

**Microscopic Observation of Tow
Deformation for Carbon Fabric-PVC Foam
Sandwich Structures During Forming**

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Objectives

Verification of Deformation Patterns

- Variations of Tow Parameters

⇒ **w.r.t. the Foam Density & Forming Pressure**

Correlation between Tow Variation and Material Property

- Construct Database for Computational Analysis

Materials for the Sandwich Structures

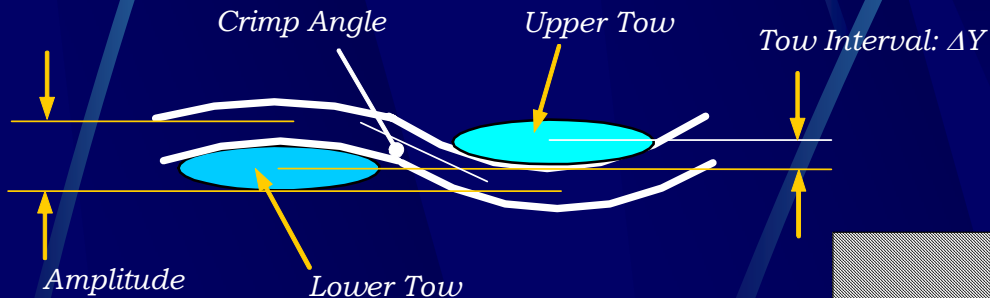
PVC Foams

- **Densities: 50, 70, 90, 110**
- **Cell Type: Closed Cell**

Fabric Composites

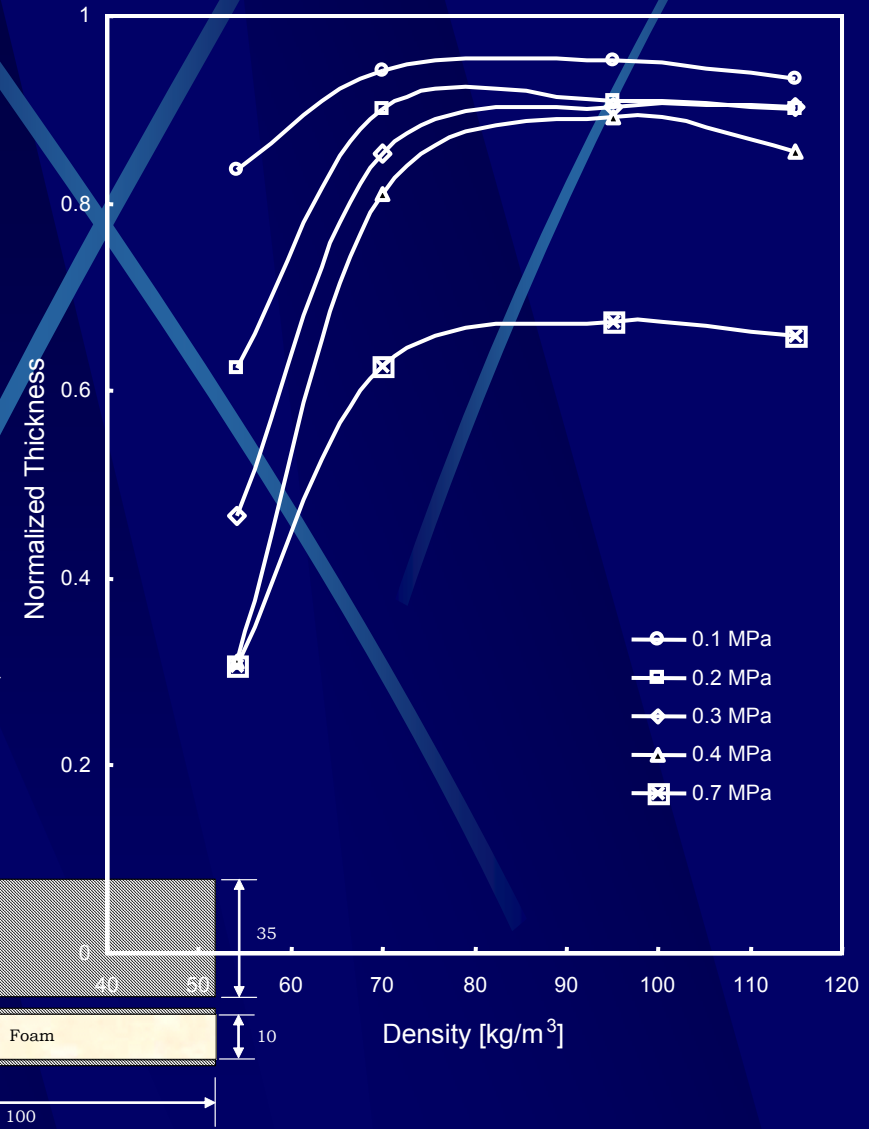
- **Carbon/Epoxy**
- **Plain Weave (3k)**

