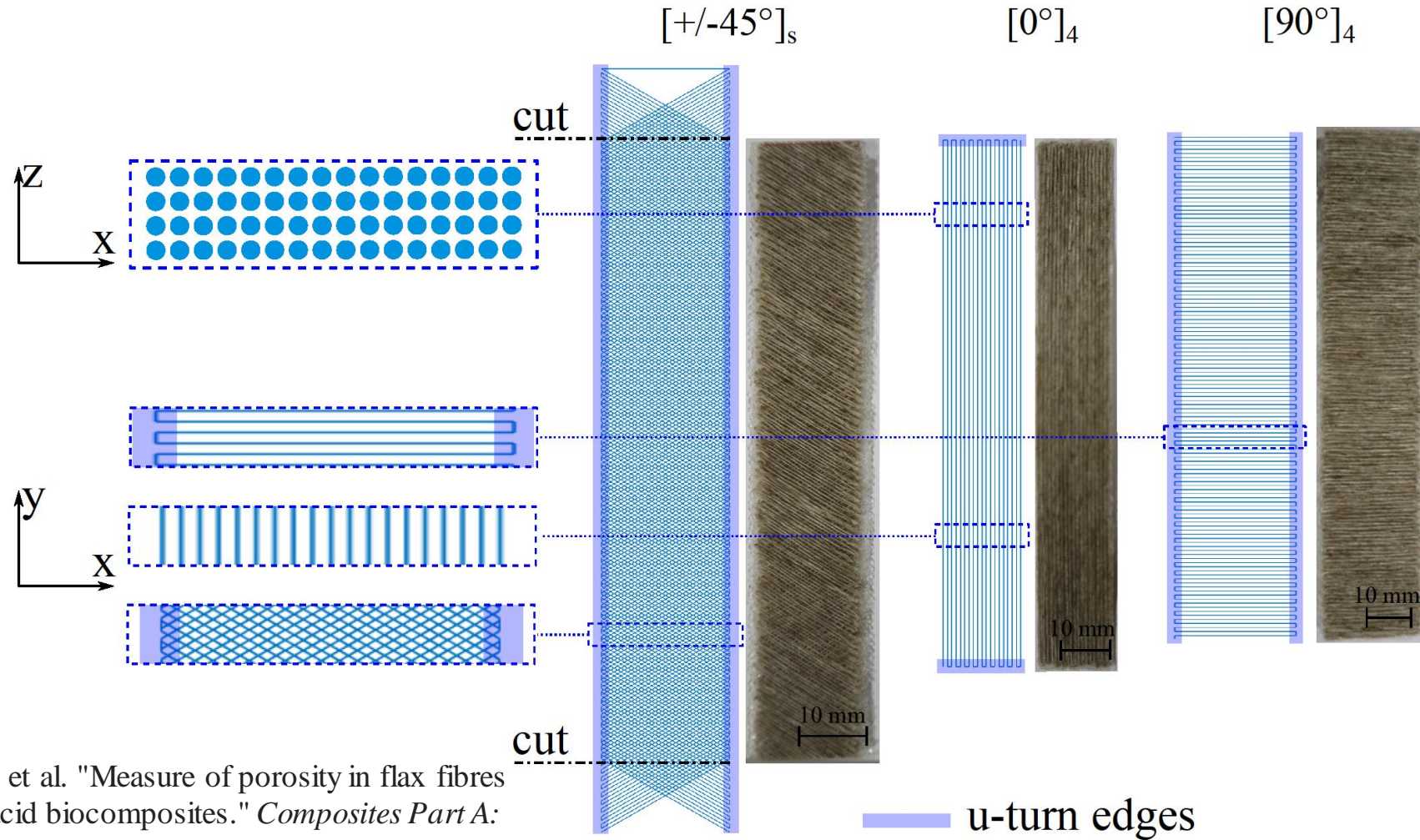
1- How moisture influences general mechanical properties?

2- How moisture influences the microstructure of the composite and its fracture?

3- How does this material sit among the rest of the literature?



# Specimen print

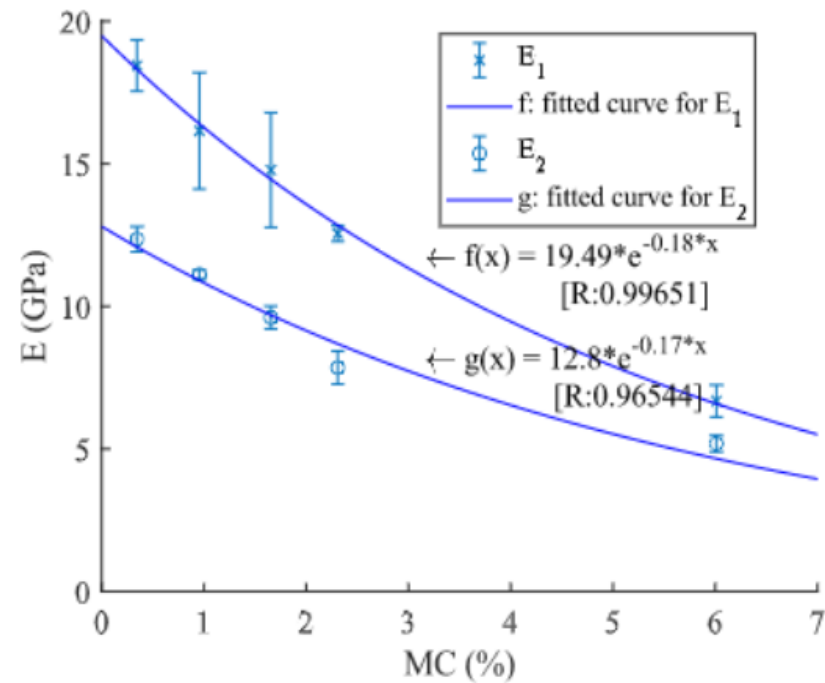


de Kergariou, Charles, et al. "Measure of porosity in flax fibres reinforced polylactic acid biocomposites." *Composites Part A: Applied Science and Manufacturing* 141 (2021): 106183.

