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# Multiscale characterization of materials and processes: IMDEA's capabilities

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EUROPEAN UNION  
STRUCTURAL FUNDS



Comunidad  
de Madrid

The IMDEA Materials Institute, one of the seven Madrid Institutes for Advanced Studies (IMDEA), is a public research centre (**non-profit research organisation**) founded in 2007 by Madrid's regional government.

The **Mission** of the Institute is to do research of excellence at the forefront of Materials Science and Engineering, contributing to tackle the challenges of society and fostering the sustainable development.



science



**excellence**  
in materials **science**  
and engineering  
research



transfer



**technology transfer** to  
industry to increase  
competitiveness and  
maintain technological  
leadership

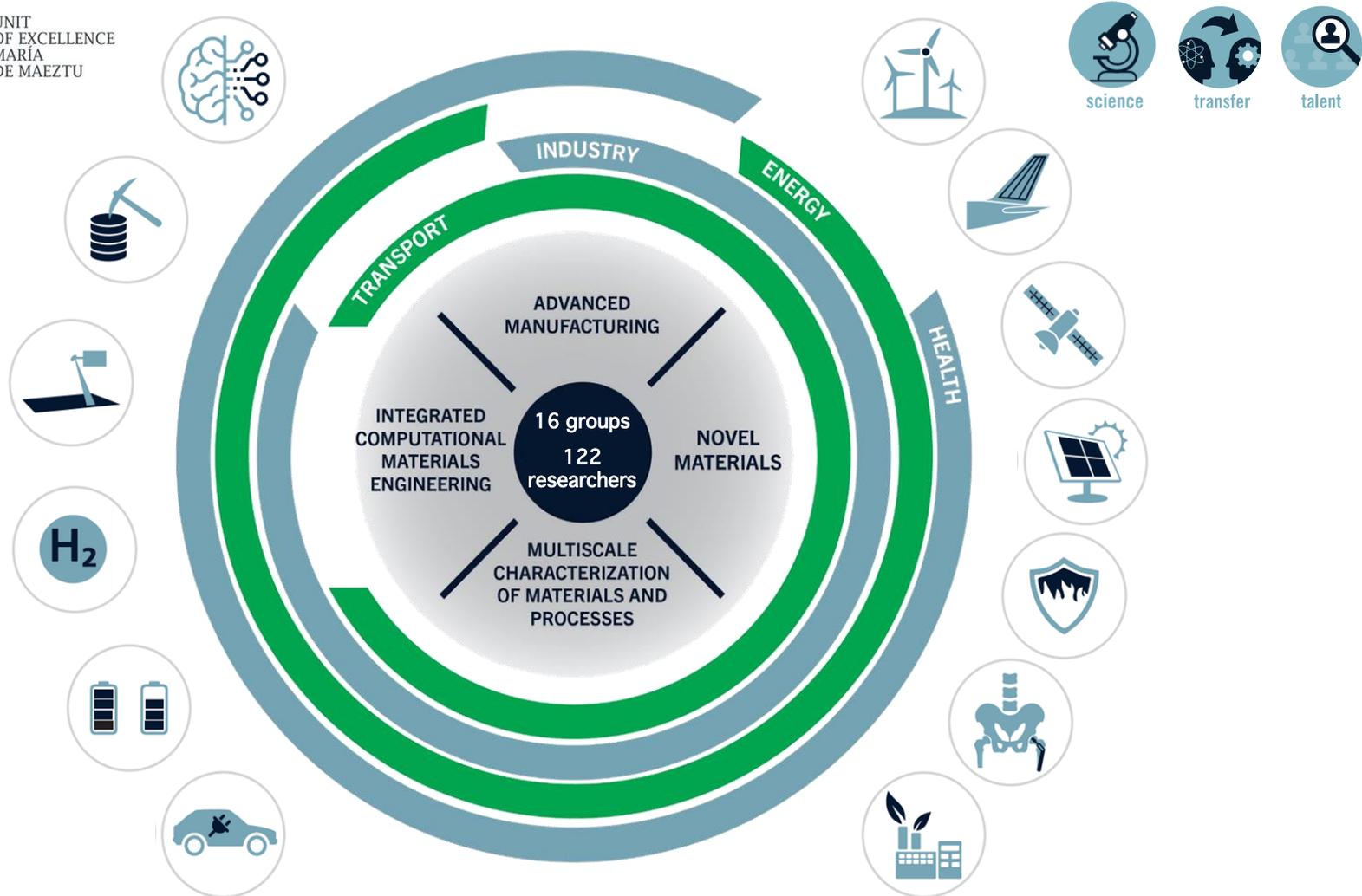


talent



**attraction of talented**  
researchers from all over  
the world to work in Madrid  
in an international and  
interdisciplinary  
environment





# Multiscale characterization of materials and processes: IMDEA's capabilities

# OBJECTIVES

## ■ Understanding processing-microstructure-properties:

- Microstructure and defect characterization, including 3D and 4D
- Mechanical properties from the bulk material to the individual phases and interfaces
- Microstructural development during processing