Unit Cell of the Fabric

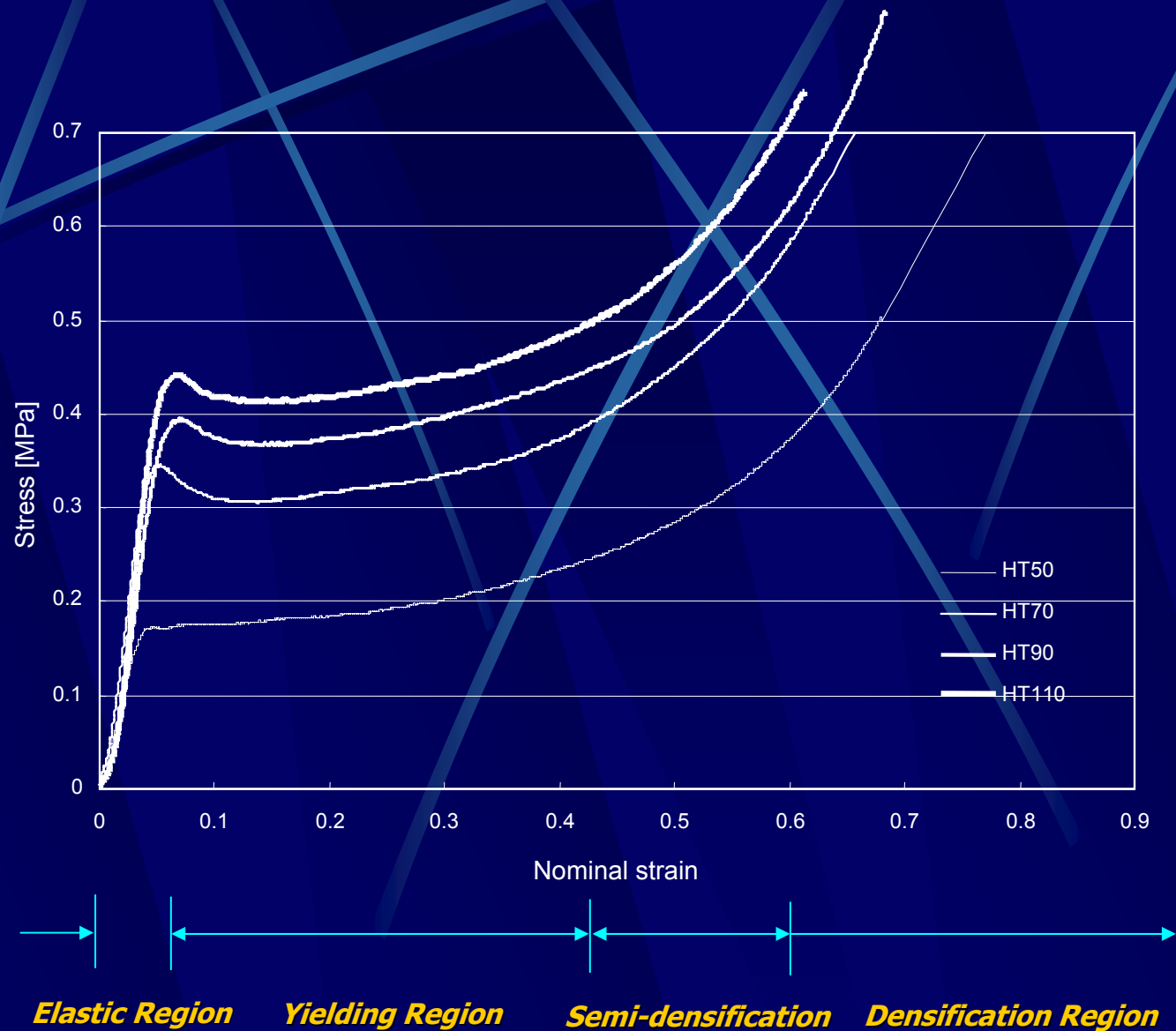


Forming Method

Autoclave De-gassing Moulding



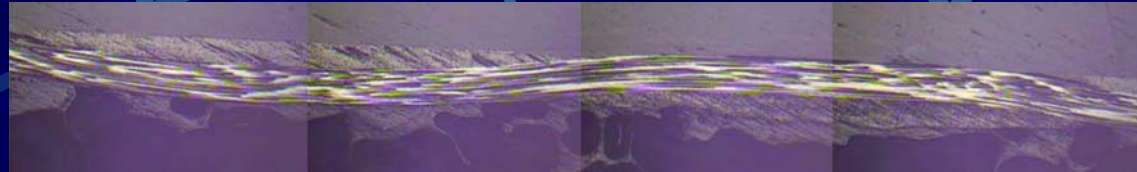
Stress-Strain Relation of Foams at 125°C