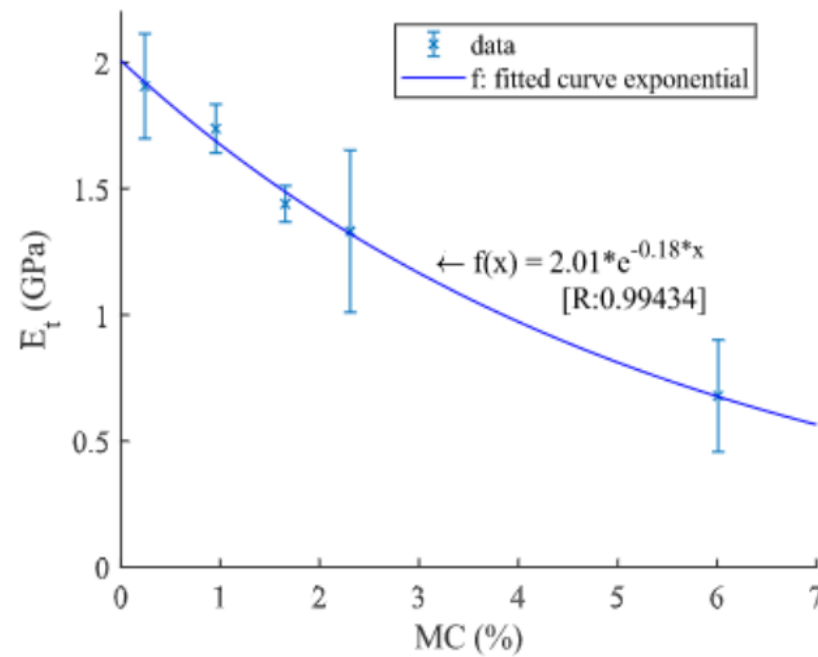


# Stiffness vs moisture content

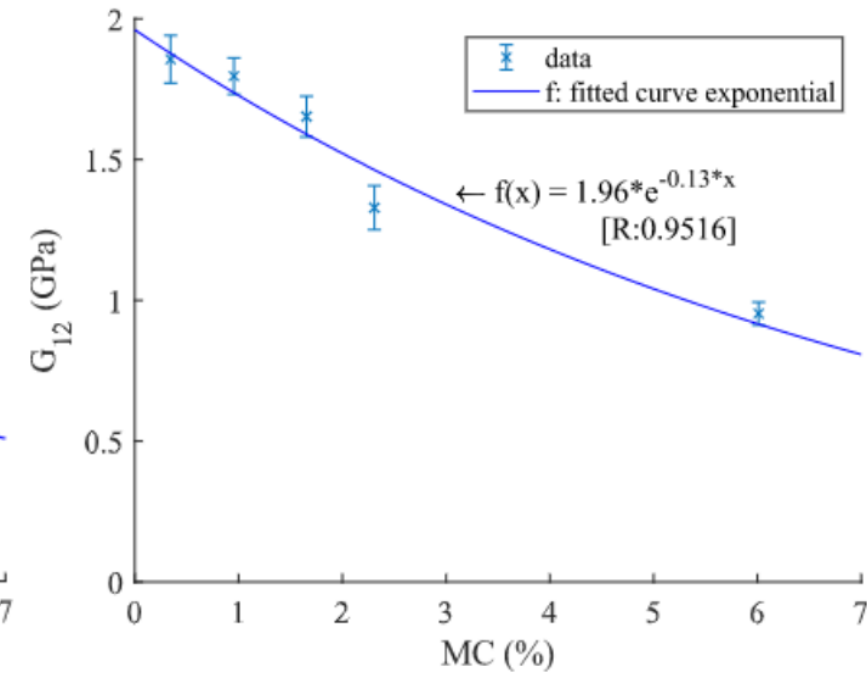
## Longitudinal



## Transverse

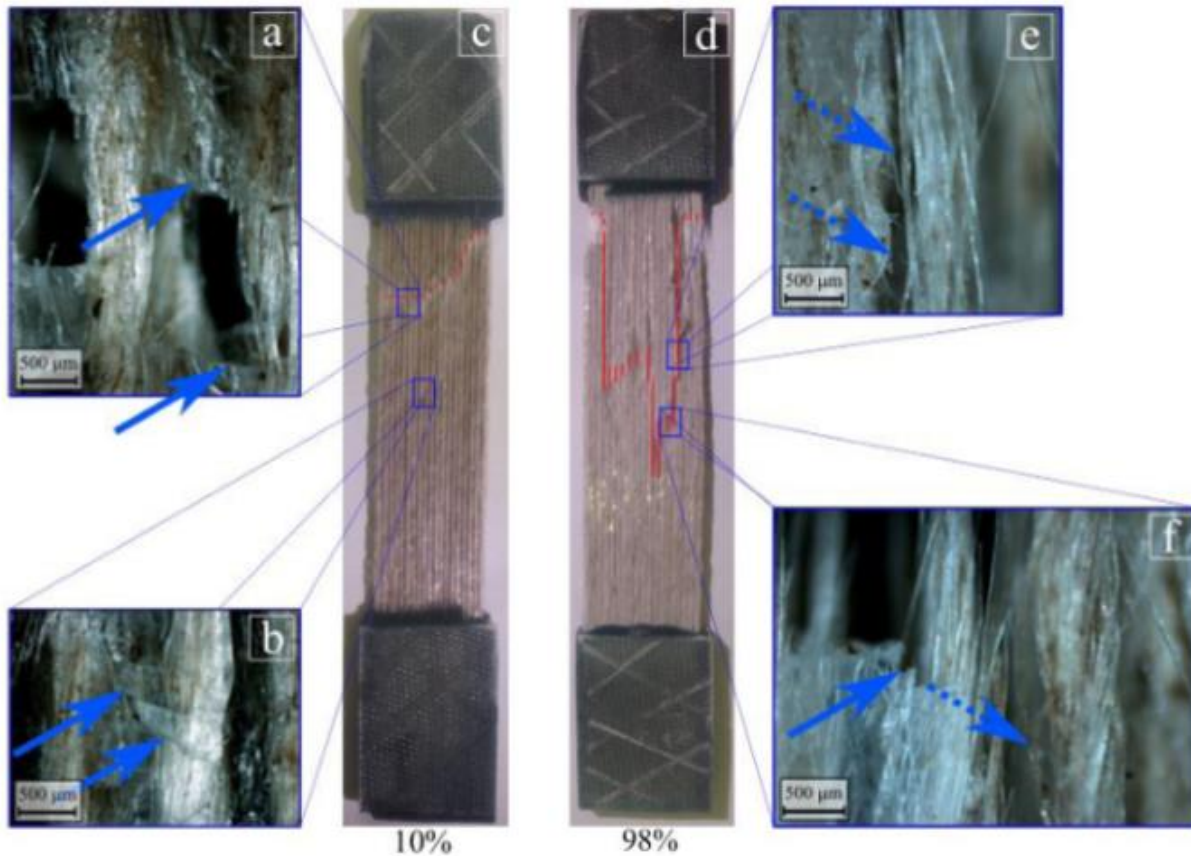


## Shear

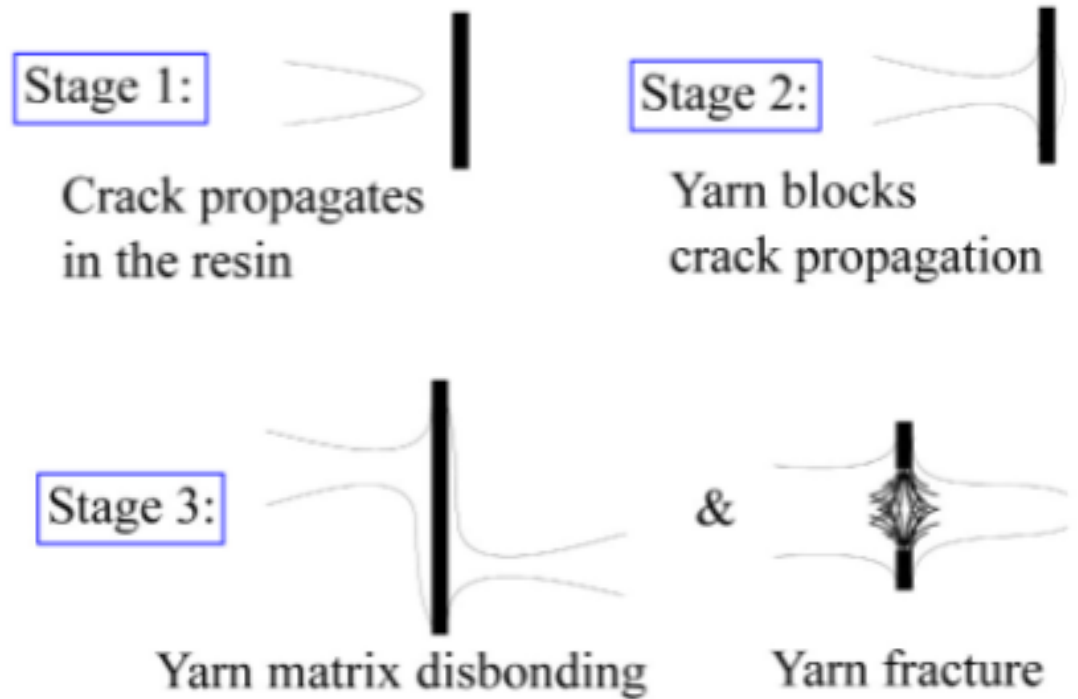


# Longitudinal fracture

## Fractography

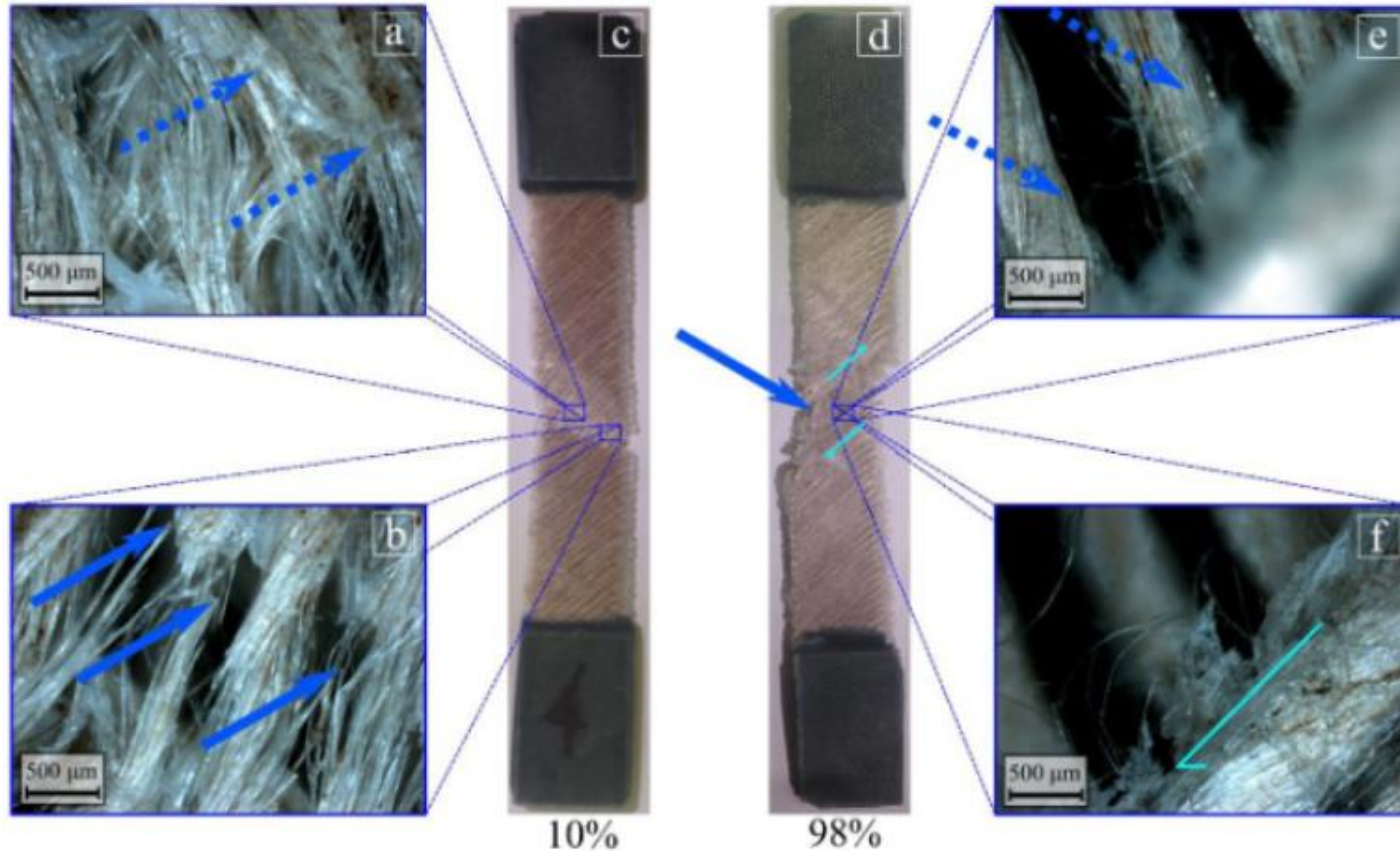


## Fracture mechanism: Cook and Gordon

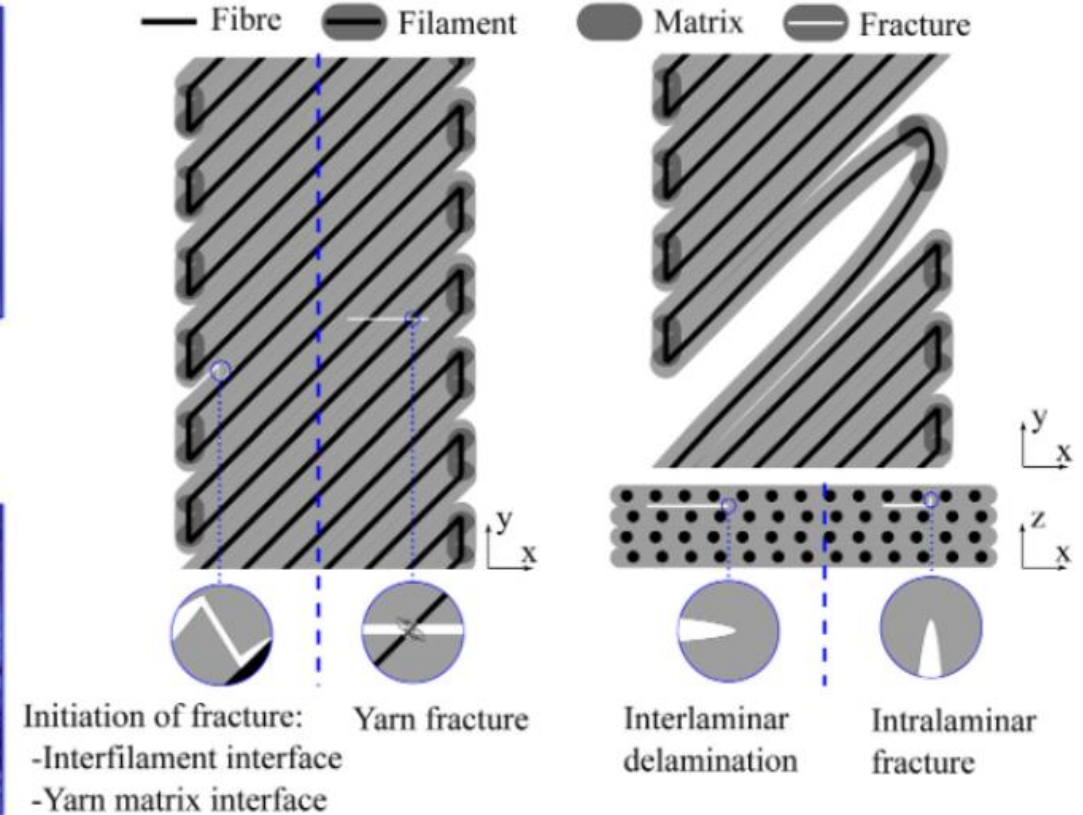


# Shear fracture

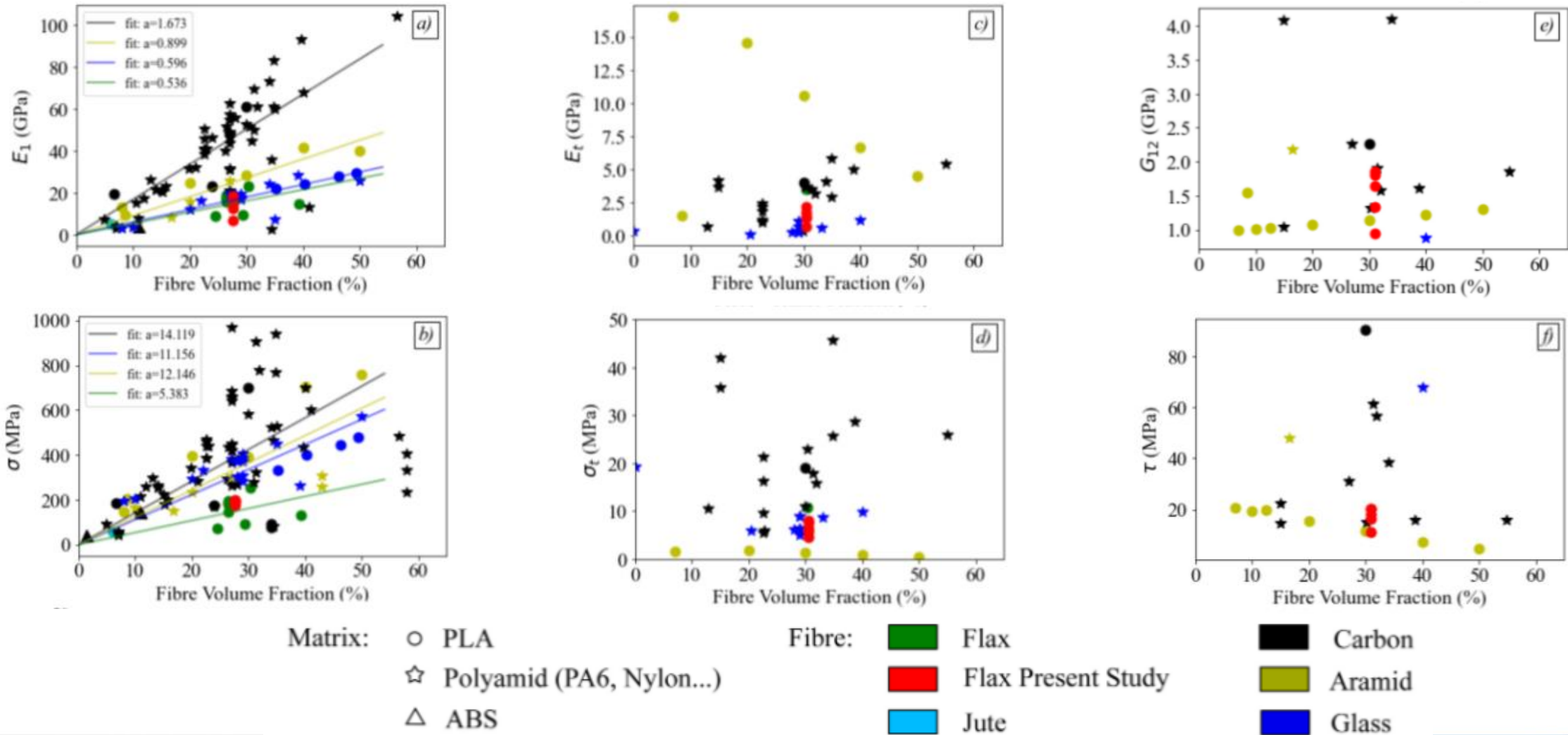
## Fractography



## Fracture mechanism



# Our material versus literature



## Conclusion

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- 1- Shear, transverse and longitudinal stiffness present an exponential decrease as the moisture content conditioning increases.
- 2- Constant longitudinal strength apart from 98% RH. Decreasing transverse and shear strength with humidity conditioning.
- 3- As MC increases: Constant energy dissipated shear and transverse. Increasing longitudinal energy dissipated
- 4- Higher humidity:
  - longitudinal: greater yarn debonding/ lower yarn fracture
  - transverse: no influence on fracture
  - shear: lower yarn breakage and high filament disbonding
- 5- Similar longitudinal stiffnesses to glass and aramid



C. de Kergariou, H. Saidani-Scott, A. Perriman, F. Scarpa, and A. Le Duigou, **“The influence of the humidity on the mechanical properties of 3D printed continuous flax fibre reinforced poly(lactic acid) composites,”** Composites Part A: Applied Science and Manufacturing, vol. 155, pp. 106805–106827, 4 2022.





Thank you very much  
for your time

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# Life Cycle Engineering and its application to marine component design

*Will Proud*

*Ian Hamerton*

*Richard Trask*

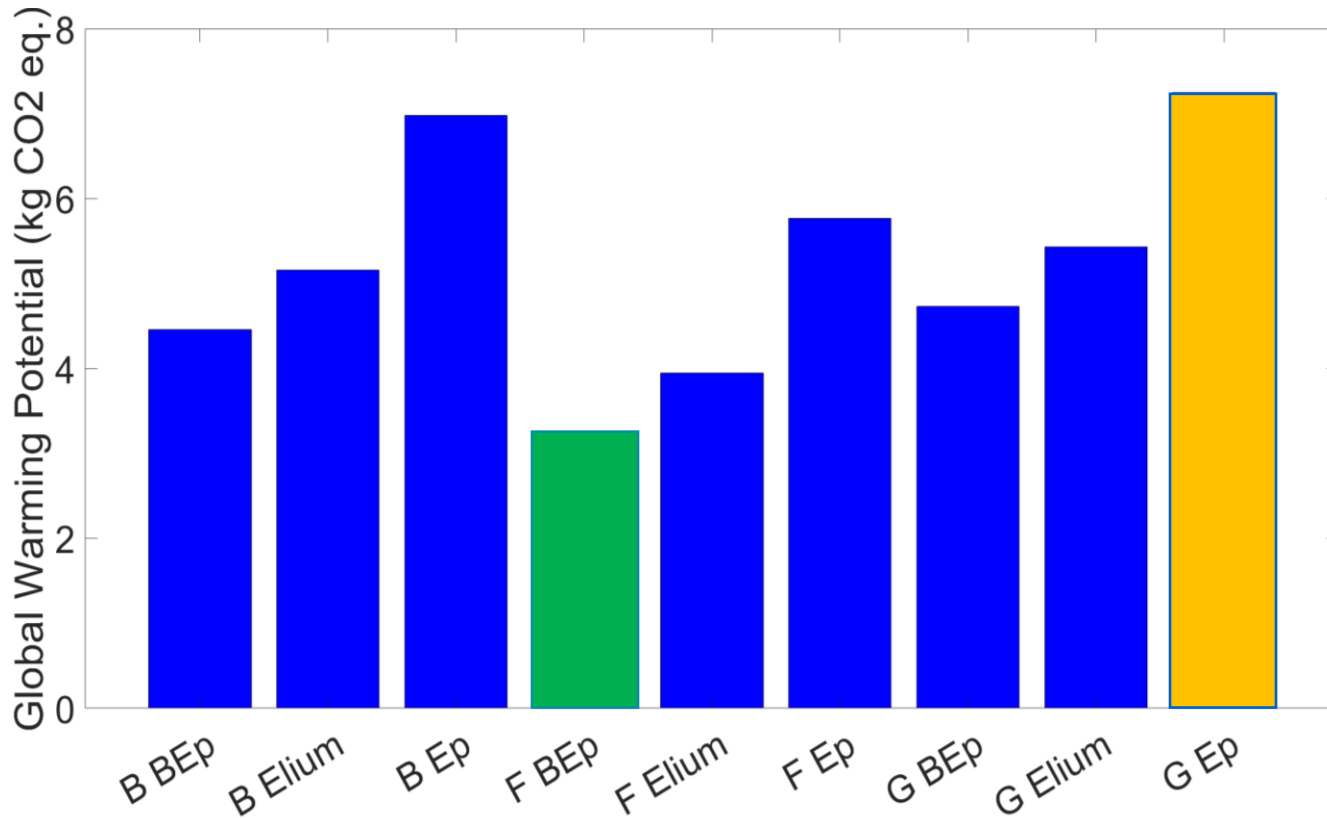
*Marco Longana*

*12<sup>th</sup> April 2022*





# The challenge

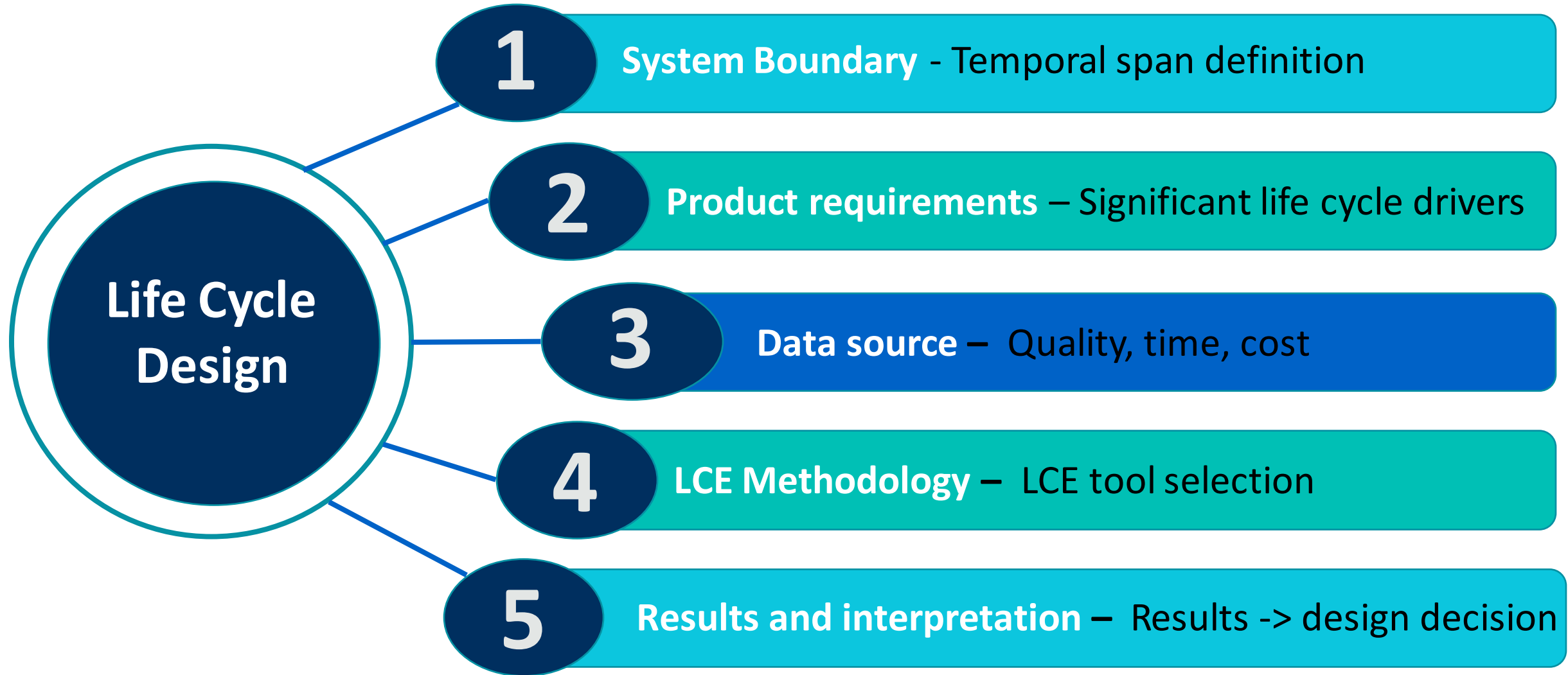


Marine industry has historically been dominated by **glass fibre reinforced epoxy composites**

Increased uptake in marine industry of 'green' offerings such as **flax reinforcement** and **bio-epoxy resin systems**