Fundamentals of plasticity and fracture

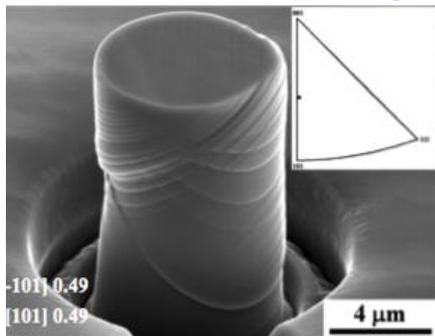
Bottom-up microstructural design

Develop new materials exploiting size effects

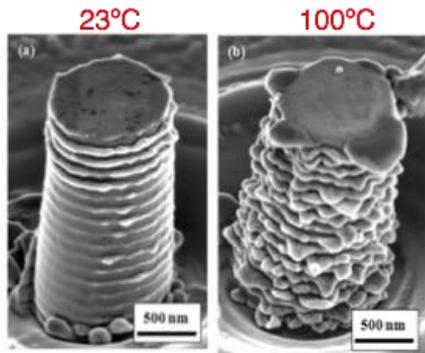
Inform microstructurally based models

## ■ Wide range of materials and applications:

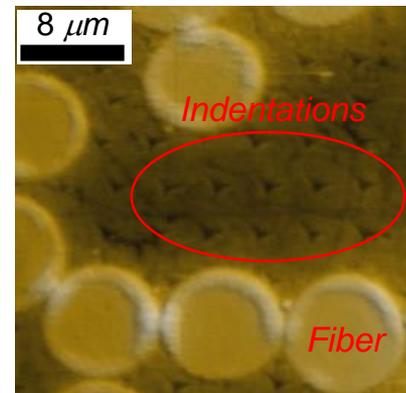
Metallic alloys: superalloys  
Intermetallics, steels, Mg



Coatings



PMCs



# UNIQUE CAPABILITIES

## ■ 3D characterization of materials, across several length scales:

- **FIB-FEGSEM**: including 3D-SEM, 3D-EDS and 3D-EBSD
- **TEM**: including 3D-STEM and 3D-EDS.
- **in-situ mechanical testing**

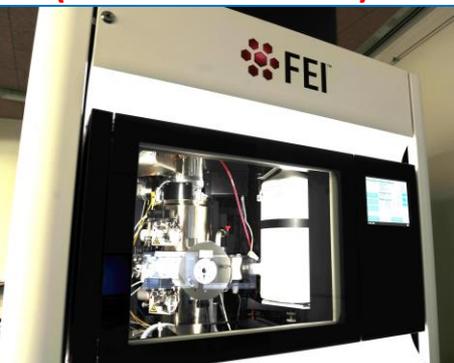
Compatible with in-situ  
mechanical devices for SEM

**200 kV FEG(S)TEM  
(3D-STEM 3D-EDS)**

**FIB-FEGSEM  
(EDS and EBSD)**

**FEGSEM  
(EDS and EBSD)**

**W filament  
(EDS)**



FEI Talos F200X



FEI Helios 600i



Thermo Fisher Apreo 2S



EVO MA15, Zeiss

# UNIQUE CAPABILITIES: in-situ mechanical testing in TEM and SEM

- Across several length scales and at different temperatures:

## Nano scale



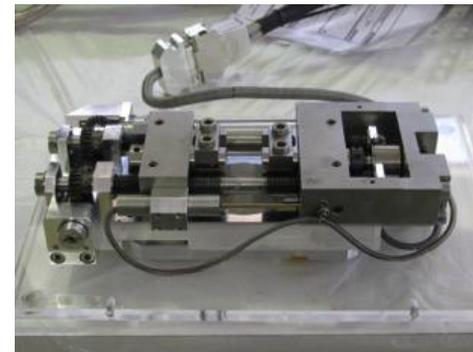
Hysitron PI95  
10 mN

## Micro scale



Hysitron PI87HT  
150 mN, 800 °C

## Macro scale

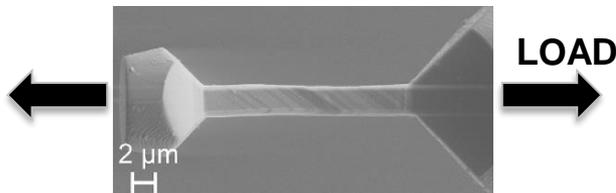
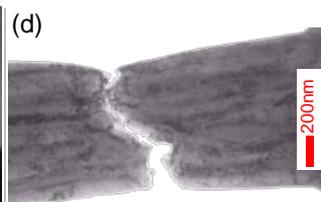
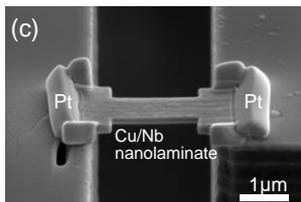


K&W Tension-Compression  
10 kN, 650 °C

From nm...

...to  $\mu\text{m}$ ....

...to mm



## ■ NANOMECHANICS

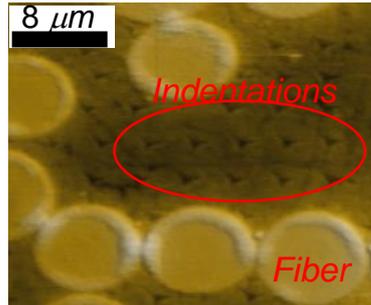
### Micromaterials Nanotest

- 500 mN load head
- High temperature: 750 °C
- Active tip heating
- Inert atmosphere: Ar



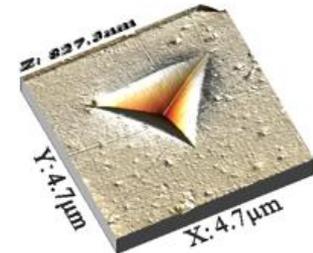
**Hysitron TI950  
Triboindenter**

- 10 and 750 mN load heads
- Resolution: 1 nN, 0.1 nm
- Nanoscratch and nanowear
- Dynamic measurements
- SPM imaging
- Positioning with nm resolution



