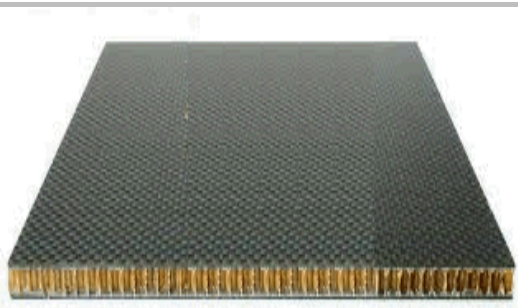
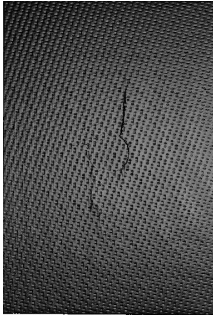


The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

Photos placed in horizontal position with even amount of white space between photos and header



# Computed Tomography and 3D Rendering of Composite Materials

**Burke L. Kernén and David G. Moore**  
**Sandia National Laboratories**  
**Structural Dynamics and X-ray/NDE**  
**[blkerne@sandia.gov](mailto:blkerne@sandia.gov)**  
**505-284-9096**



**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**

*Exceptional  
service  
in the  
national  
interest*



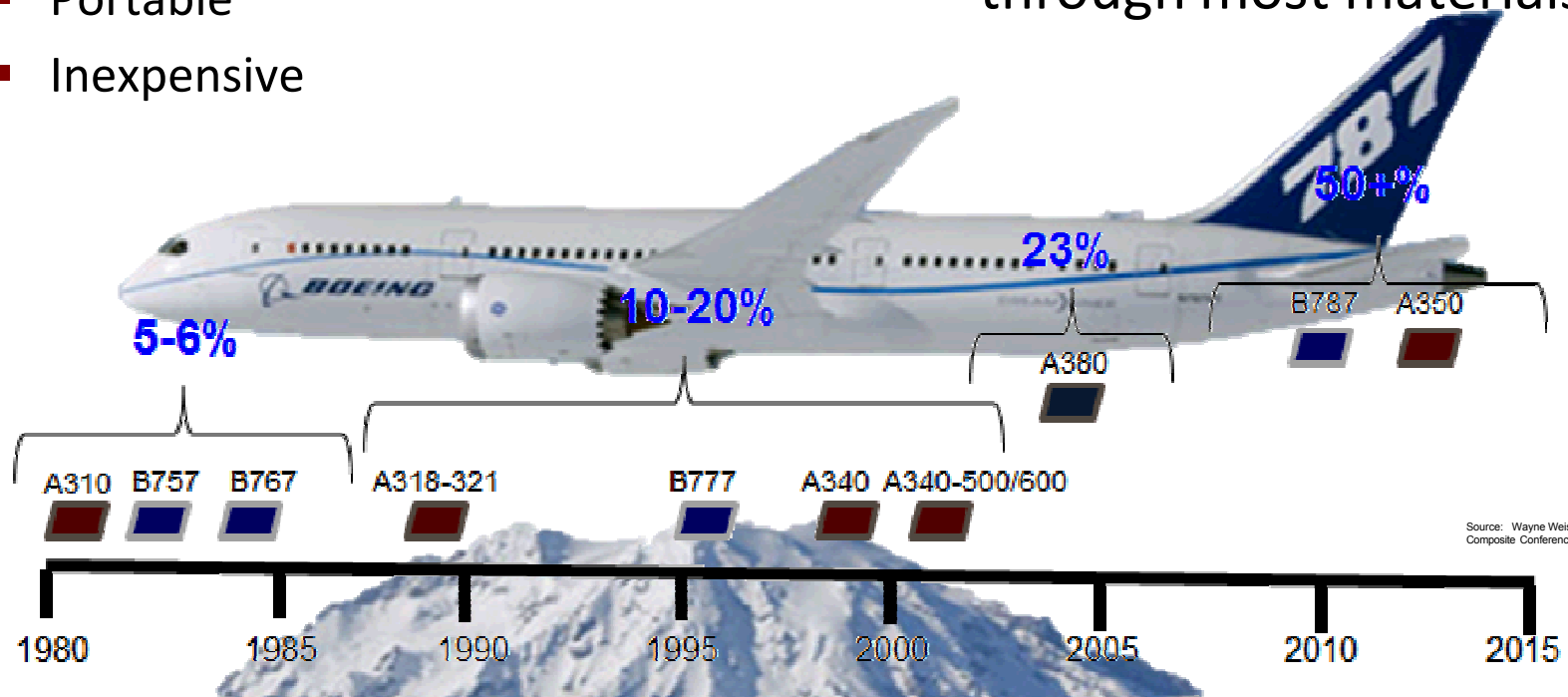
Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. SAND NO. 2011-XXXXP