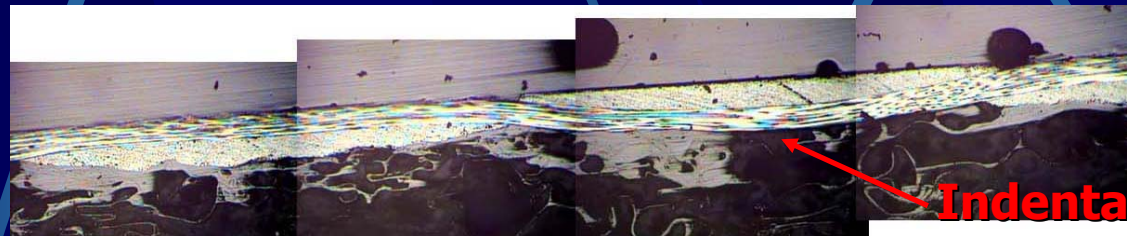
Observation Results: HT50-PVC Foams



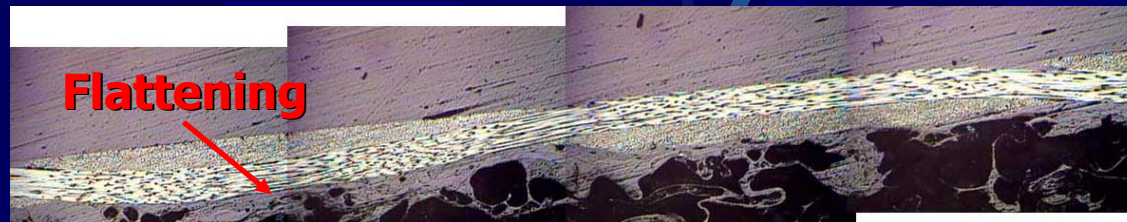
Without Pressure



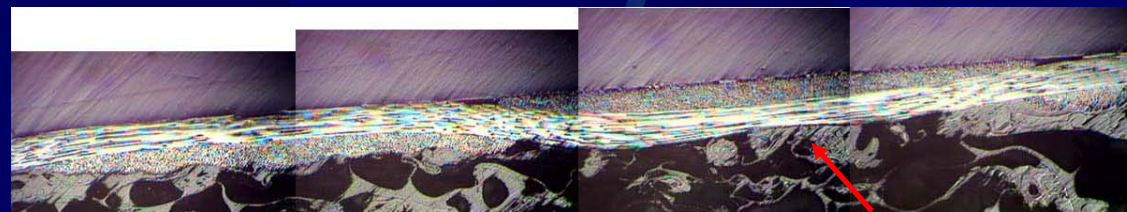
0.1MPa



0.3MPa



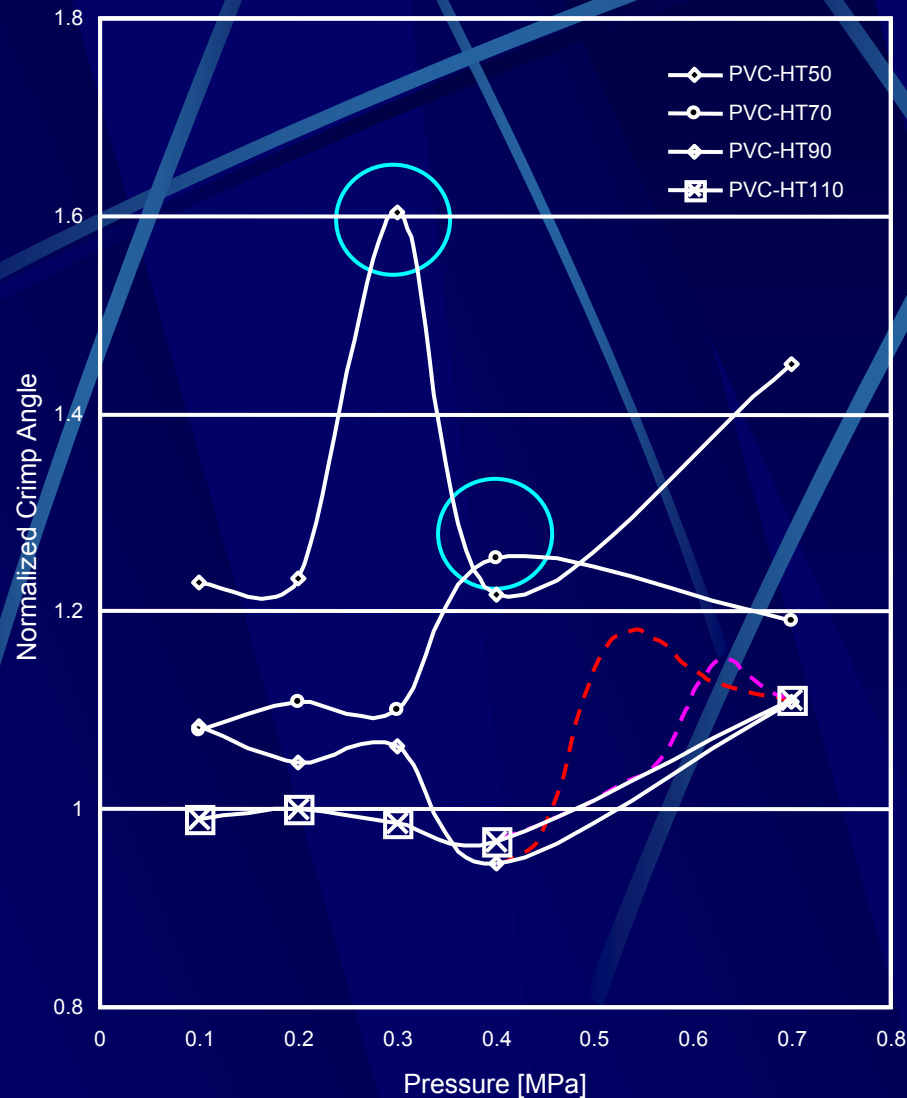
0.4MPa



0.7MPa

Flattening

Tow Variation: Crimp Angle



Elastic Regions