**Park XE 150 AFM**

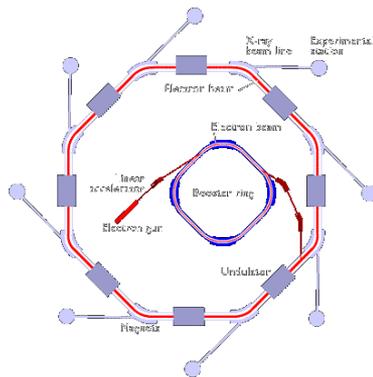
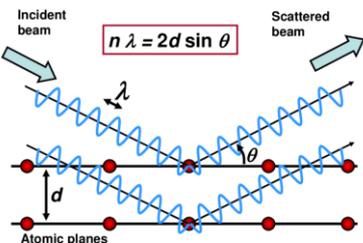
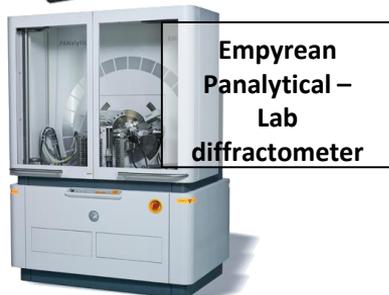
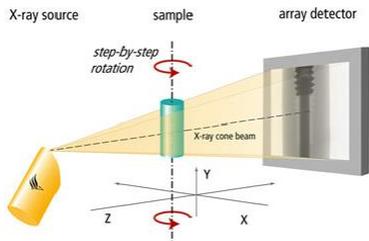
- Contact and non-contact
- Magnetic and thermal measurements
- High temperature: 250 °C



## ■ 3D characterization of materials, using X-rays, NDT, correlative:

- Microstructure and defect characterization, 3D and 4D
- Microstructure and relationship with mechanical properties, **ex-situ** and **in-situ** testing
- Microstructure development during processing, **in-situ** devices

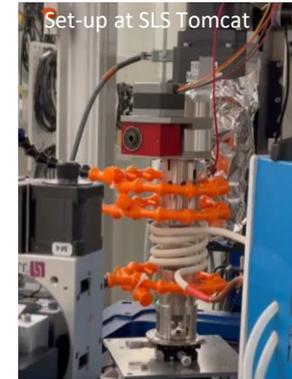
**Aided by X-rays (lab & synchrotron) + 4D evaluation (in-situ devices)**



**ESRF / SLS / PETRA III  
/ BESSY / ALBA**



Creep testing device for high temperature and in-situ XCT/XRD. Resistive heating.

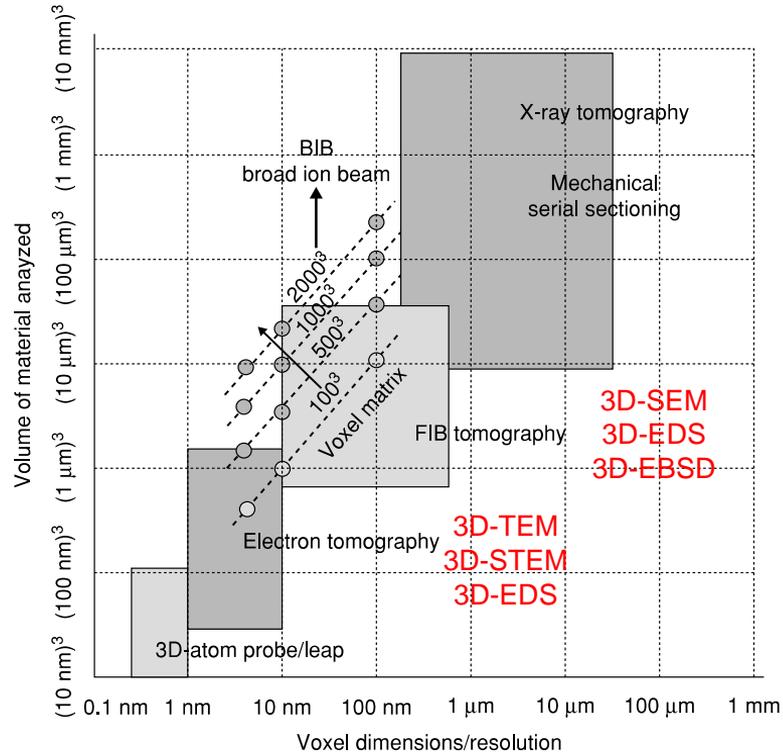


Mechanical testing device for RT & high temperature (600°C) and in-situ XCT & XRD. Induction heated

Processing - In-situ HT infiltration for metals



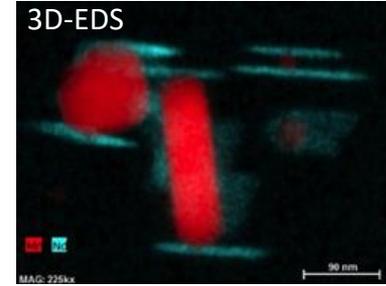
# TOMOGRAPHY ACROSS LENGTH SCALES



After Holzer and Cantoni

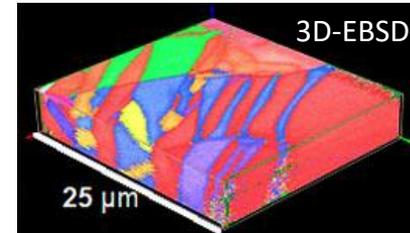
From nm...

TEM



Precipitates in Mg-Mn-Nd alloys

SEM



3D twin structure

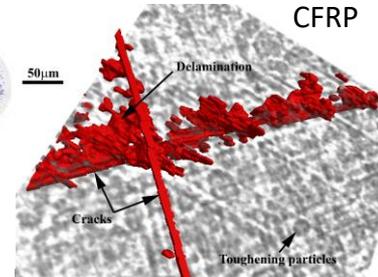
Damage in  
CFRP

...to μm...