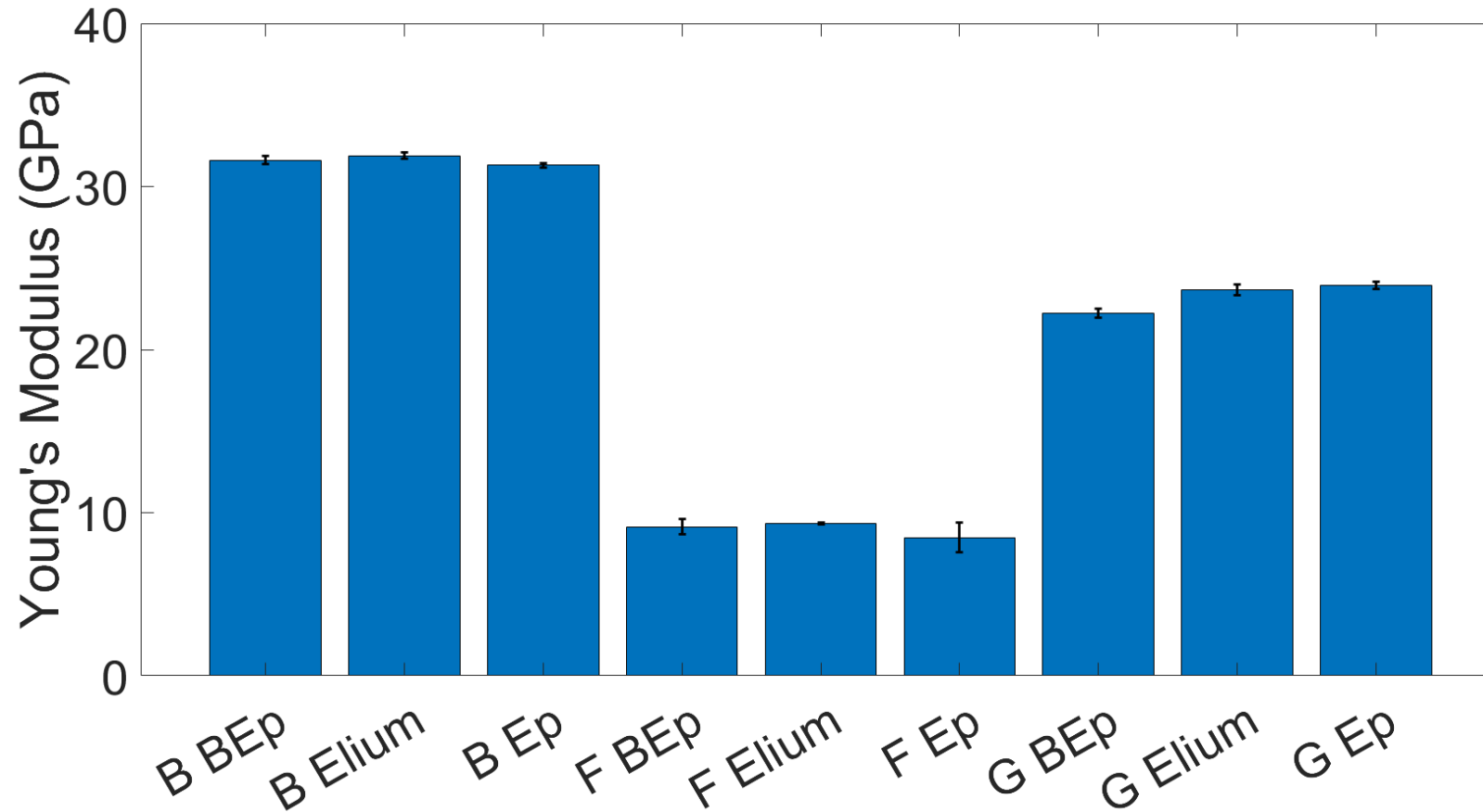
What are the optimised solutions against **technical** and **environmental** factors?

# Life Cycle Engineering



# What data was included?

## Mechanical Testing Data

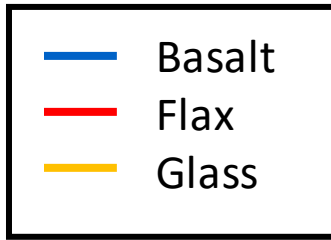


- ASTM D3039 and ASTM D3518
- Basalt fibre showed widest range of failure modes
- At approximately equivalent areal weight, basalt fibre fabric has superior tensile performance

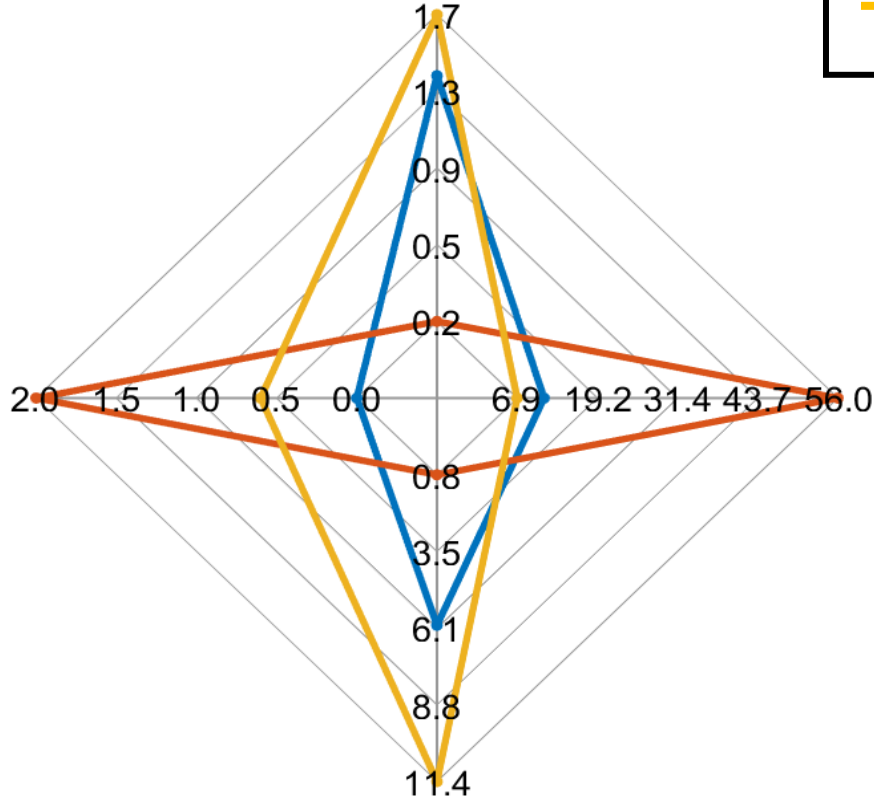
# What data was included?

## Fibre

GWP 100 years (kg CO2 eq.)



Eutrophication Potential (kg Phosphate eq.) \*

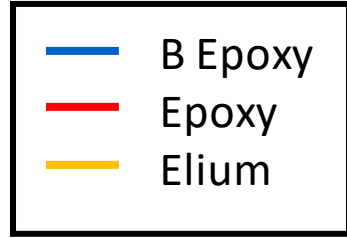


Life Cycle Cost

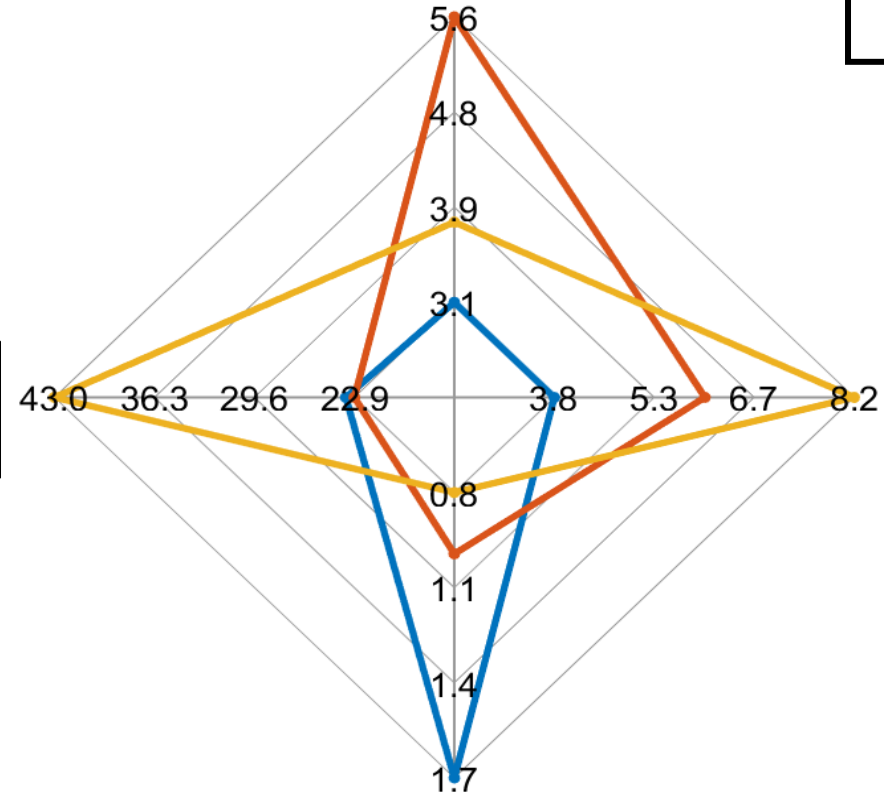
Acidification Potential (kg SO2 eq.) \*

## Resin

GWP 100 years (kg CO2 eq.)



Eutrophication Potential (kg Phosphate eq.) \*



Acidification Potential (kg SO2 eq.) \*

# Life Cycle Engineering Optimisation

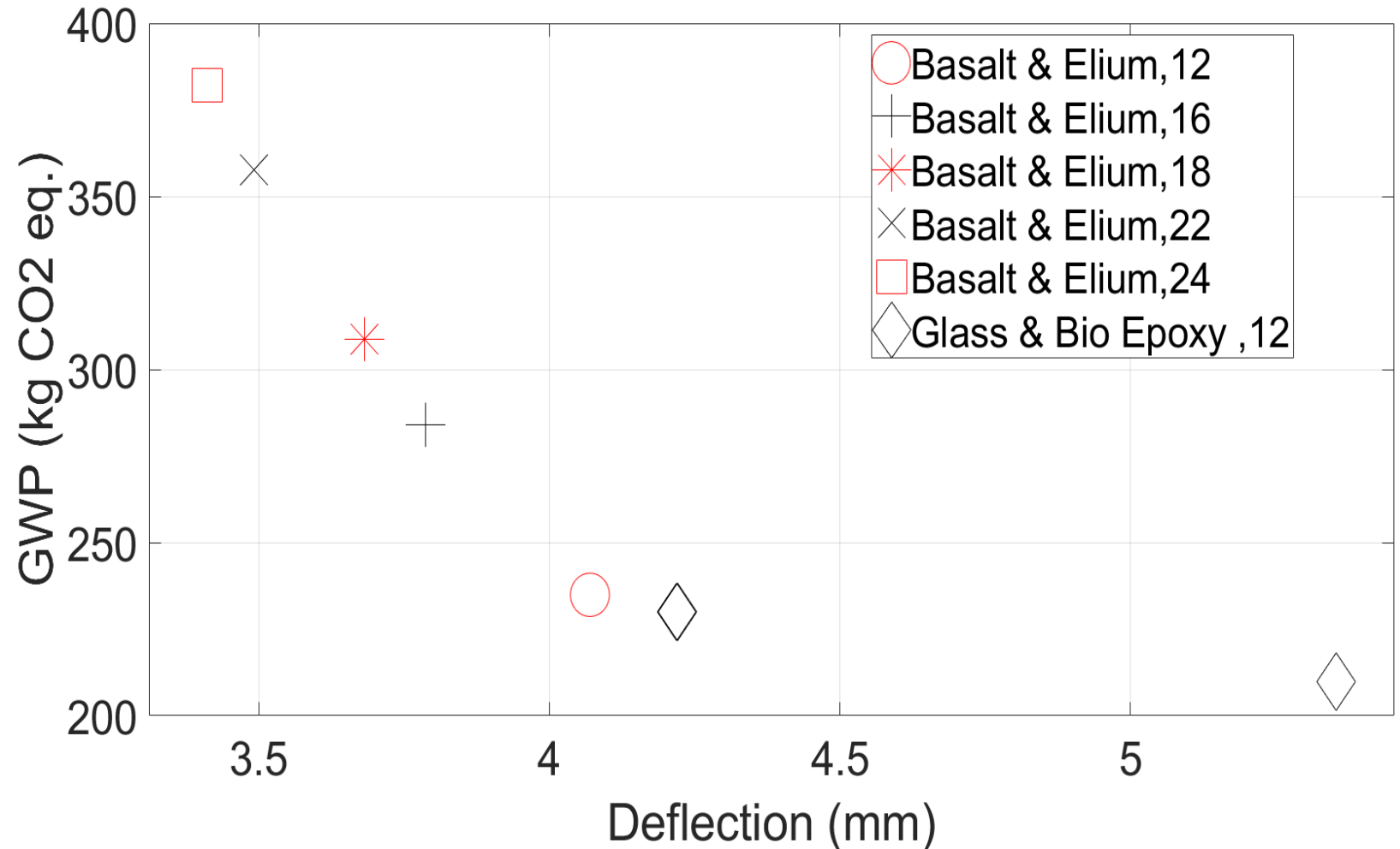
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Minimise } f_1(x) \\ & = \frac{Pl^3}{B_1(EI)_{eq}} + \frac{Pl}{B_2(AG)_{eq}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Minimise } f_2(x) = EI_{eq}$$

**Subject to:**

$$\sigma_f < \sigma_{yf}$$

$$\sigma_f < \frac{3 E_f^{\frac{1}{3}} E_c^{\frac{2}{3}}}{(12(3 - \nu_c)^2 (1 + \nu_c)^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}}$$



# Conclusions and Future Work

Scenario	Facing material – Layup
Mechanical performance preference	Glass & Bio Epoxy - $[(0/90)_W]_{12}$
Balanced	Basalt & Elium - $[(0/90)_W]_{12}$
Environmental performance preference	Basalt & Elium - $[(0/90)_W]_{16}$

- Demonstrated an integrated Life Cycle Engineering framework incorporating LCA, LCC and Functional performance analysis and applied to marine industry
- Lack of applicable Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) data on basalt, flax and glass reinforcements
- Need for clearer targets for LCA data – relative vs absolute

# Acknowledgements

- Professor Richard Trask, Professor Ian Hamerton and Dr Marco Longana for their supervision
- Greenboats for provision of ampliTex 5040
- Arkema for provision of Elium 188XO resin
- Dr Luca Andena, Stefano Tagliabue, and Lorenzo De Noni (Polimi)

Thank you for listening.  
Any questions come  
and find me at my  
poster!

[will.proud@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:will.proud@bristol.ac.uk)





# A computational chemistry approach to modelling high strain rate viscoelastic materials

Matthew Bone

Brendan Howlin

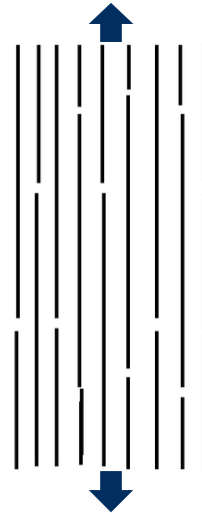
Ian Hamerton

Terence Macquart



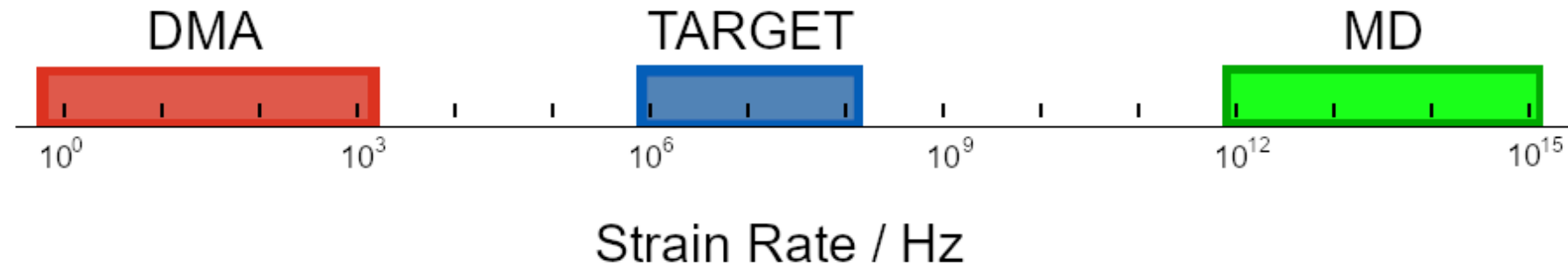
# Viscoelasticity

- Materials with viscous liquid and elastic solid properties
- Polymer chains rearrange as strain is applied
- Time dependence key for fast droplet impacts