# Computed Tomography and 3D Rendering of Composite Materials

- Background
- Computed Tomography - *overview*
- Technique Development - *3 different sample types*
- Data Analysis - *comparison to other NDT techniques*
- Conclusion

# Composite Material NDT

- Aerospace – Lighter Stronger
- High Performance - High consequence failures
- Ultrasonic Testing – Common
  - Portable
  - Inexpensive
- Computed Tomography - Validation and Research Tool
  - High resolution
  - Better penetration through most materials



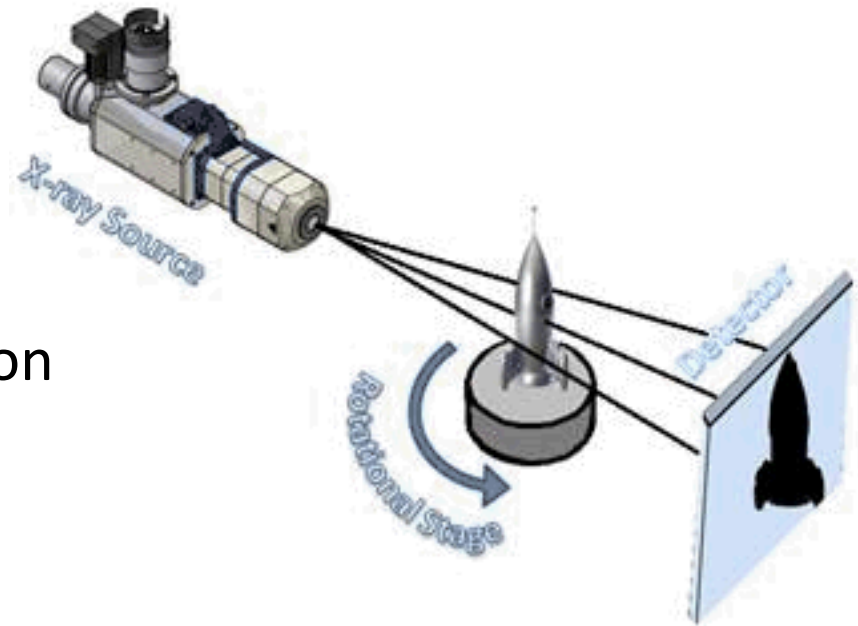
# Computed Tomography and 3D Rendering of Composite Materials

- Background
- Computed Tomography - *overview*
- Technique Development - *3 different sample types*
- Data Analysis - *comparison to other NDT techniques*
- Conclusion



# X-Ray Computed Tomography (CT) Setup

- Penetrating radiation (X-Ray) attenuated by composite material
- Digital sampling of the radiation
- Multiple images taken at different angles
- Images mapped into a three dimensional data set
- Data shown as single “slice” or rendered



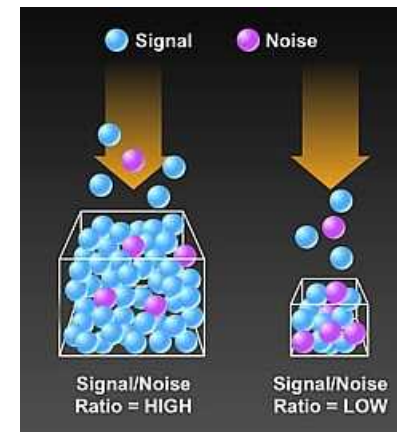
# Computed Tomography and 3D Rendering of Composite Materials

- Background
- Computed Tomography - *overview*
- Technique Development - *3 different sample types*
- Data Analysis - *comparison to other NDT techniques*
- Conclusion