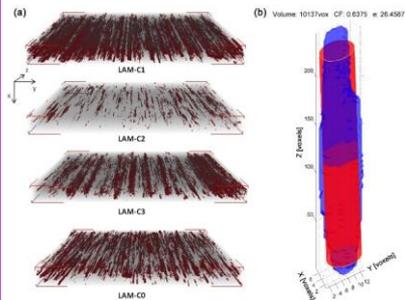
XCT



Porosity in  
die-cast Mg

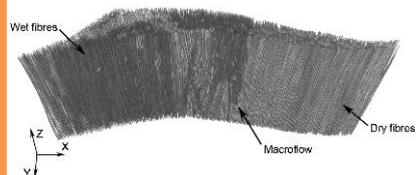


## Effect of curing in OoA composites

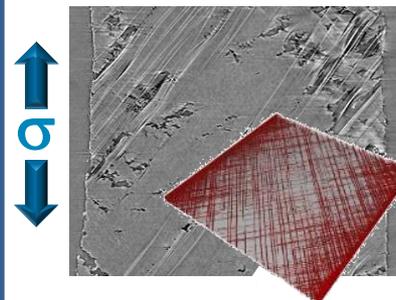


## In-situ infiltration – microflow investigation

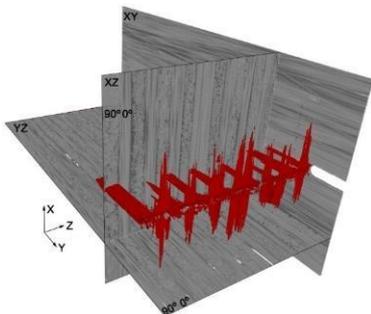
### In-situ curing



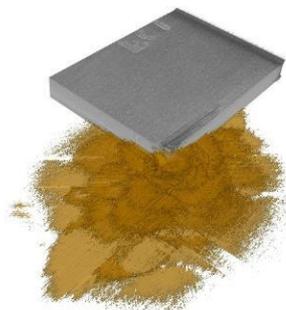
## Multiscale XCT for damage evaluation



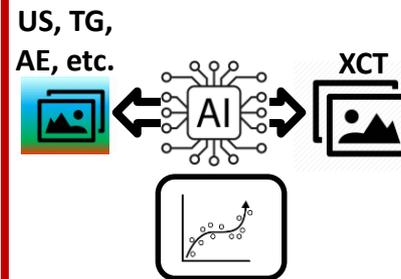
## Sequential loading in 3PBT



## Analysis of impact damage



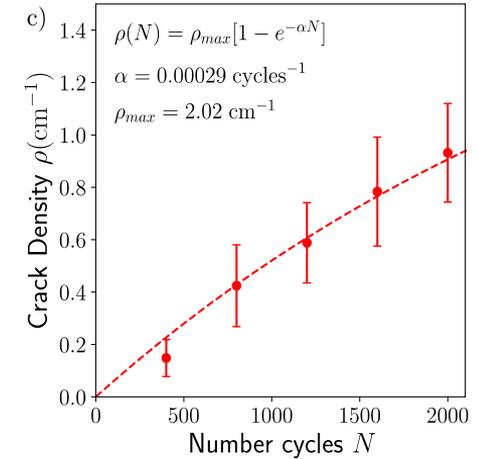
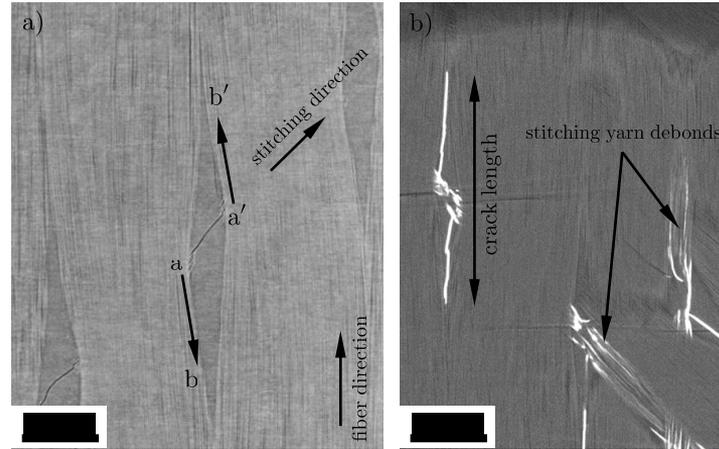
## Smart detection of defect



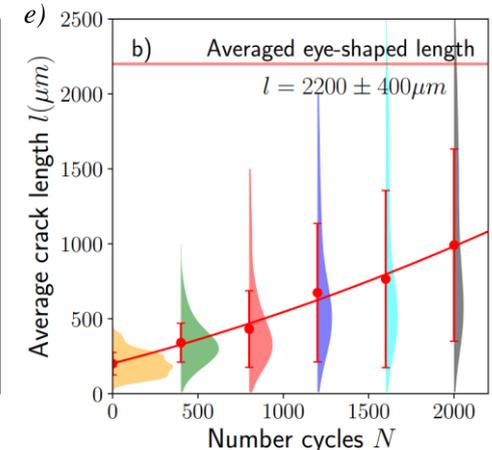
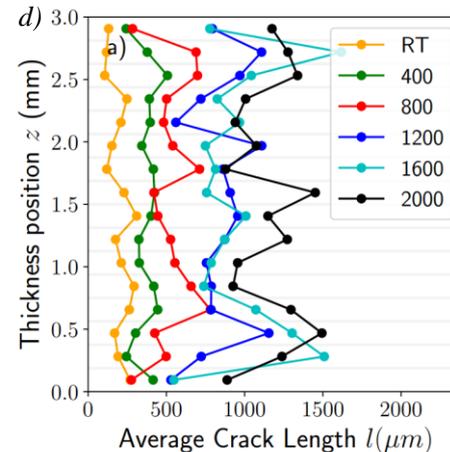
# Crack formation in CFRP under thermal cycling