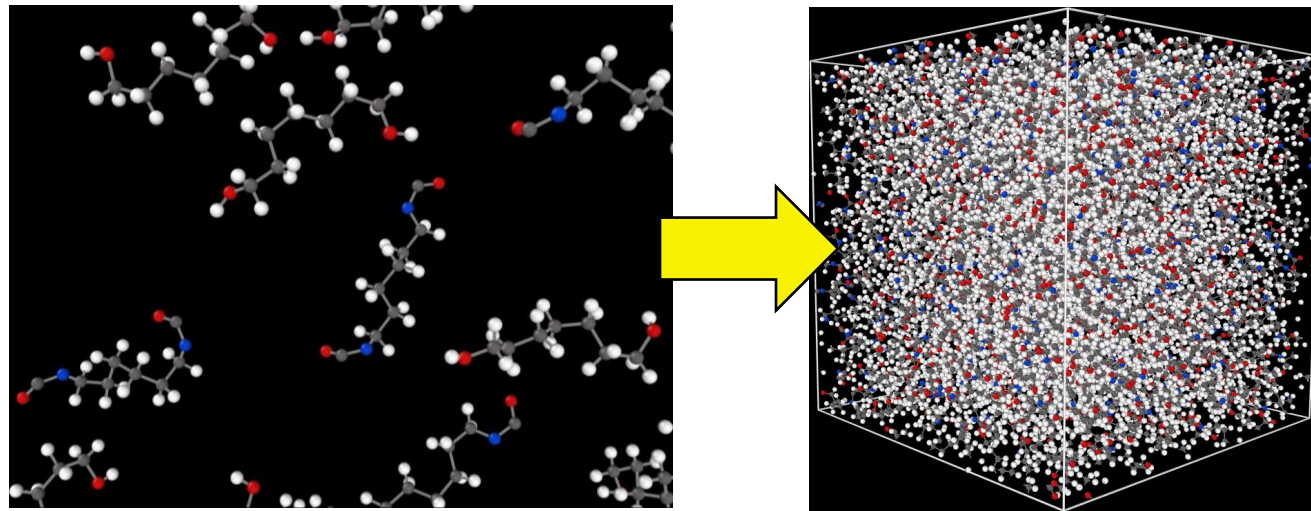
# High Strain Rate Viscoelasticity

- Wind turbine droplet impact strain rate  $10^6 - 10^8$  Hz
- DMA unable to directly measure target range
- MD exceeds target range – can work backwards



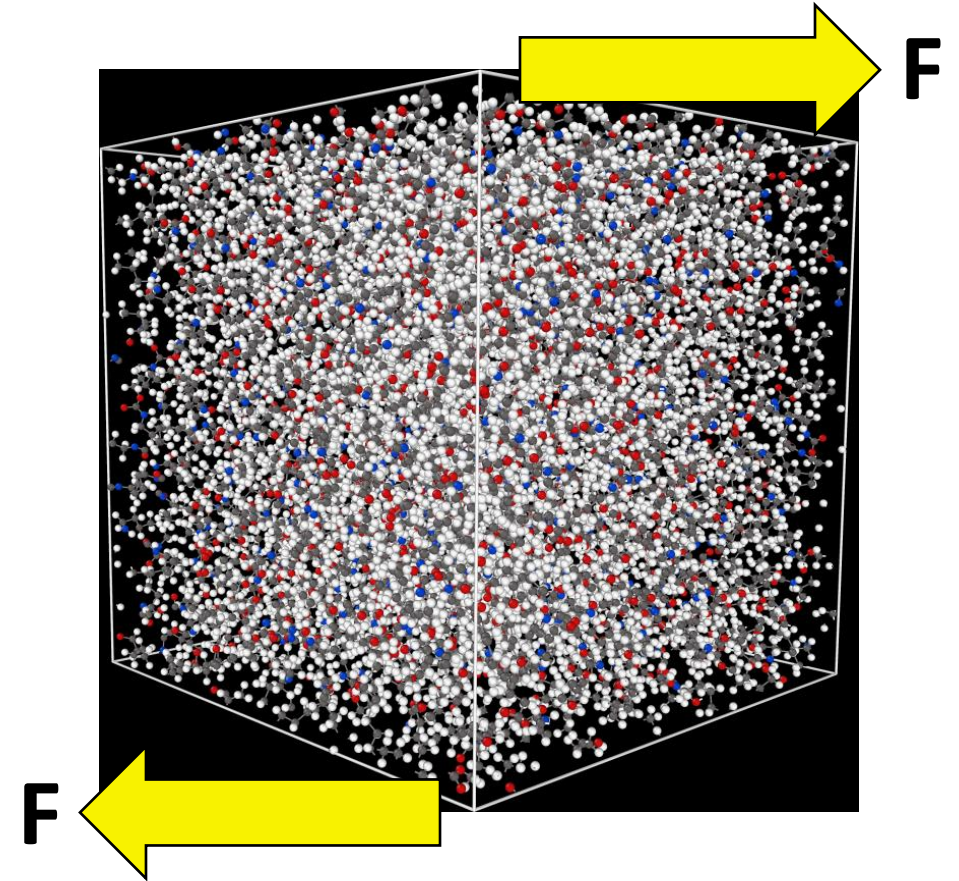
# Molecular Dynamics

- Modelling chemistry using classical mechanics
- Model large repeating structures like polymers
- Enable rapid exploration of material design space



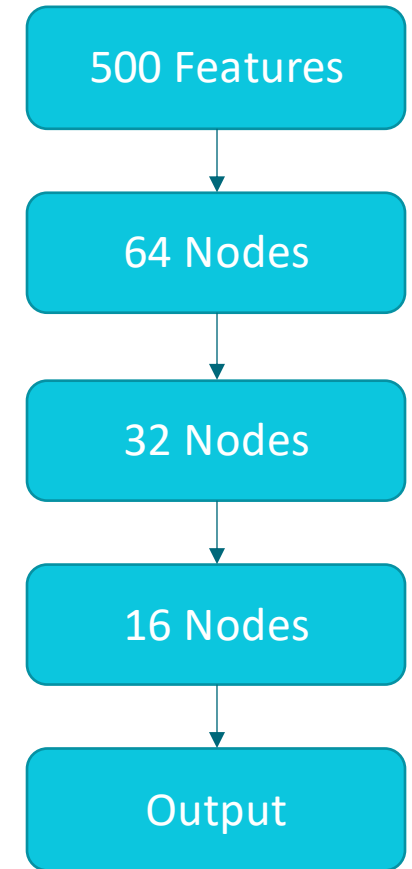
# MD Predictable Properties

- Glass Transition Temperature ( $T_g$ )
- Storage & Loss Modulus
- Density and Free Volume
- Degree of Crosslinking
- Coefficient of Thermal Expansion (CTE)
- Young's Modulus
- Shear Modulus
- Poisson's Ratio
- Yield Stress



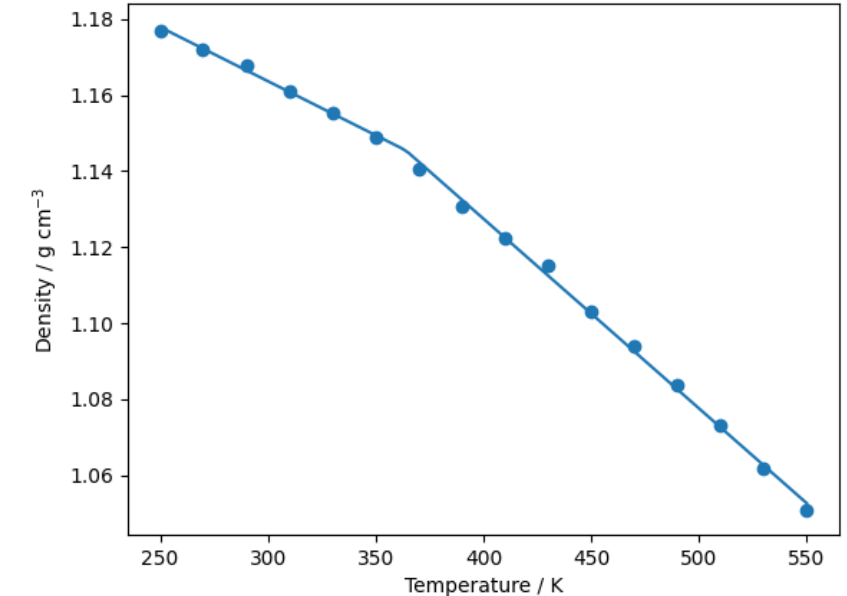
# Machine Learning

- Current MD simulations: 24 – 36 hrs
- Eliminate MD simulation through prediction
- Using small neural network architecture
  - Low computational cost to train



# Glass Transition Temperature

- 96 characterised polyurethane models
- $T_g$  range 320 – 450 K
- Close prediction from simple feature
  - MAE: 10-20 K; RMSE: 20-30 K



# Conclusion

- ML use significantly reduces runtime – 75% reduction
- Rapidly identify the  $T_g$  of polyurethane coatings
- Use same methodology to explore viscoelastic properties in polyurethanes





# *Questions?* Come find my poster!

Email: [matthew.bone@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.bone@bristol.ac.uk)

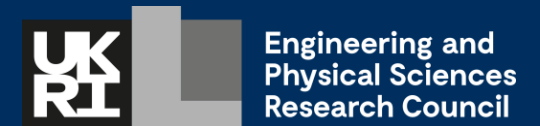
## Acknowledgements

Supervisors: Brendan Howlin, Ian Hamerton,  
Terence Macquart  
Funding: EPSRC

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# Microporous Carbon/Sulfur Composites for Hydrogen Storage

Charles Brewster, Lui R Skytree, Sebastien Rochat, Valeska P Ting

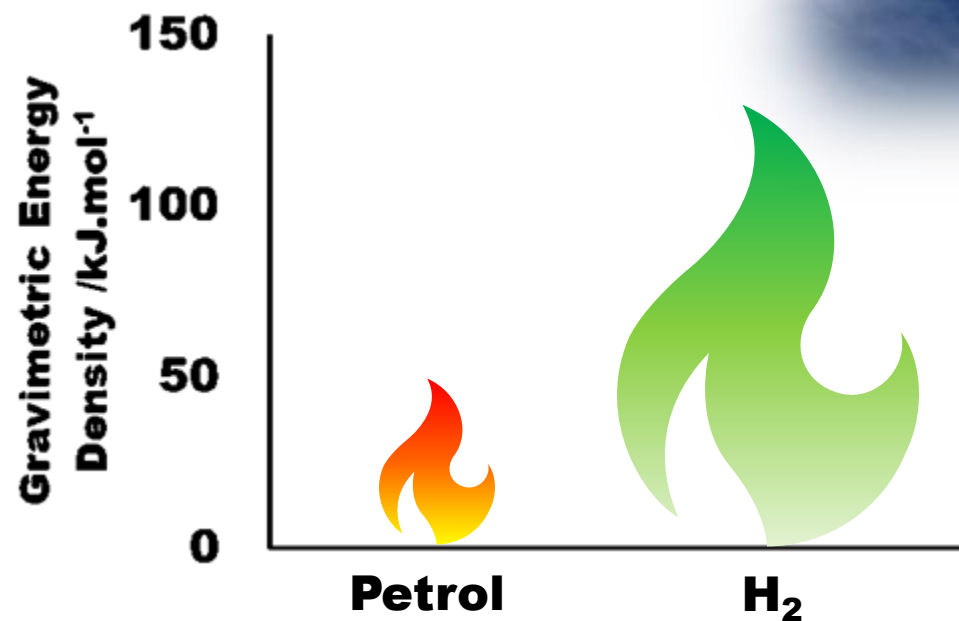
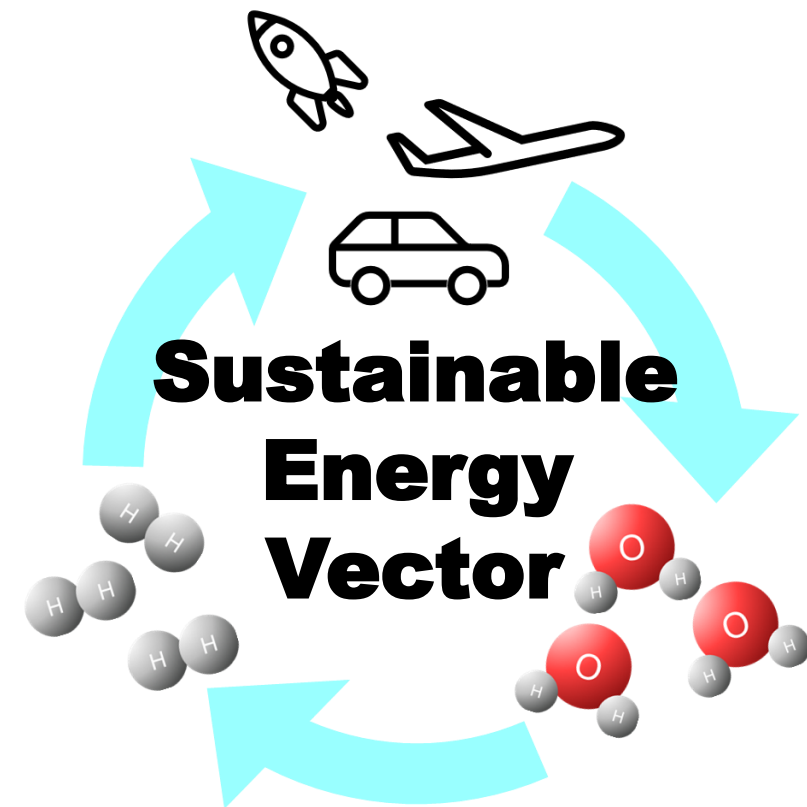
2022 Doctoral Research Symposium

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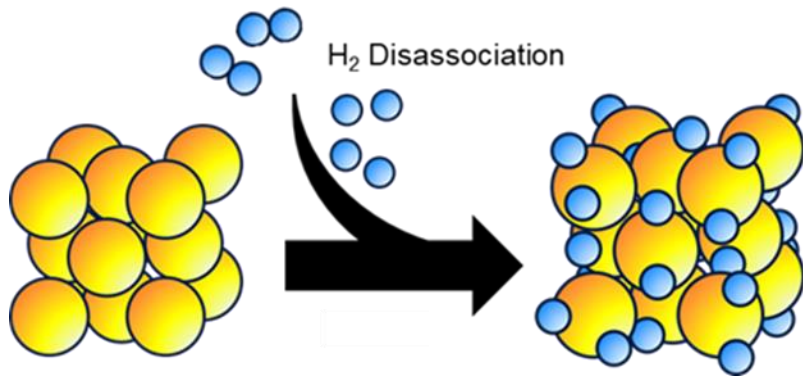
# Why should we care?



# Concept

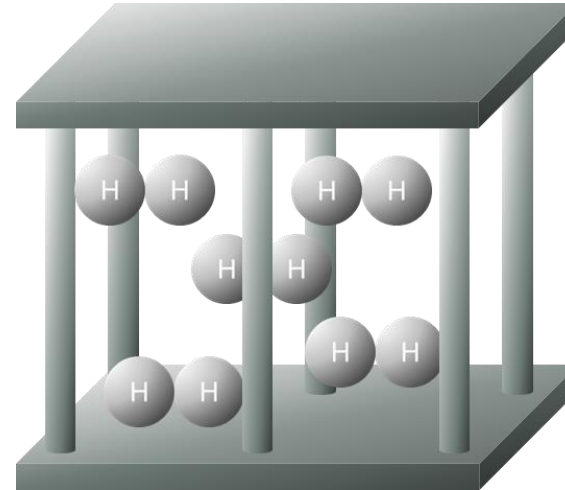
## Composite-based Solution

### Hydrides



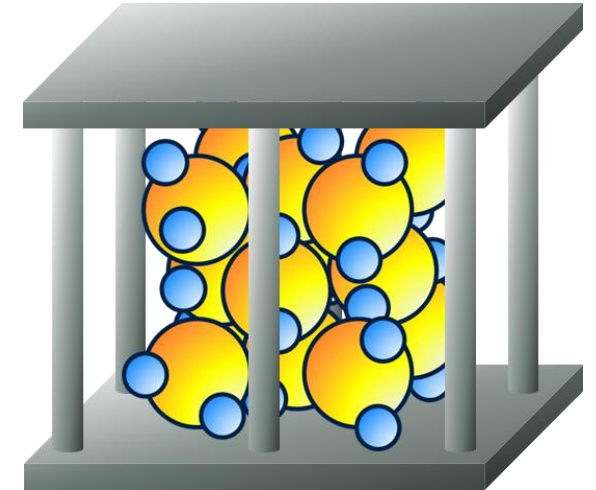
- ✓ High volumetric and gravimetric hydrogen densities.
- × Poor cyclability.
- × Unfavourable pressure and temperature.
- × Long recharge times

### Nano-porous Material



- ✓ Full discharge.
- ✓ Good cyclability.
- × Requires cryogenic conditions.
- × Low Volumetric hydrogen density.

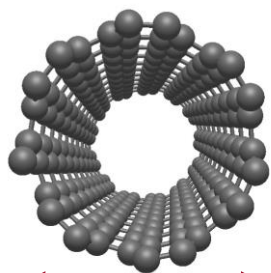
### Nanoporous Composite



# Materials

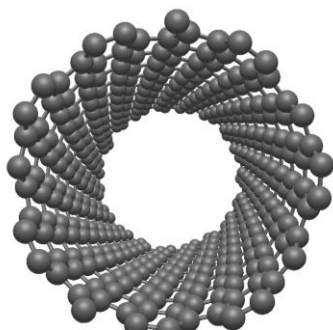
## Porous Material

SWCNT-narrow



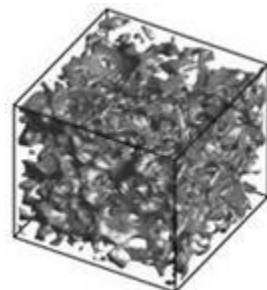
0.95 nm

SWCNT-wide



1.4 nm

TE7



## Heteroatom

- Inexpensive waste material.
- Non-hazardous.
- Boiling point = 445 °C.
- Predicted improved H<sub>2</sub> sorption in SWCNTs.