⇒ ***Stretching Effect***

⇒ ***Small Crimp Angle***

Yielding Regions

⇒ ***Maintenance***

⇒ ***Spreading of Tows***

Densification Starts

⇒ ***Abruptly Increases***

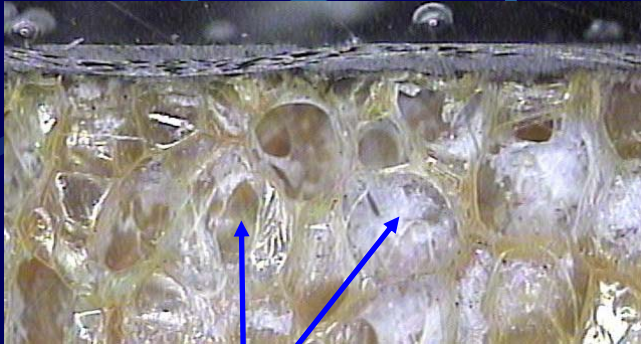
⇒ ***Tow Indentation***

Full Densification

⇒ ***Decreases***

Microscopic Deformation: Foam and Fabrics

0.1MPa: Elastic Region



Foam Cells

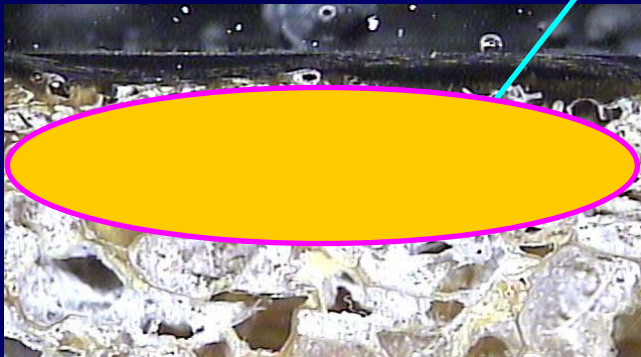
HT50

0.2MPa: Yielding

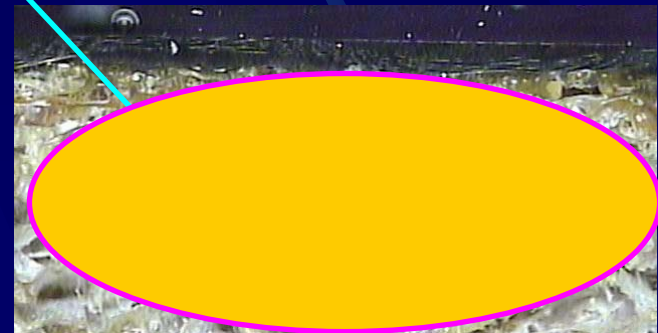


**Cell Wall
Crashing**

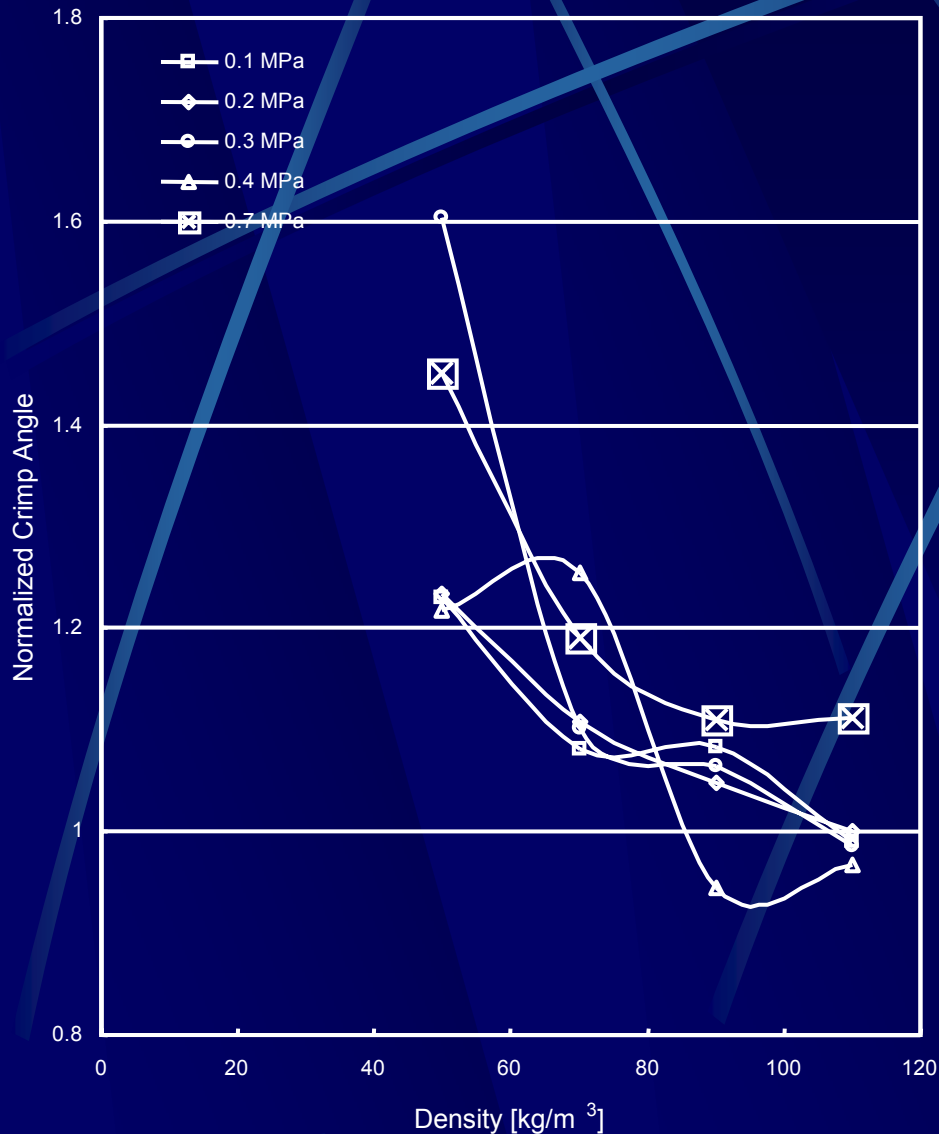
0.3MPa: Densification Starts



0.7MPa: Densification

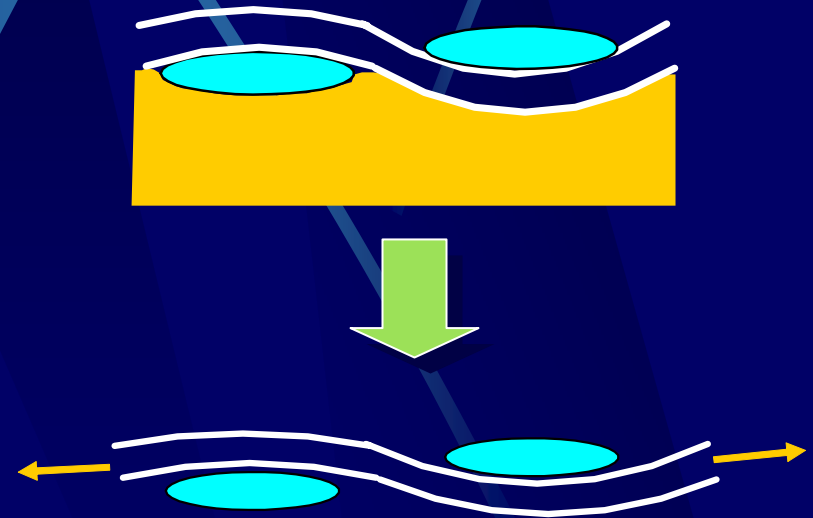


Tow Variation: Crimp Angle



*As Foam Density
Increases*

*Crimp Angle
Decreases*



Stretching Effects

Conclusion

Microscopic Observation

- Crimp Angle

- Micro-Deformation of Foams (Cell Wall)

⇒ Geometric Deformations of Fabrics

⇒ Correlation between Parameters and Foam Behaviour
(Elastic, Yielding, Densification)

w.r.t. Foam Density, Forming Pressure