## Objective

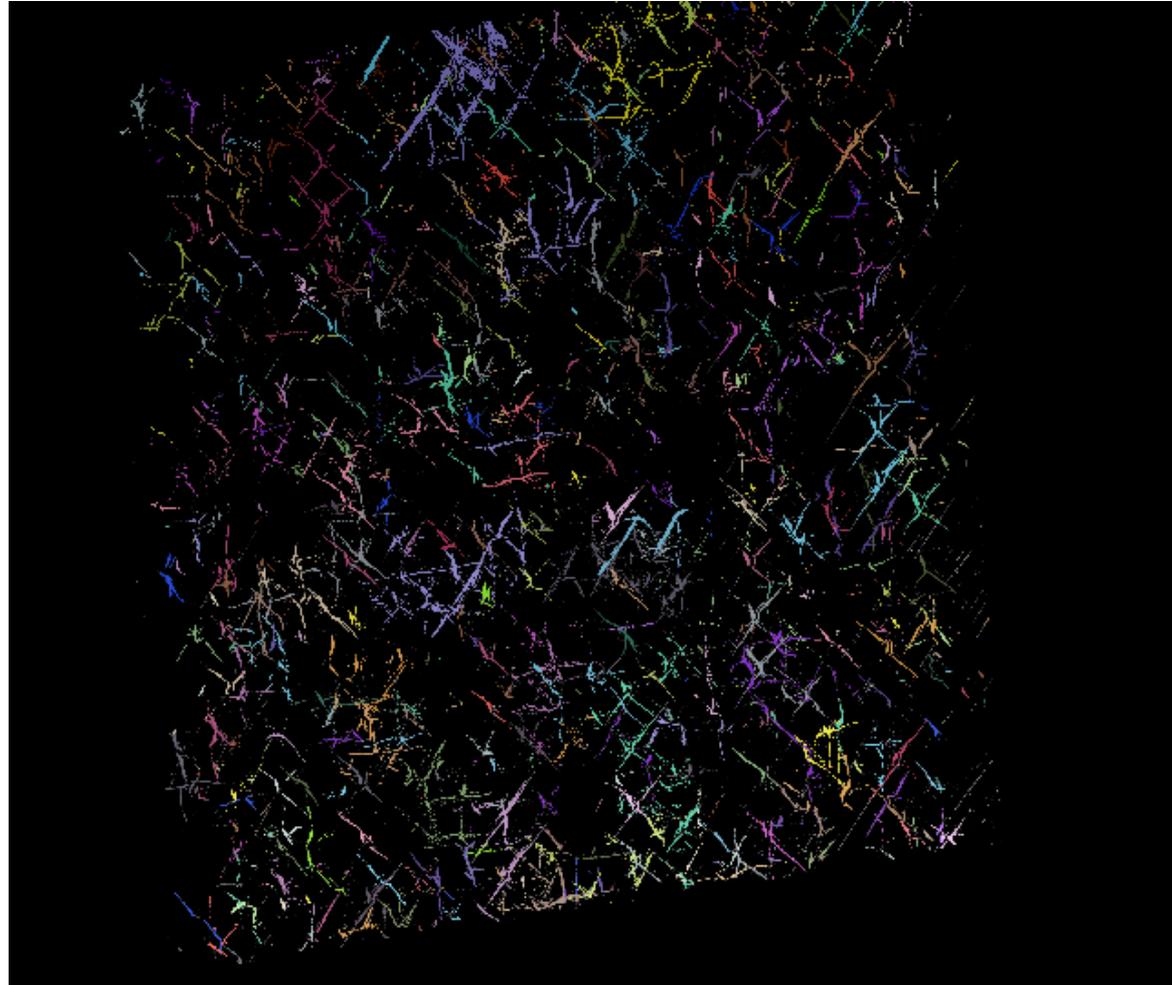
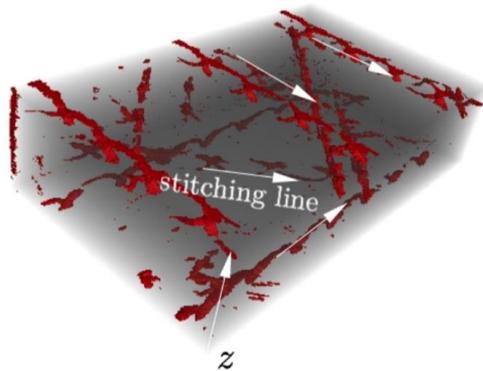
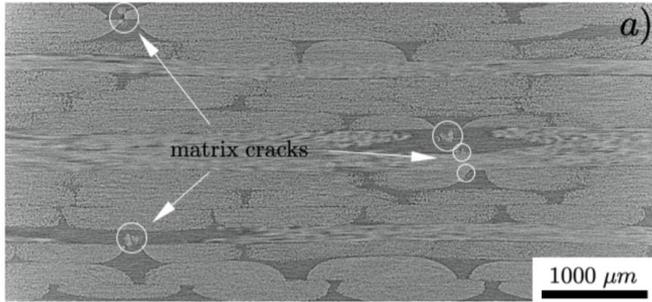
- 1) Non-crimp fabric composites subjected to thermal cycling => Evaluate crack generation and growth under thermal conditions (-55°C to 72°C)
- 2) XCT allowed for a detailed characterization of the individual cracks, their shape and spatial distribution within the composite.
- 3) Automated ML-based segmentation to obtain robust and precise data



- TOP view: a) XCT of crack within the resin rich region and b) XCT after dye penetrant (increased contrast of cracks)
- c) Crack density vs Number of thermal cycles
- d) Average crack length vs. thickness position
- e) Average crack length vs. number of thermal cycles and length distribution. Huge quantity of cracks were analyzed.