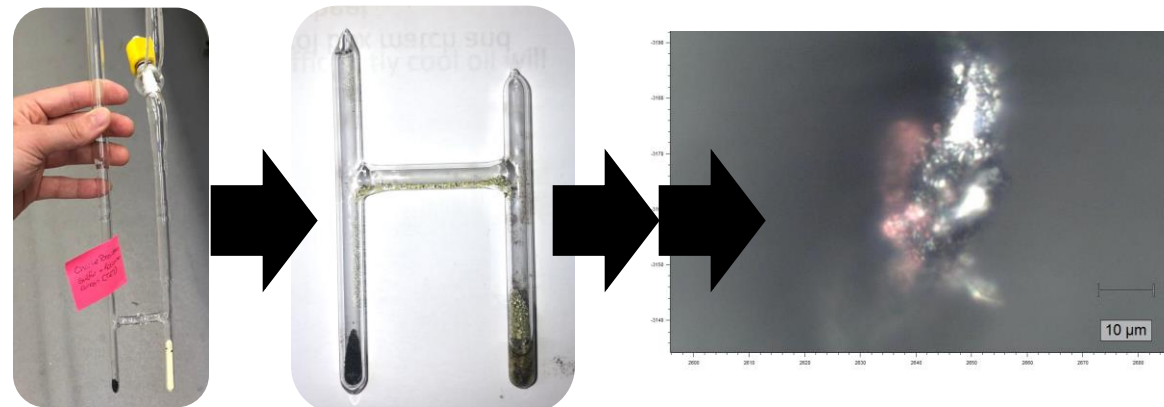
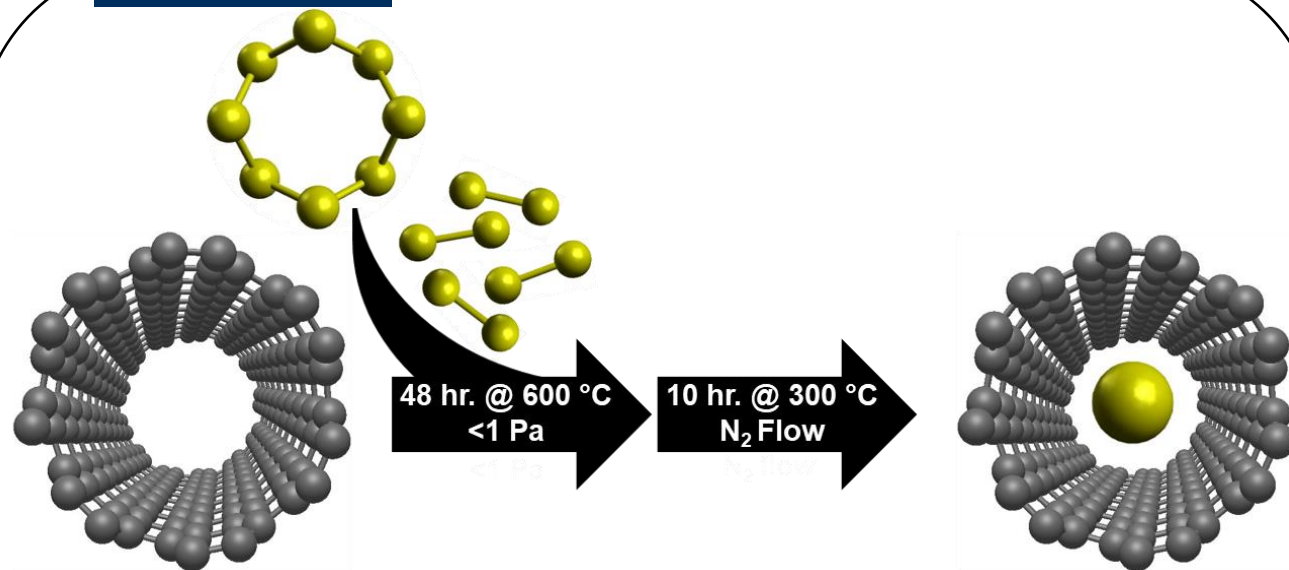
16

32.06

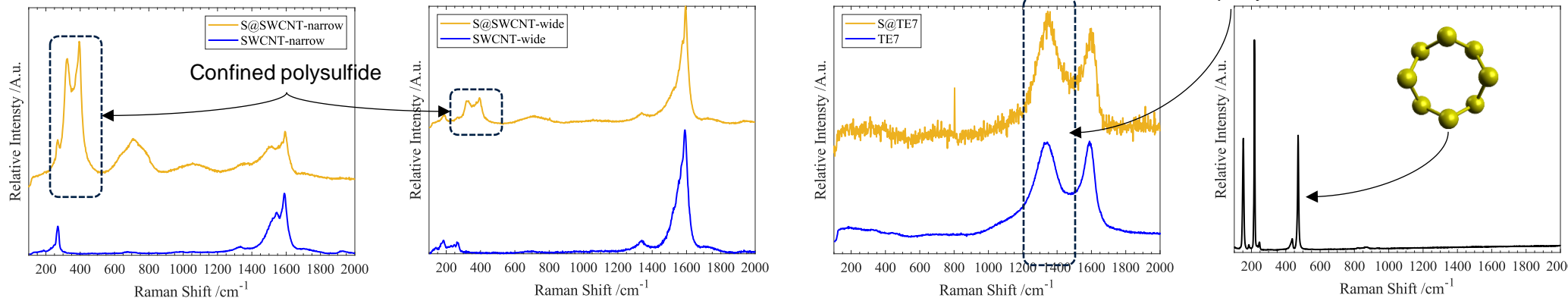
S

Sulfur


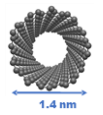
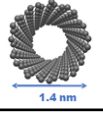
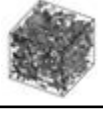


## Synthesis



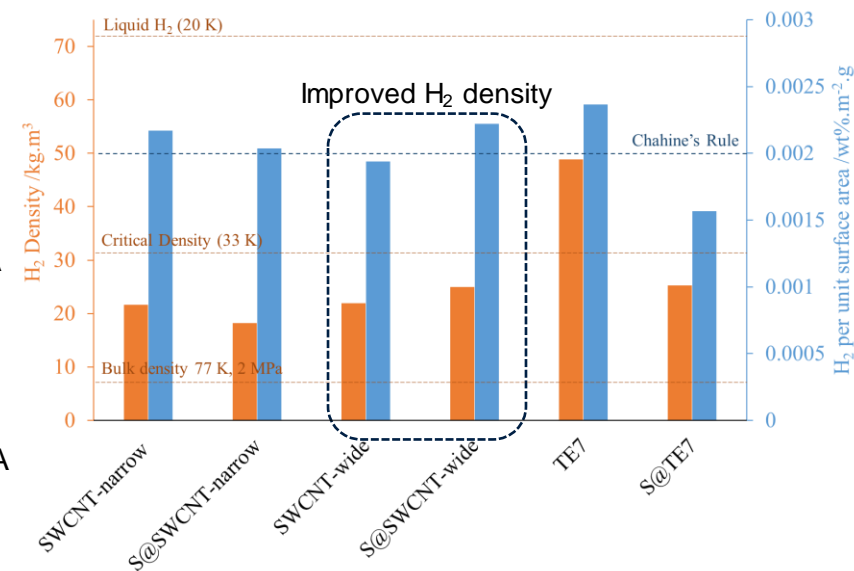
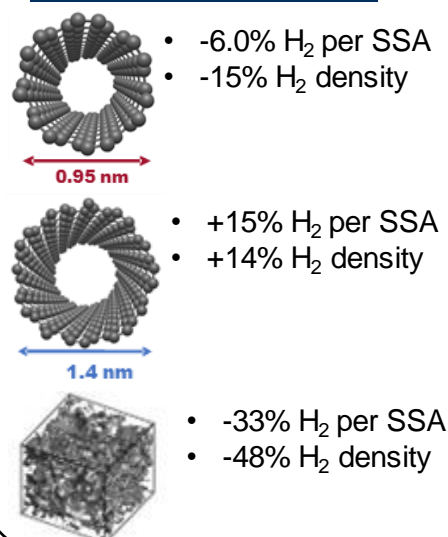
## Raman Spectroscopy



## N<sub>2</sub> Gas Sorption

Sample	Specific Surface Area /m <sup>2</sup> .g <sup>-1</sup>	Pore Volume /cm <sup>3</sup> .g <sup>-1</sup>
 SWCNT-narrow	869±2	0.95
 S@SWCNT-narrow	752±6	0.94
 SWCNT-wide	1011±3	0.95
 S@SWCNT-wide	764±2	0.78
 TE7	1200±2	0.68
 S@TE7	1008±6	0.71

## H<sub>2</sub> Sorption



# Summary

- Proven synthesis and determined structure by **matching similarities to literature**.
- Determined the **BET surface area** and pore size distribution using  $N_2$ .
- **Evaluated the  $H_2$  sorption** performance of the composite materials.
- Maintaining the integrity of **micropores is vital for hydrogen storage**.

## Future Work

- Identify the location of hydrogen within the material via **neutron scattering**.
- Determine origin of enhancement through **Raman Spectroscopy**.
- Conduct low-pressure  $H_2$  sorption experiments to determine **enhanced monolayer surface packing**.



# Acknowledgements

*Special thanks to:*

Dr Lui Skytree

Dr Sebastien Rochat

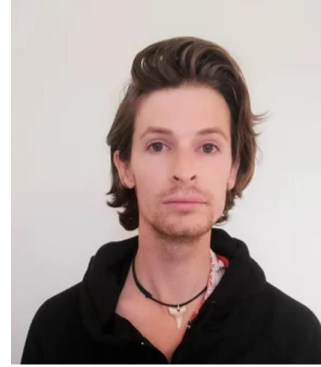
Prof. Valeska Ting

CDT19

Ting-group

ONE-group

Supervisory Team



Dr Lui Skytree



Dr Sebastien Rochat



Prof. Valeska P Ting





For a discussion  
please visit (and  
vote for) my poster

[c.d.brewster@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:c.d.brewster@bristol.ac.uk)

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# Advanced High-Fidelity Modelling of Woven Composites

Ruggero Filippone

BCI Symposium

12 April 2022



**Supported by**



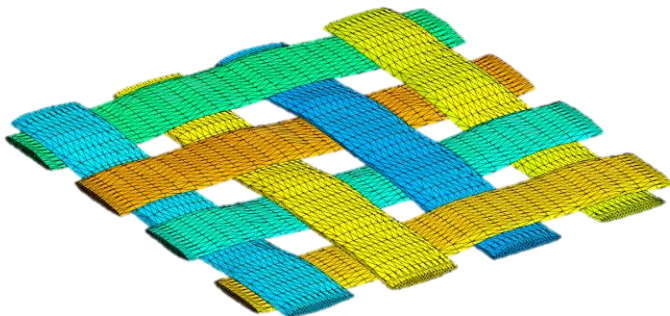
# Advanced High-Fidelity Modelling of Woven Composites

## Project Objectives

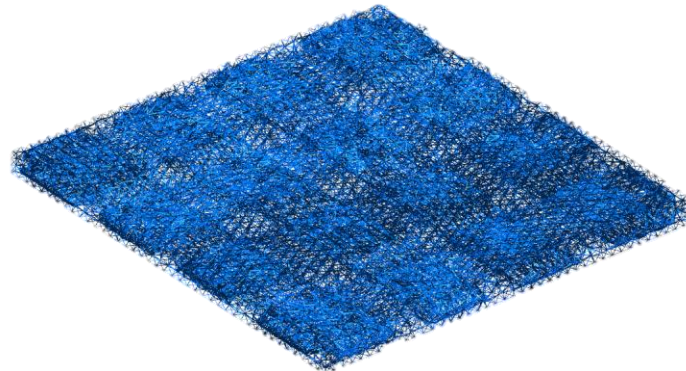
This research aims to investigate the mechanical behaviour from the fibre/matrix constituents up to the components level to characterise woven composite materials.

Developing a cutting-edge modelling capabilities for meso-scale damage in woven textile composites.

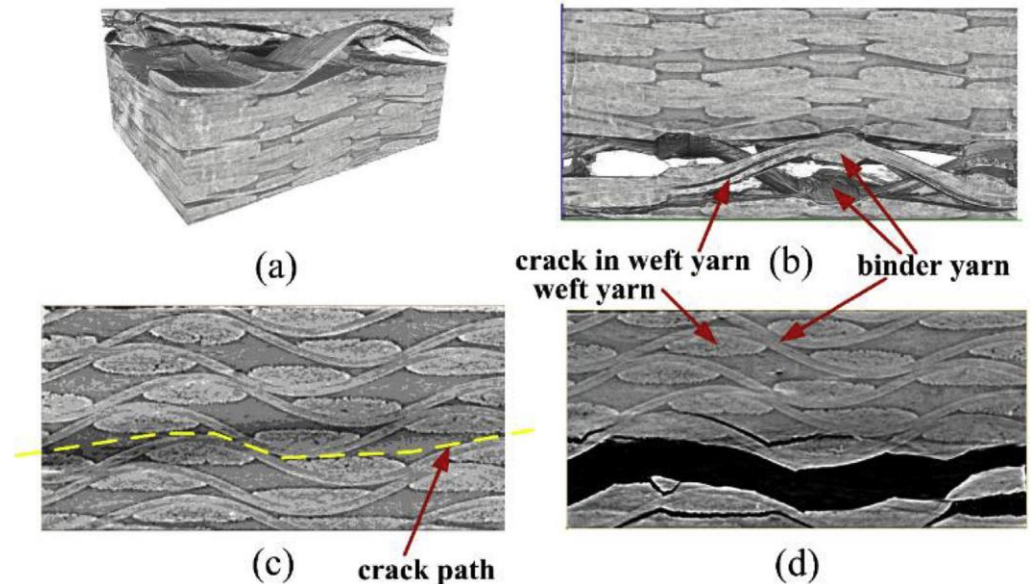
- Enhanced Meso-scale model framework.
- Investigation of premature failure of 3D woven composites due to debonding failures.



2D Woven Fabric structured mesh



Matrix structured mesh



Delamination following debonding failure. *Zhixing Li et al. (2018)*



# Advanced High-Fidelity Modelling of Woven Composites

## Multi-Scale Framework

### Geometric Simulation Algorithm

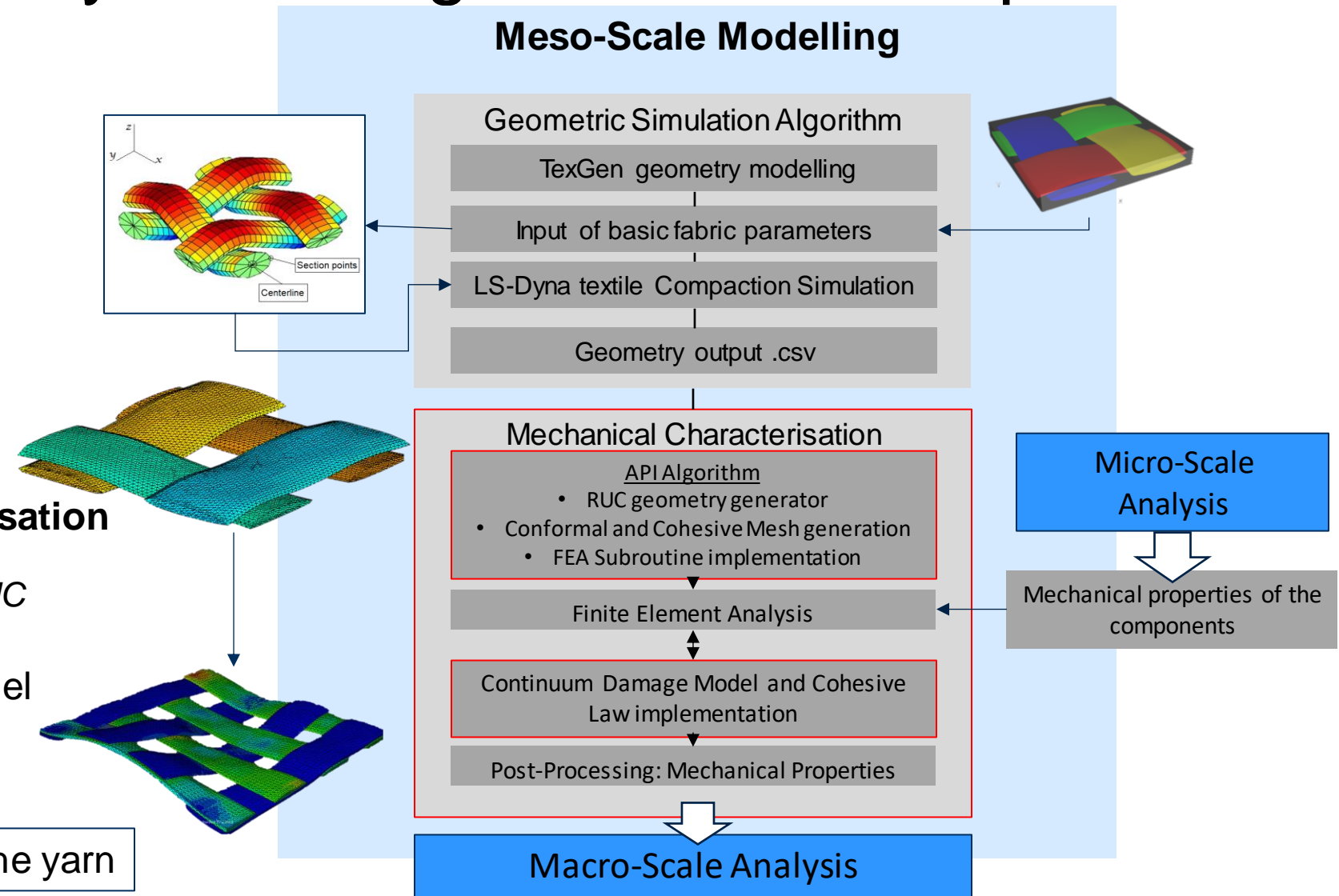
From the features of the woven fabric, a representative unite cell is modelled in order to obtain a real shaped model, simulating the fabric compaction process.