# Technique Design

- Higher Signal to Noise Ratio through Artifact Reduction

- Beam Hardening and Under Sampling
- Cone Beam
- Unsharpness
- Motion and Centering
- Ring



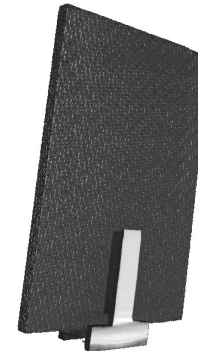
Source: nikonian.com

- Higher Resolution through Smaller Detector Pixels

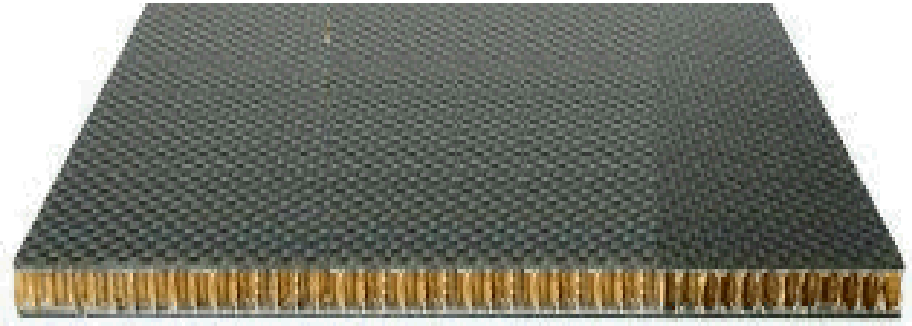
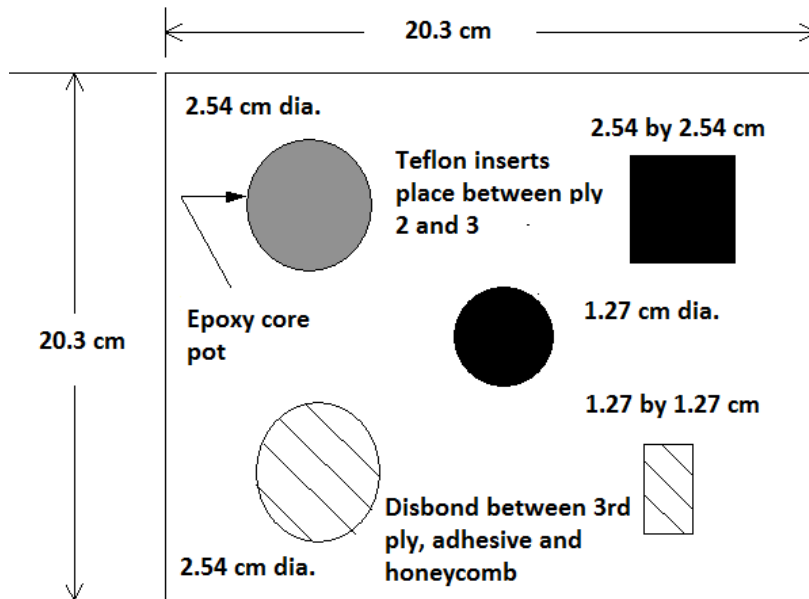
- More pixels per sample area = higher resolution images
- Less sensor area = increased sampling times
- Smaller focal spot sizes = less x-ray power

# Composite Specimen Types

- Honeycomb Composite
  - Nomex™ honeycomb sandwiched between two laminates with defined engineered flaws
- Wind Turbine Blade
  - Fiber Glass Composite with varied porosity and resin concentration
- Carbon Fiber Weave
  - Carbon Fiber Composites with varied porosity from curing conditions



# Honeycomb Sample Preparation



## Simulated Flaws

- 1) 2.54 cm square Teflon shim (located between plies 2 and 3)
- 2) 12.7 mm diameter Teflon shim (located between plies 2 and 3)
- 3) 1.27 cm square disbond (located at adhesive bond line)
- 4) 2.54 cm diameter disbond (located at adhesive bond line)
- 5) 2.54 cm diameter epoxy potted honeycomb core (full thickness)
- 6) *Core damage location 1 (in center of core)*
- 7) *Core damage location 2 (in center of core)*