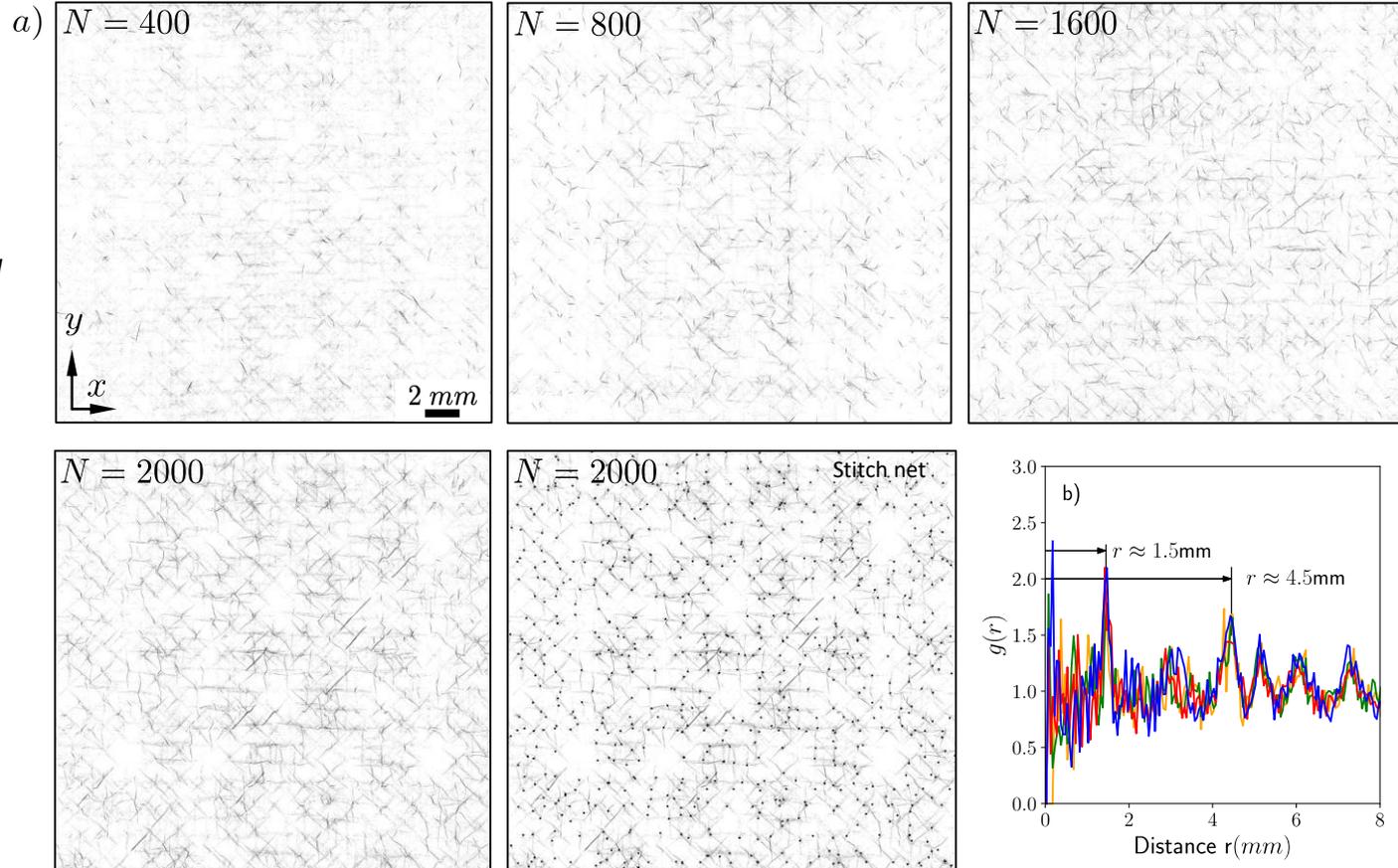


- Crack clustering 3D:
- Algorithms: K-Means  
DBSCAN  
OPTICS
- Determination of crack  
percolation path  
possible in 3D