### Key points of Mechanical Characterisation

- High Fidelity structured mesh for *RUC*
- Cohesive mesh generator
- Dedicated mechanical damage model propagation and Cohesive Law

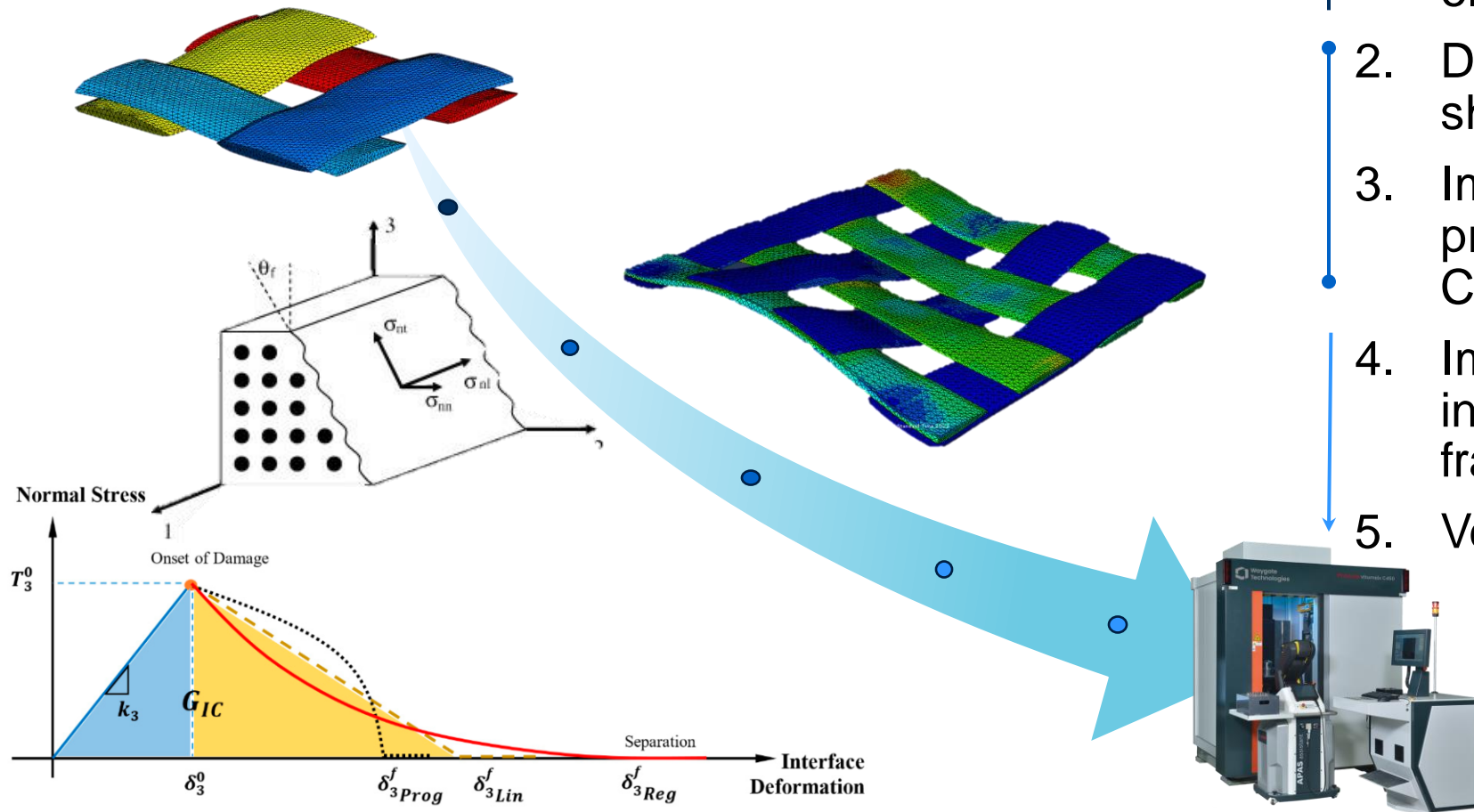


Transition region from pure matrix to the yarn



# Advanced High-Fidelity Modelling of Woven Composites

## Milestones of the project



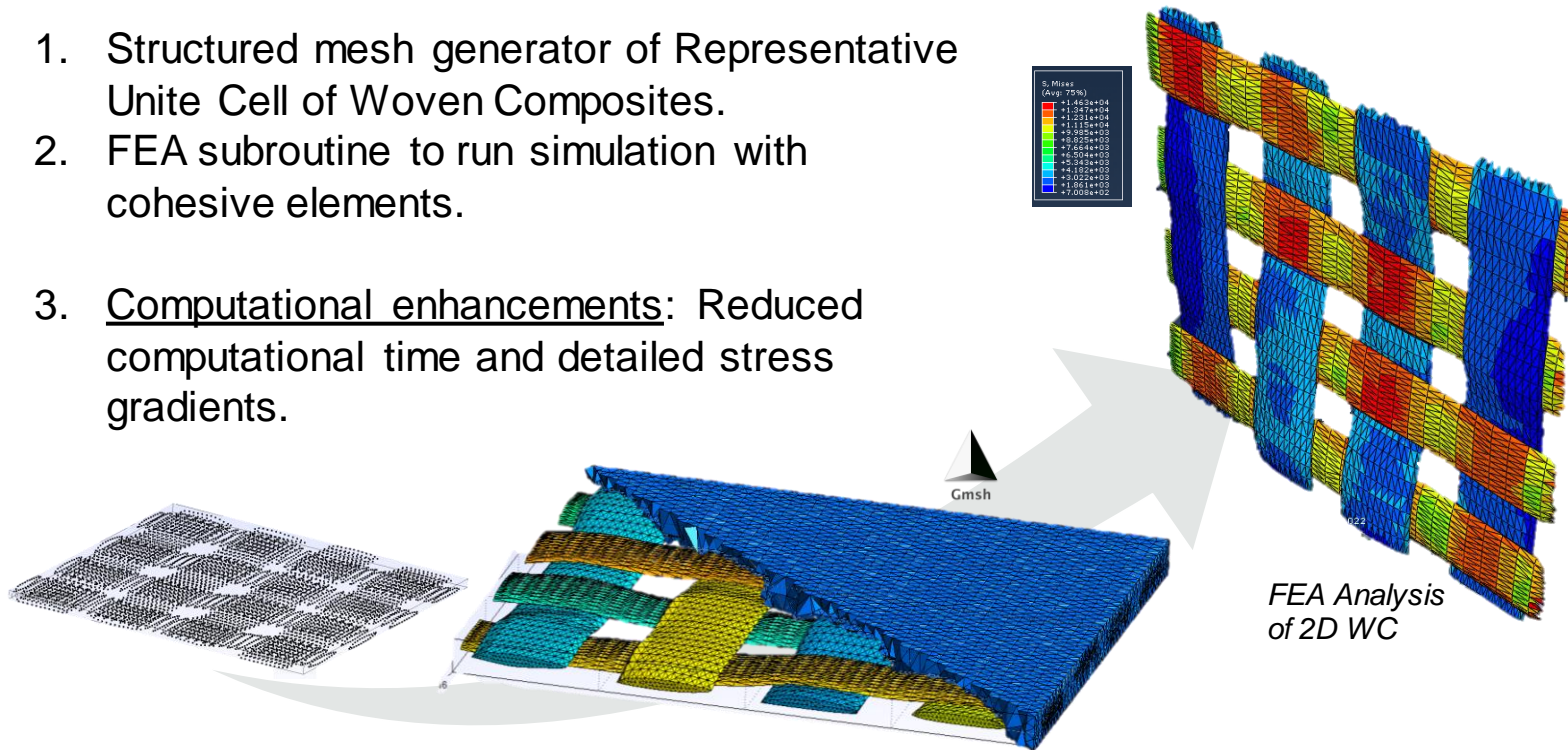
1. 3D Woven dedicated conformal meshing methods with cohesive elements.
2. Dedicated matrix modelling including shearing non-linearity.
3. Implementation of specific damage progression algorithms and Cohesive Law
4. Implementation of damage models in an implicit Multi-Scale integration framework.
5. Verification against CT-scans.



# Advanced High-Fidelity Modelling of Woven Composites

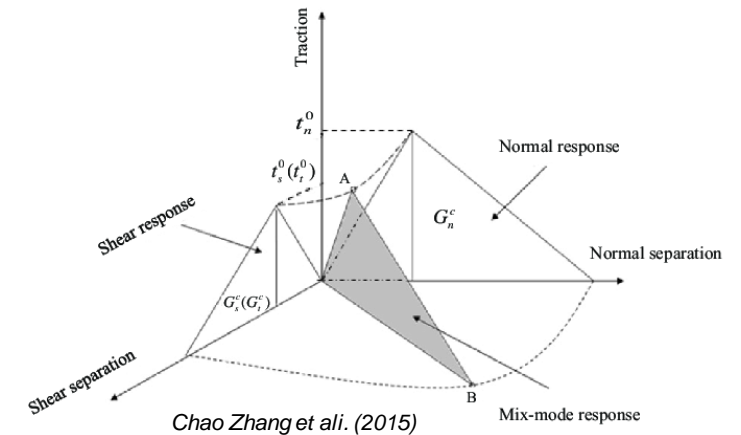
## Achievements

- **High-Fidelity meso-scale model framework of woven composites**
  1. Structured mesh generator of Representative Unite Cell of Woven Composites.
  2. FEA subroutine to run simulation with cohesive elements.
  3. Computational enhancements: Reduced computational time and detailed stress gradients.



## Working On

- Investigation of Yarn/Matrix debonding damage model, exploiting the cohesive elements.
- Enhancement of Damage progression algorithm for structured mesh



# Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge the support of Rolls-Royce plc through the Composites University Technology Centre (UTC) at the University of Bristol and the EPSRC through the ACCIS Centre for Doctoral Training grant, no. EP/G036772/1.“

And all my supervisors:

Bassam Elsaied, Adam Thompson, Peter Foster and Stephen Hallett



# Advanced High-Fidelity Modelling of Woven Composites

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Thank you.

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# Architecture optimization of 3d-printable lattice structures with an evolutionary-based approach

**Athina Kontopoulou**, Bing Zhang,  
Fabrizio Scarpa, Giuliano Allegri

BCI Doctoral Research Symposium

12<sup>th</sup> April 2022



# Motivation

## □ Lattice structures:

- Periodic structures characterized by the repetition of a unit cell.
- Mechanical properties depend on the material and the topology of the unit cell.

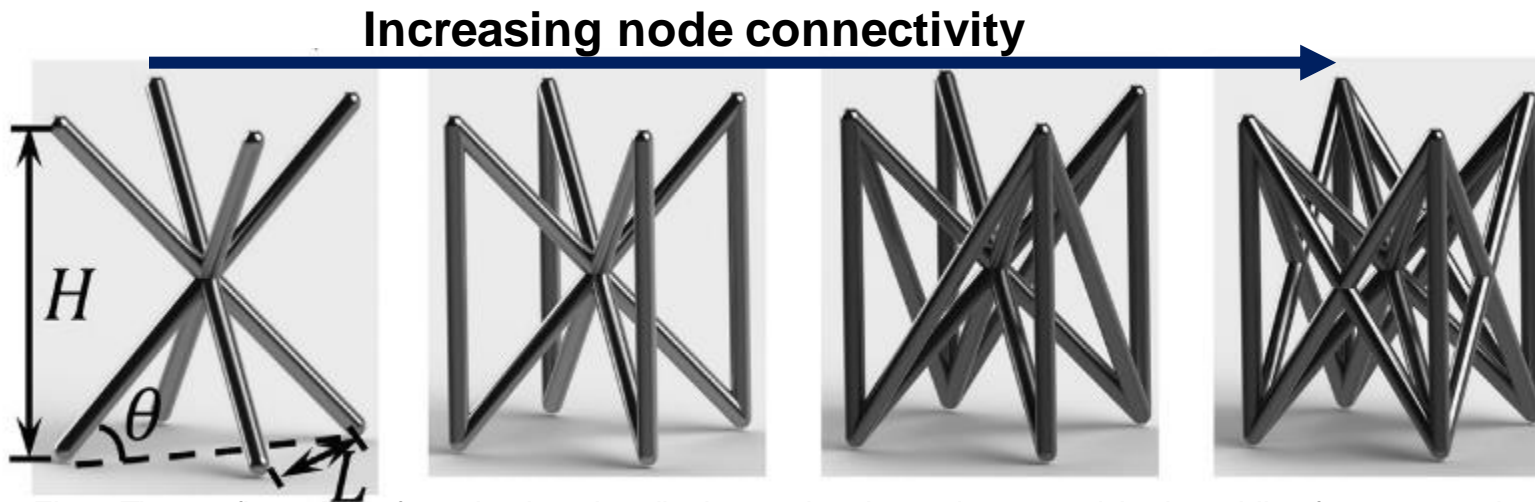


Fig.1: The configuration of quadruple unit cells, increasing the node connectivity by adding face centered, diagonal struts to one and two directions [1].

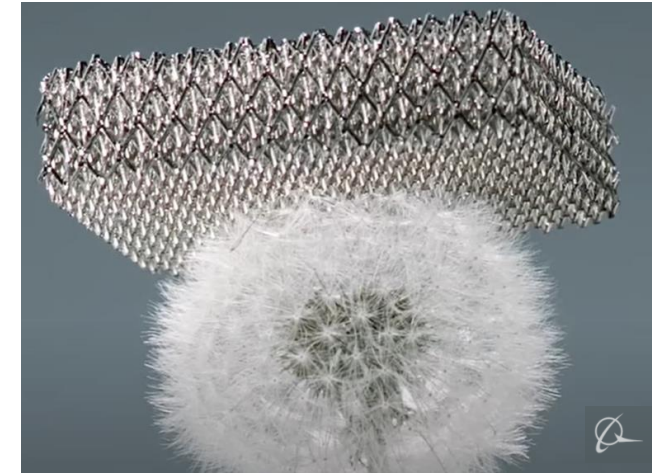


Fig.2: The lightest metal microlattice [2].



Fig.3: Thin-wall structure and lattice in-fills for the deep-space probes of the moon [3].

# Computational approach

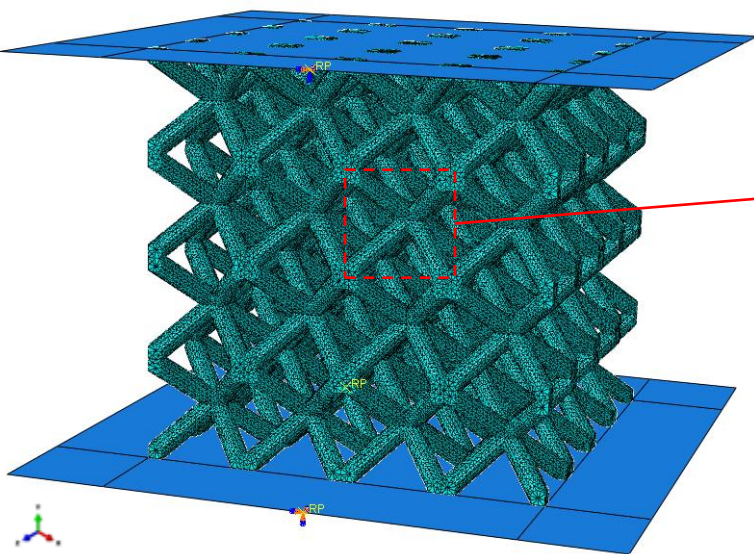


Fig.4: Lattice structure of body centered configuration.