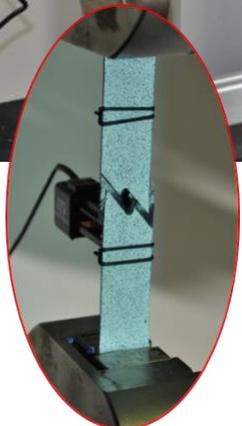
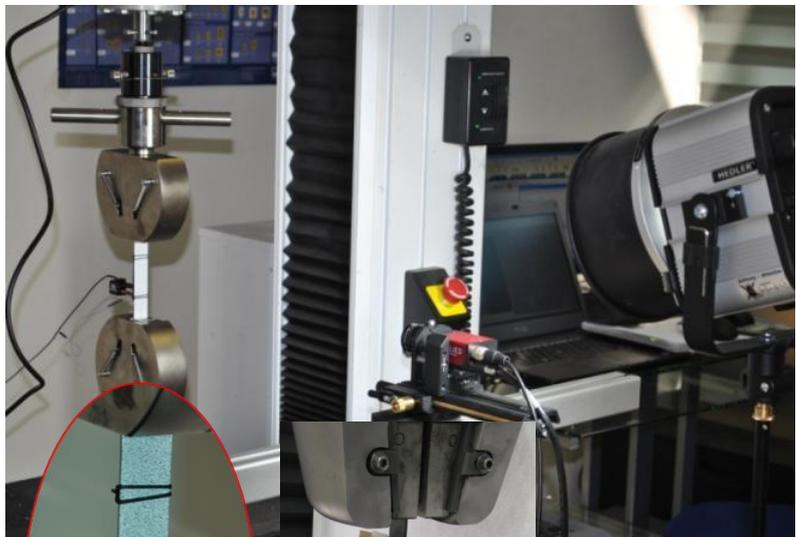
# Crack formation in CFRP under thermal cycling

- a) Projection in the through-the-thickness direction of detected cracks at several number of thermal cycles.
- $N=2000$ , overlapping of stitching points with crack
- Pair correlation function  $g(r)$ , to determine cluster regions. Cluster-to-cluster distance of about 3mm.



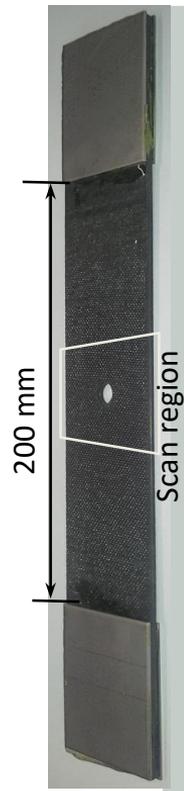
# Matrix cracking evolution: $[90/+45/-45/90/0]_s$ – Mechanical testing in OH specimen