Representative Volume Element

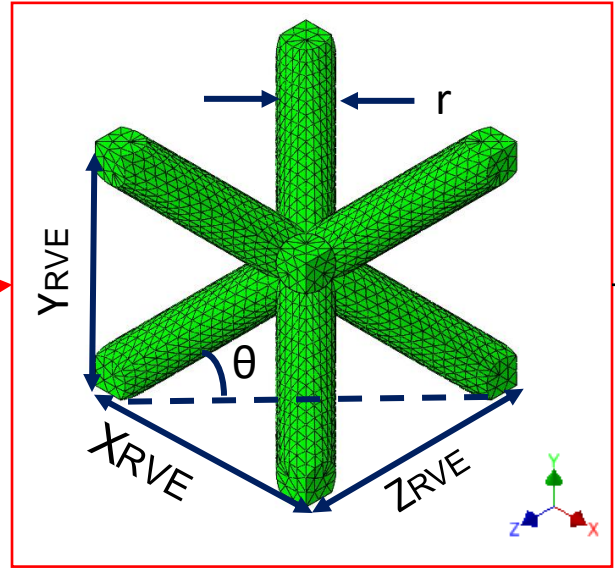
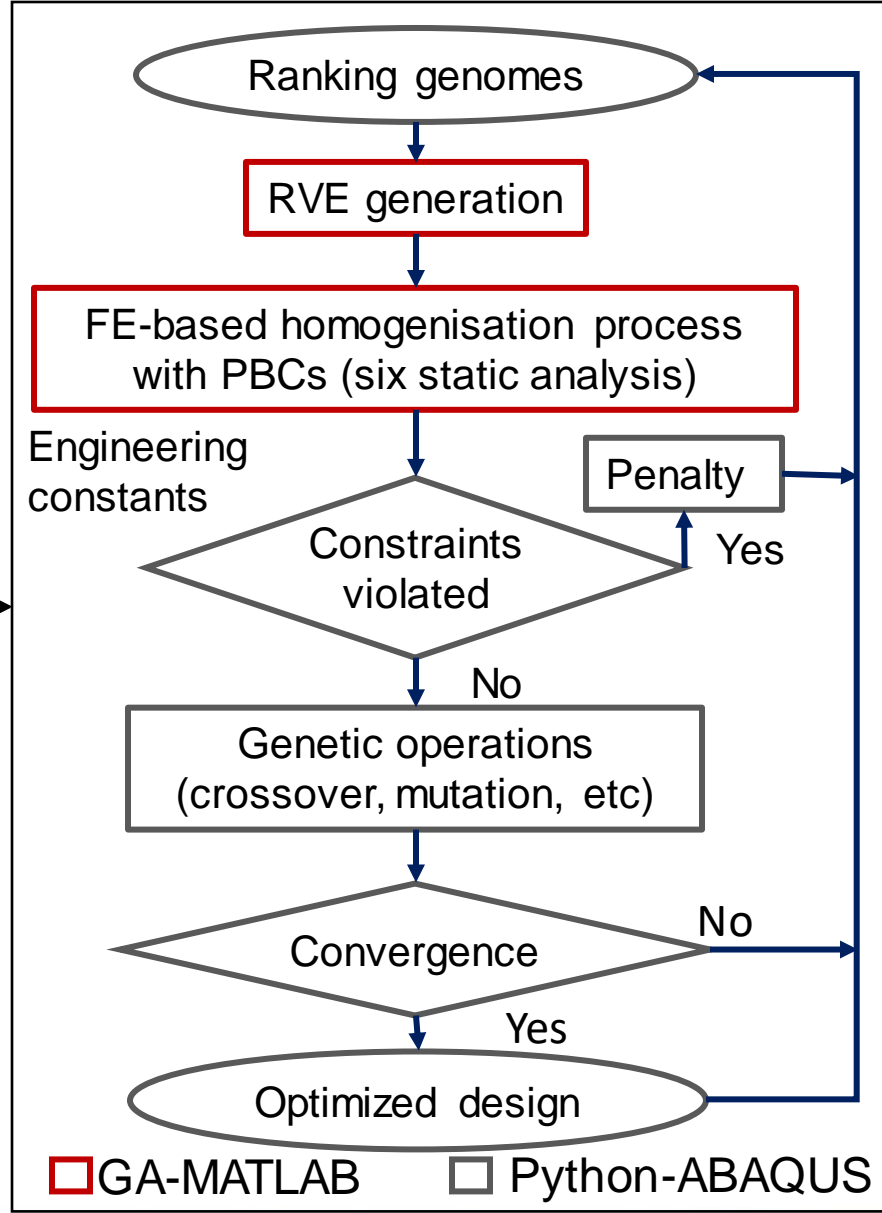


Fig.5: Unit cell of body centered cubic lattice.

Variables	Lower bound	Upper bound
r	0.3 mm	0.7 mm
YRVE	5.0 mm	9.0 mm

Fig.6: The lower and upper bounds of the continuous geometric variables in the genetic algorithm.



# Results of a case study

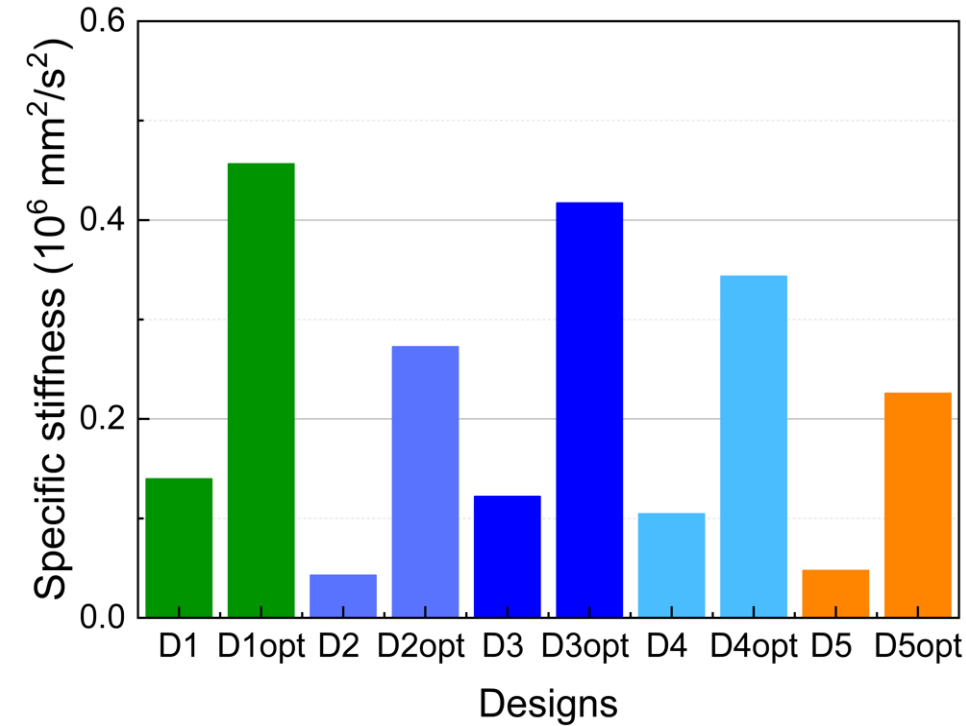
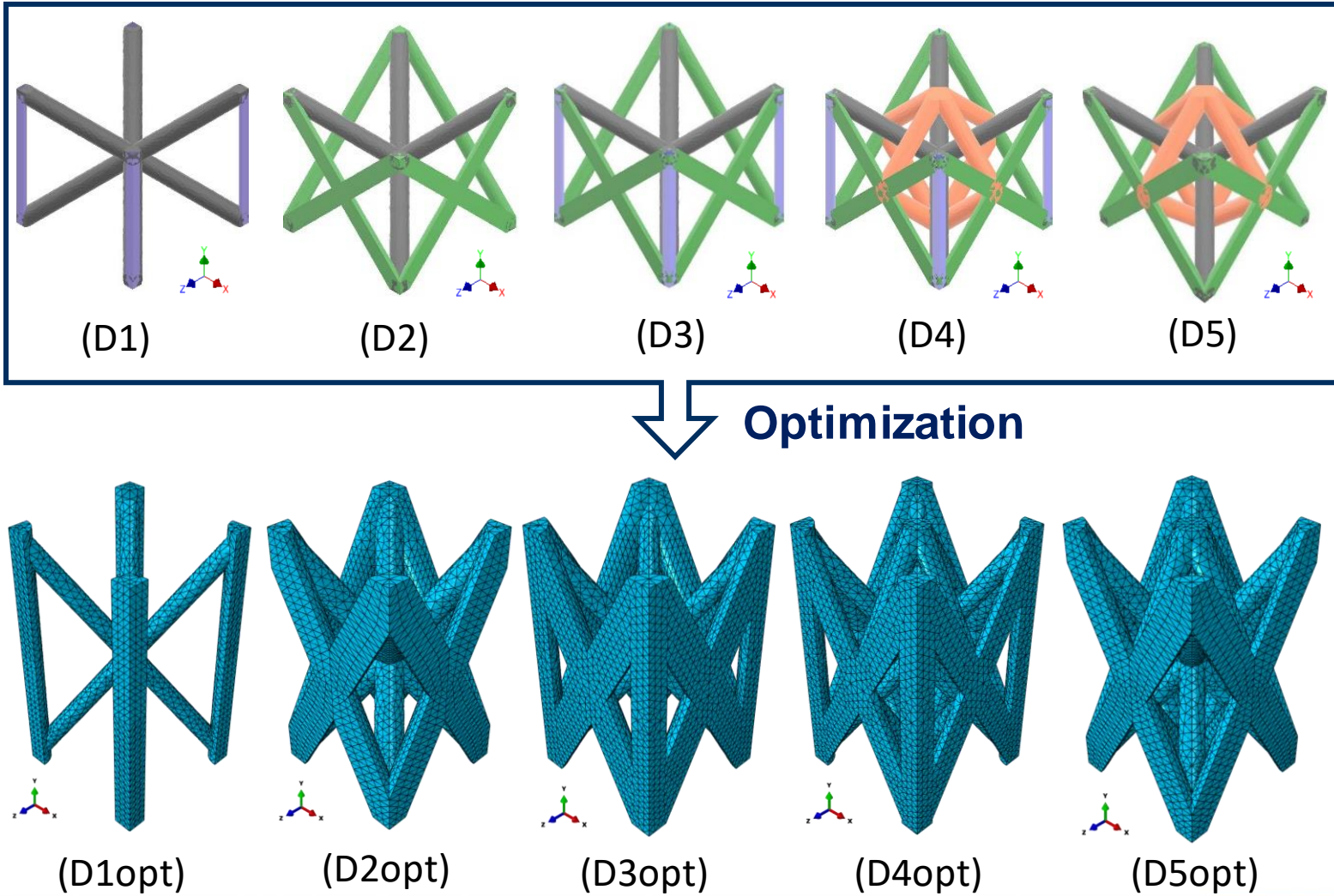


Fig.7: Bar chart of the specific compressive stiffness of the lattice RVEs (D1-D5) before and (D1opt-D5opt) after the optimization.

# Conclusions & Future work

## □ Conclusions:

- Increase the specific compressive stiffness of lattice designs.
- Impose manufacturing and density constraints.
- Investigate the effect of struts orientation to the specific stiffness.

## □ Future work:

- Additive manufacturing and experimental work.
- Investigation of vibration transmissibility properties.

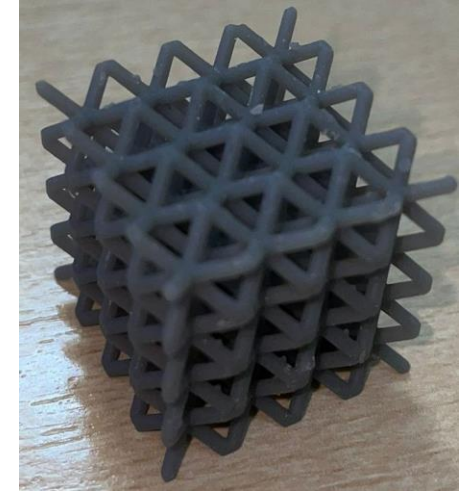


Fig.8: BCC lattice structure fabricated with stereolithography.

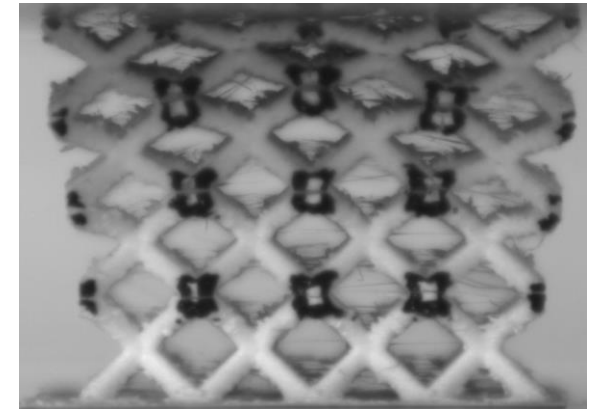


Fig.9: BCC lattice structure fabricated with Fusion Deposition Modelling under compression.



# Thank you for listening!

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## Acknowledgements:

- Supervisory team: Dr Giuliano Allegri, Prof Fabrizio Scarpa, Dr Bing Zhang
- Dr Riccardo Manno
- BCI Lab support Technicians

## References:

- [1] Energy absorption diagram characteristic of metallic self-supporting 3D lattices fabricated by additive manufacturing and design method of energy absorption structure (2021), Zhang et al.
- [2] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6N\\_4jGJADY&ab\\_channel=Boeing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6N_4jGJADY&ab_channel=Boeing)
- [3] Design of self-supporting lattices for additive manufacturing (2021) Zhou et al.

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## BCI Doctoral Research Symposium

12<sup>th</sup> April 2022

# 4DBioMArc: Project Overview

Joe Surmon

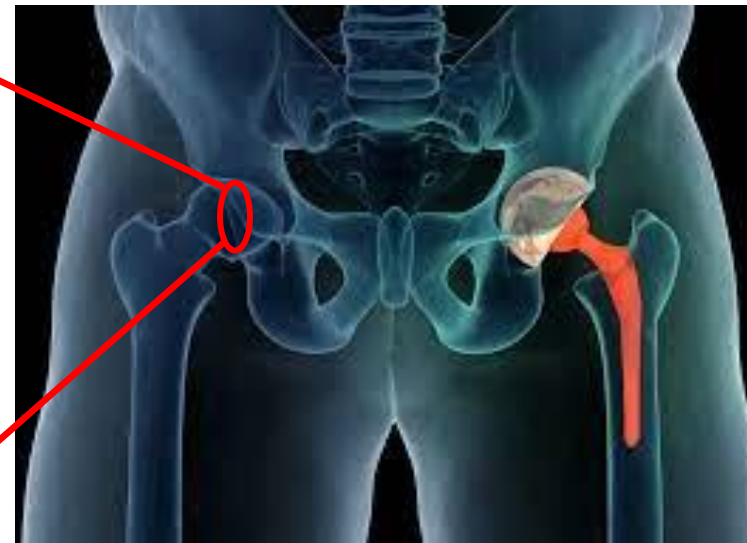
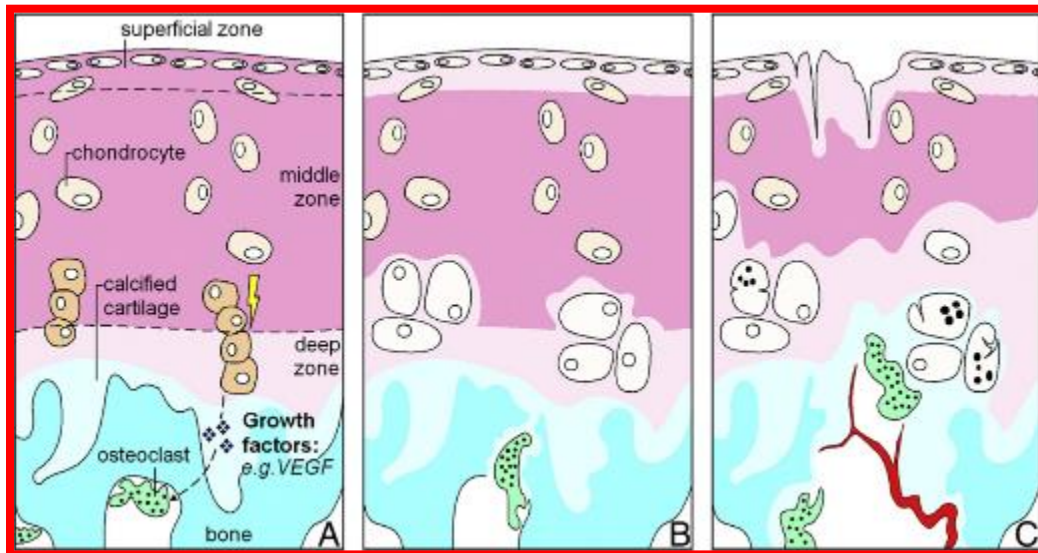
25/05/21



# Challenge

## Osteoarthritis

- Affecting hundreds of millions worldwide (>10% over 60s worldwide)
- Significantly damaging QOL, independence and mobility
- Current treatment: pain management and complete joint replacement



Gen1 – Bioinert (Metals)



Gen2 – Bioactive (Bioglass)



Gen3 – Bioinductive (?)