## Tensile tests + DIC + Cyclic loading

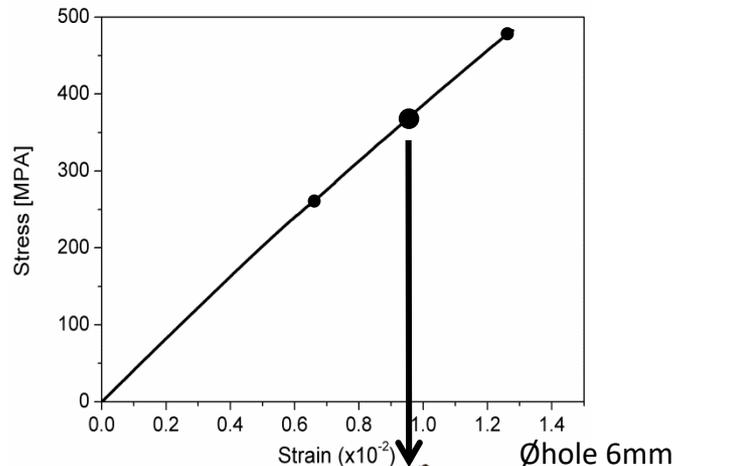


Dye  
penetrant

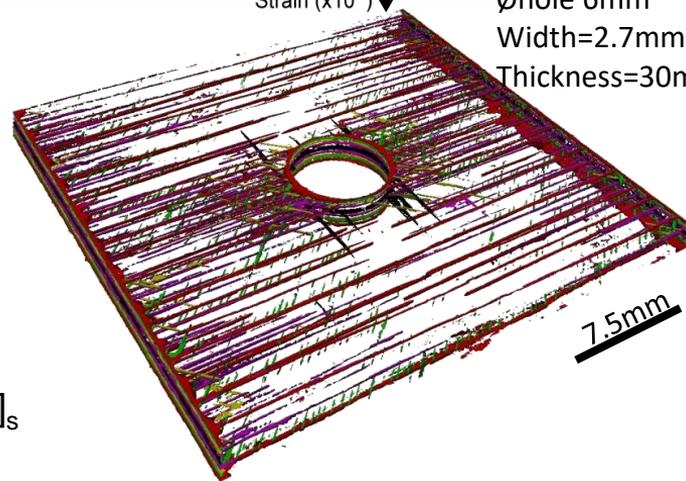
Material  
UD300/M10.1



$[90/+45/-45/90/0]_s$   
OH



$\varnothing$ hole 6mm  
 Width=2.7mm  
 Thickness=30mm



# Matrix cracking evolution: [90/+45/-45/90/0]<sub>s</sub> – Mechanical testing in OH specimen



Ply1

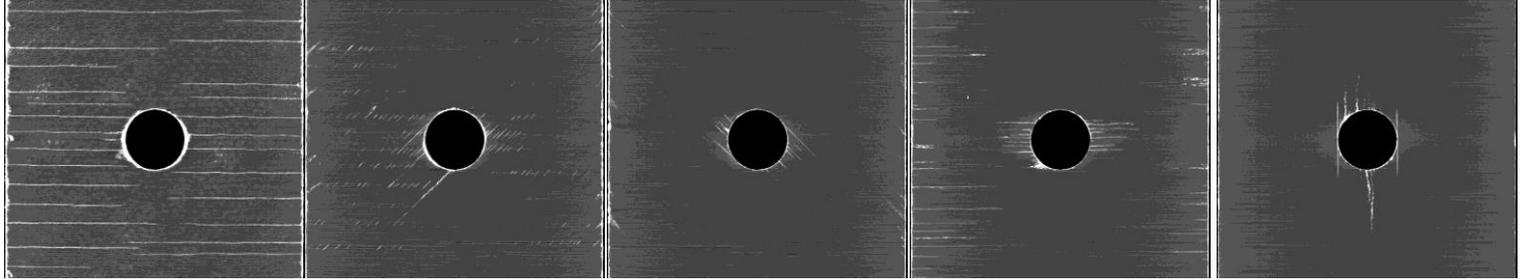
Ply2

Ply3

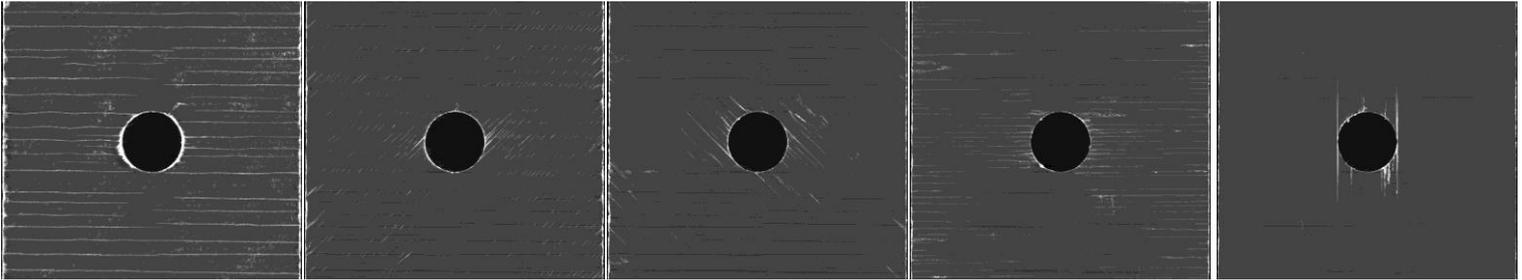
Ply4

Ply5

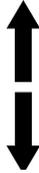
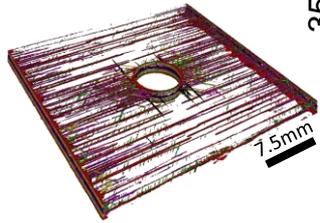
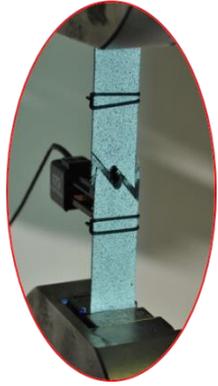
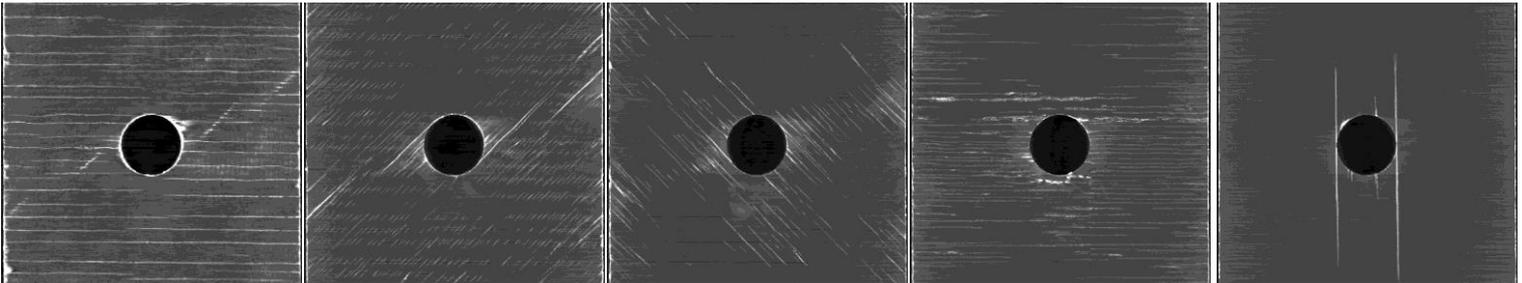
240MPa



359MPa



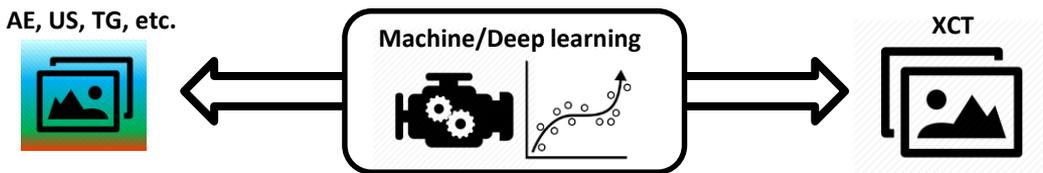
431MPa



Loading direction

## Conclusions

- 1) XCT resolution is high enough to detect cracks with thicknesses in the order of  $5\mu\text{m}$
- 2) Image analysis is a powerful tool that allows quantification of many cracks parameters in CFRP subjected to thermal cycling, such as: geometry, size, position, clustering, percolation or interconnectivity, evolution (4D), etc.
- 3) The methodology of image analysis can be extrapolated to study other types of solicitations (sequentially ex-situ or in-situ), such as mechanical or thermomechanical.
- 4) The 3D distribution of cracks and its evolution with thermal cycle can be correlated with the permeability evolution in the material.
- 5) Because of its relatively high resolution, XCT can be used as a validation technique (in 3D and 4D) for the correlation of other types of signals that provide complementary information: for example from Acoustic Emission (AE), Ultrasounds (US), thermography, etc. through the use of e.g. artificial intelligence.



**We are working on this...**

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