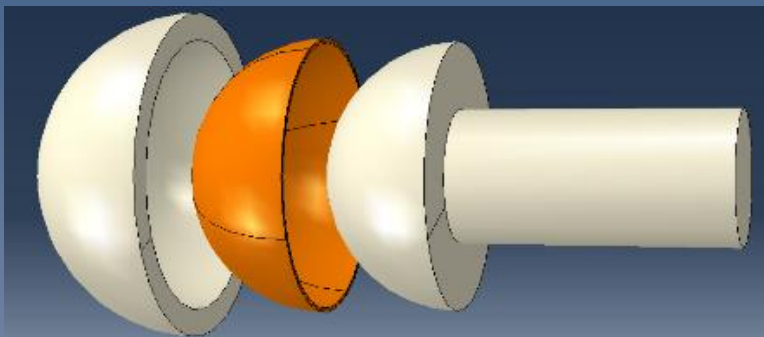




# Project Aims

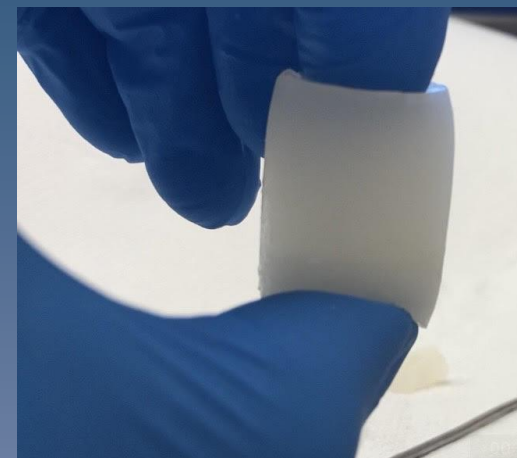
## Develop soft material scaffold:

- Eliminate the need for complete joint replacement
- Allow intervention at a much earlier stage
- Improve quality of life for ageing population



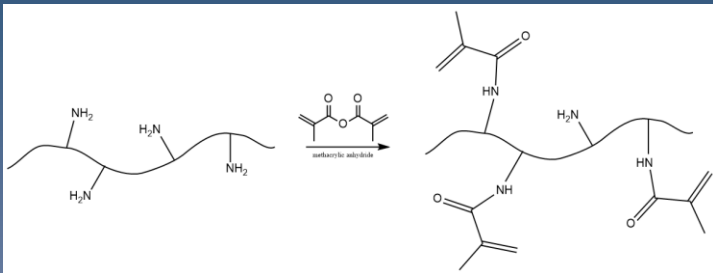
## Material Aims:

1. Biocompatible
2. Deployable
3. Mechanically robust
4. Easily of manufacture

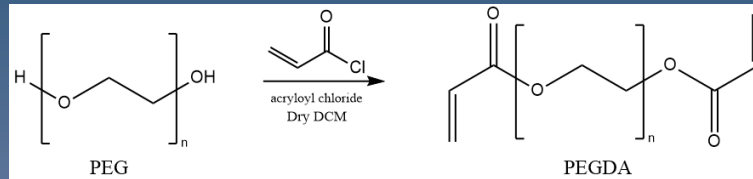


# Materials

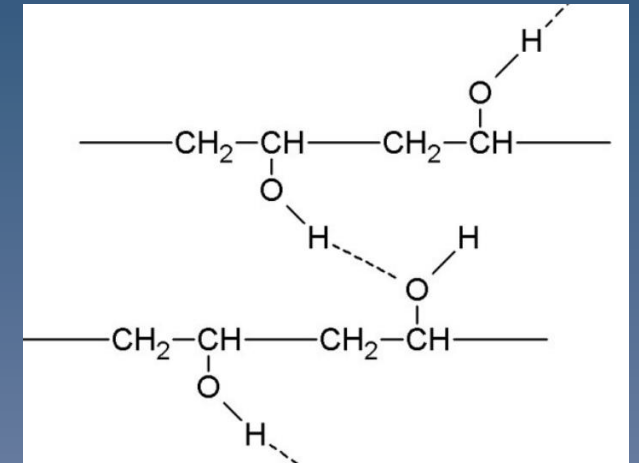
## 1. GelMA - Alginate DN - Natural



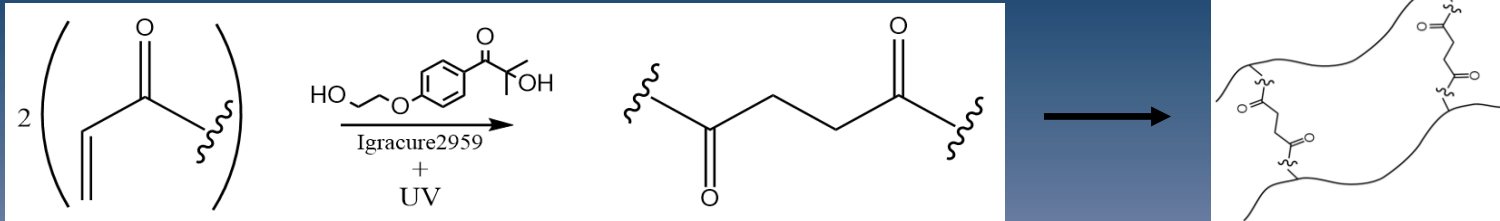
## 2. PEGDA – Alginate DN - Synthetic



## 3. PVA – Alginate DN - Hydrogen bonding - Processability



## Network Formation



# Methods

## Lab-based

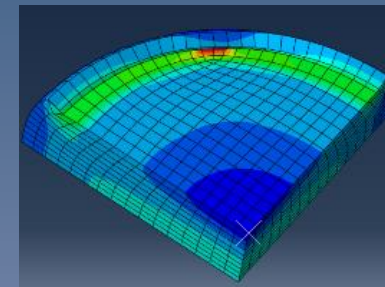
- Physical Characterisation
  - LVER Determination
  - Swelling
- Mechanical Characterisation
  - Compressive strength
  - Shear strength
  - Fatigue life



Generate  
Material  
properties

## Simulation

- Parametric studies into:
  - Shear
  - Compression
- Incorporate CT hip scans

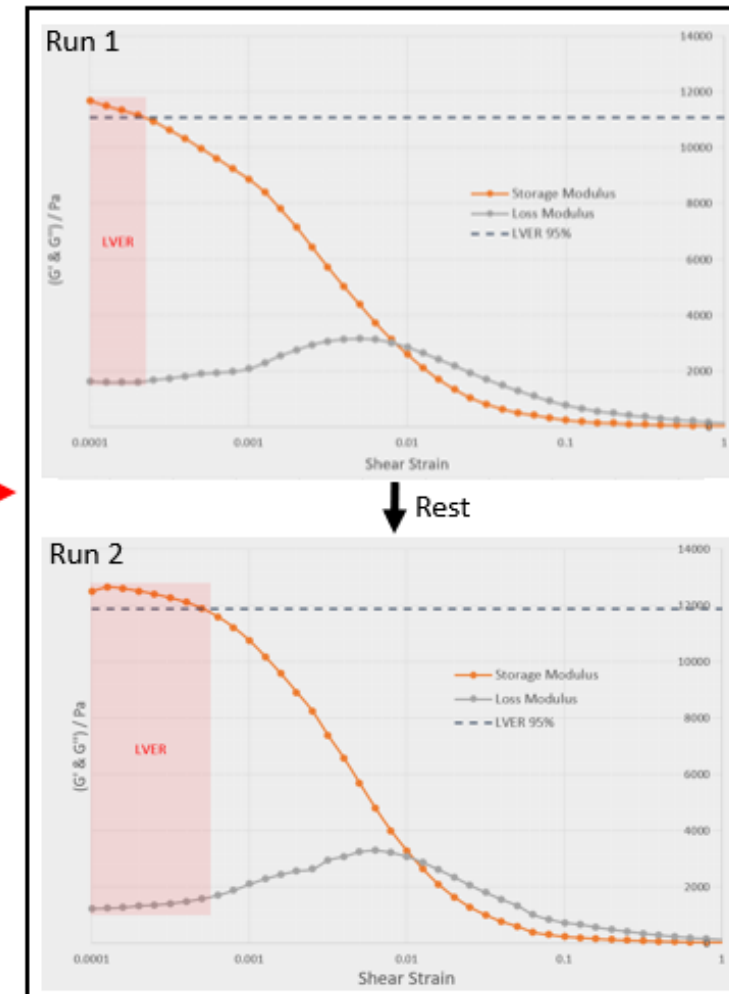
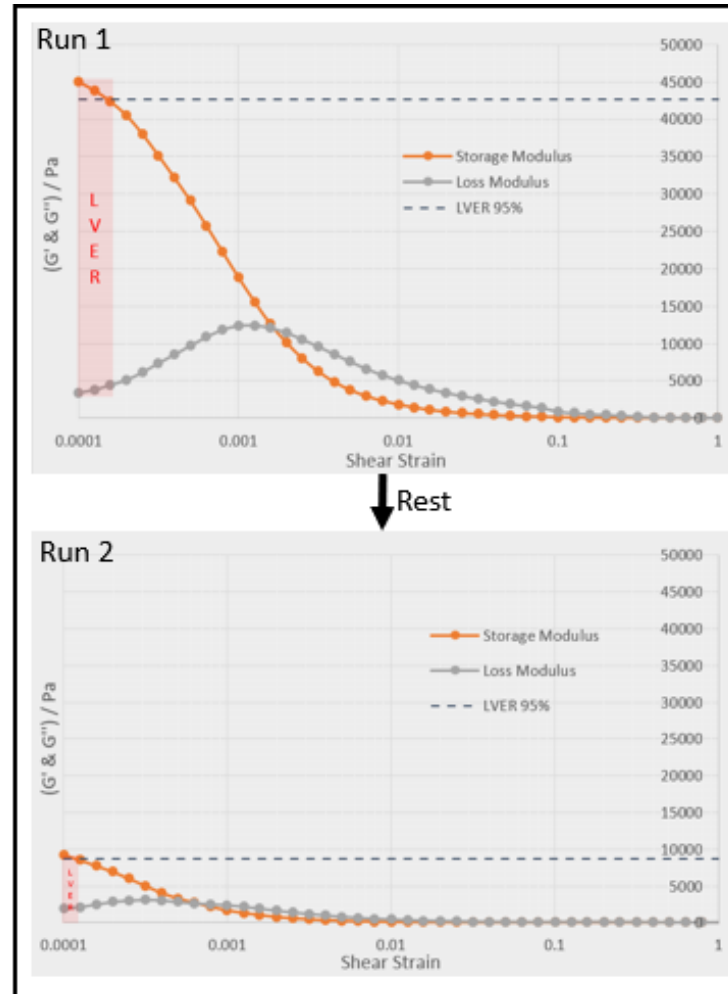


Inform and  
supplement  
experimental  
direction



# Results

- Rheological Characterisation
  - LVER Determination
  - Temperature Sweep



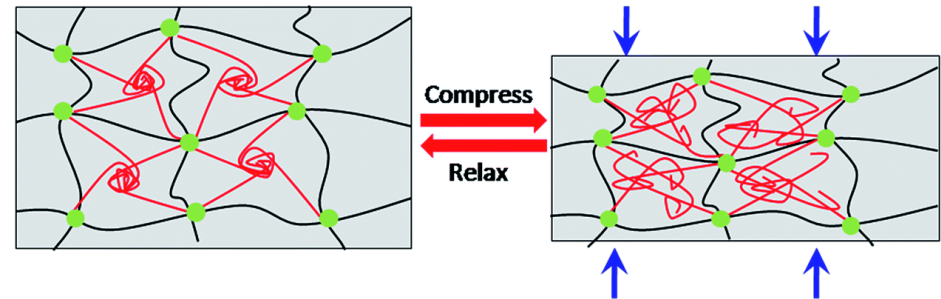
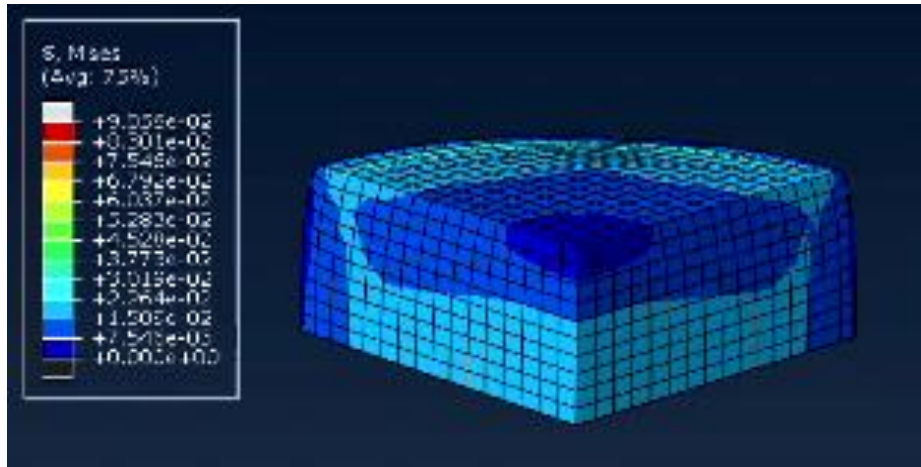
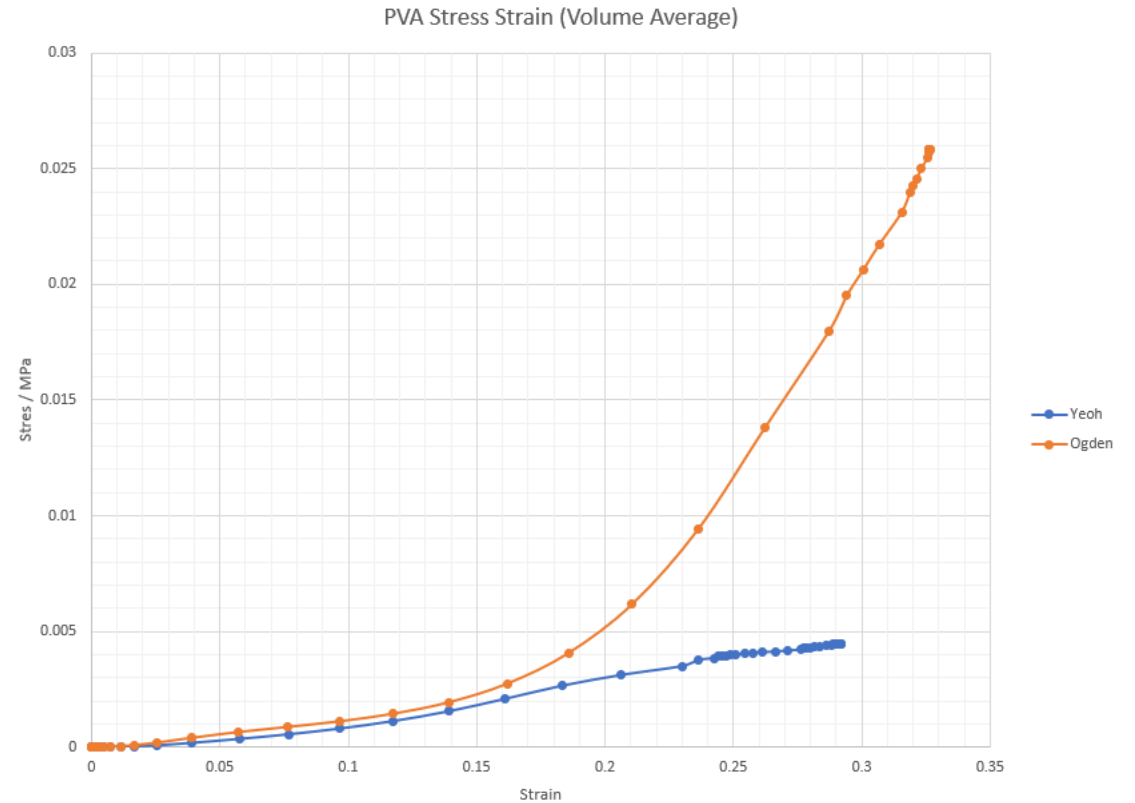
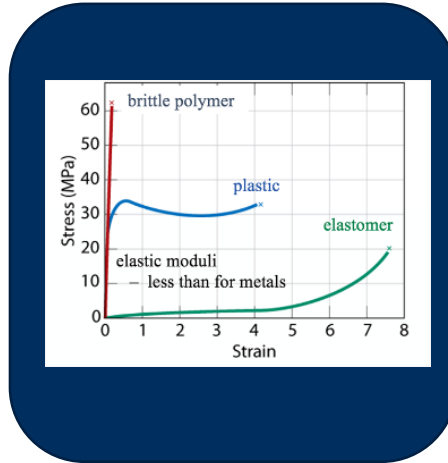
# Results

## Hyperelastic Yeoh Model

1. Rubber
2. Agarose gel
3. PVA gel

## Hyperelastic Ogden Model

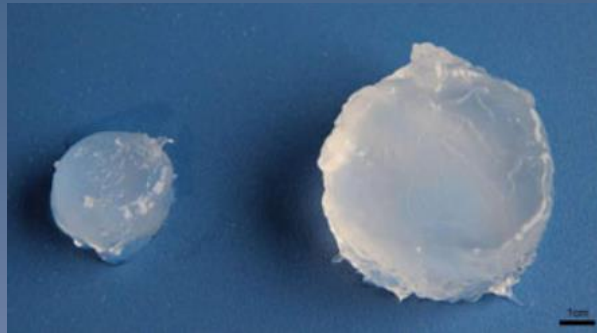
1. Rubber
2. Agarose gel
3. PVA gel



# Overview

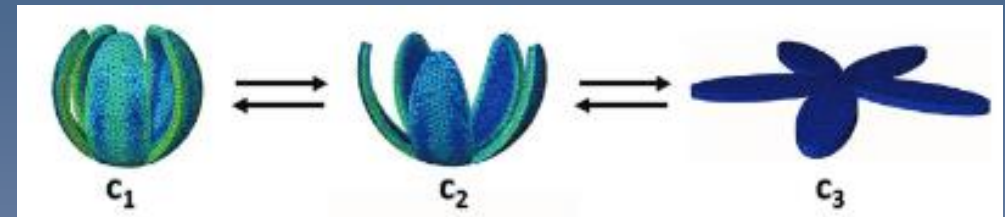
## Current Work

- Gel processing and manufacture
- Physical characterisation and LVER determination
- Simulation benchmarking against literature data



## Future Work

- Full mechanical characterisation
- Parametric simulation studies within hip joint
- Functionality and deployability





# Acknowledgements

Richard Trask, Sebastien Rochat, Kate Robson-Brown  
and everyone in the ONE group.

# Thanks for listening

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