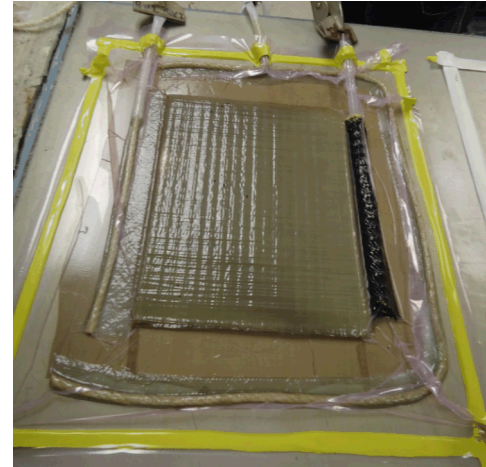
# Honeycomb CT Technique

- Optimized for Signal to Noise
  - Higher x-ray photon density (increased flux)
  - Beam filtering to narrow x-ray spectrum
  - Source to object distance maximized
  - Increased frame averaging
  - Increased number of Projections
  - Multipoint detector calibration
  - ~20:1 SNR achieved with this technique
- Techniques used:

Sample	<i>Honeycomb</i>		
Energy	<i>90 KeV</i>	Projections	<i>1999</i>
Target Power	<i>1KW</i>	Effective Pixel Size	<i>200um (native resolution of detector)</i>
Magnification	<i>1.2x</i>	Detector Type	<i>Perkin Elmer XRD 1621 AN3-ES</i>
Filter	<i>1mm Al</i>	X-ray Head Type	<i>Comet MXR 451 HP/11</i>
Frame Average	<i>32</i>		

# Fiberglass Sample Preparation

- Specimens are fiber glass filled with resin
  - Each specimen filled with resin under vacuum
  - Air was introduced in various quantities to create different porosities
    - One method used clamped tubes vented to atmosphere
    - The second method used injection ports at various locations
  - The specimens were then allowed to cure



# Fiberglass CT Technique

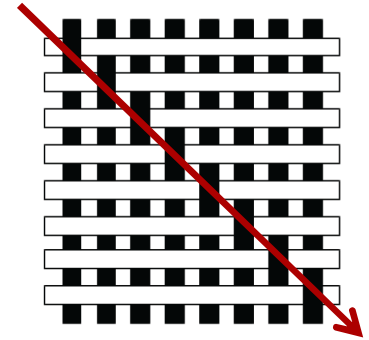
- Optimized for Signal to Noise
  - Higher x-ray photon density (increased flux)
  - Beam filtering to narrow x-ray spectrum
  - Source to object distance maximized
  - Energy increased for edge penetration
  - Increased frame averaging
  - Increased number of Projections
  - Multipoint detector calibration
  - ~15:1 SNR achieved with this technique
- Techniques used:

Sample	<i>Fiberglass Resin</i>		
Energy	<i>350 KeV</i>	Projections	<i>1999</i>
Target Power	<i>1.5KW</i>	Effective Pixel Size	<i>200um (native resolution of detector)</i>
Magnification	<i>1.2x</i>	Detector Type	<i>Perkin Elmer XRD 1621 AN3-ES</i>
Filter	<i>1mm Cu</i>	X-ray Head Type	<i>Comet MXR 451 HP/11</i>
Frame Average	<i>32</i>		

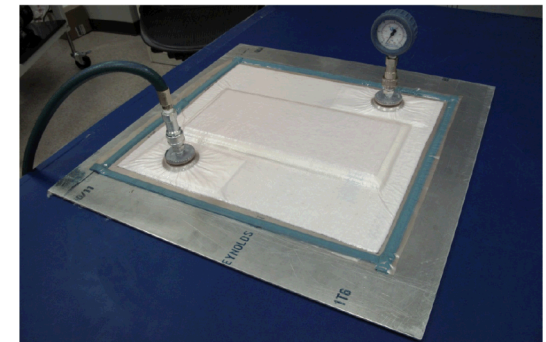


# Carbon Fiber Sample Preparation

- Specimens are carbon fiber reinforced plastic (CFRP)
  - constructed of [0/90] prepreg; 8 harness-satin weave with UF3352 TCR™ Resin
  - 150 X 100 X 4.6 mm (12 plies)
- Each sample was cured in an autoclave under different total pressures
  - Total = Bag Pressure + Autoclave Pressure



Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6
psi	0	15	25	35	45	60



Source: Andrew Siever Master Candidate  
University of California Los Angeles, 2014

# Carbon Fiber CT Technique

- Optimized for Resolution
  - Smaller native pixel size (127um VS 200um)
  - Higher resolution (93um VS 168um)
  - Source to detector distance shortened (flux)
  - Reduced frame averaging (time)
  - Same number of projections (Nyquist)
  - Multipoint detector calibration (non-linear detector response)
- Technique used:

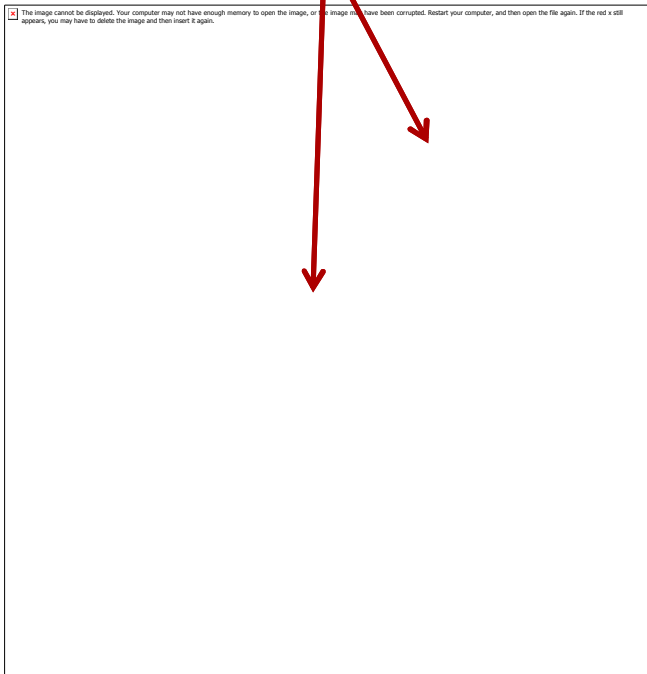
Sample	<i>Carbon Fiber</i>		
Energy	<i>225 KeV</i>	Projections	<i>1799</i>
Target Power	<i>54W</i>	Effective Pixel Size	<i>93um</i>
Magnification	<i>1.4x</i>	Detector Type	<i>Varian 2520 -14bit</i>
Filter	<i>1mm Cu</i>	X-ray Head Type	<i>Yxlon 225 micro focus</i>
Frame Average	<i>16</i>		

# Computed Tomography and 3D Rendering of Composite Materials

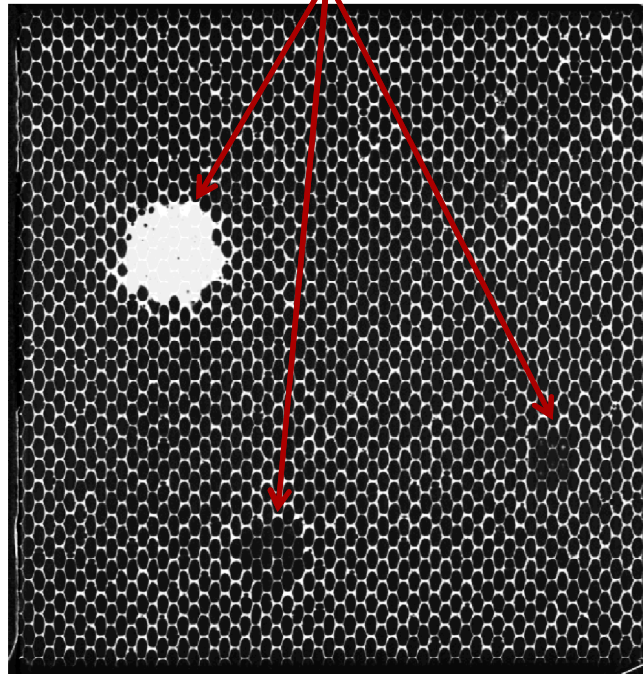
- Background
- Computed Tomography - *overview*
- Technique Development - *3 different sample types*
- Data Analysis - *comparison to other NDT techniques*
- Conclusion

# Honeycomb Flaw Detection

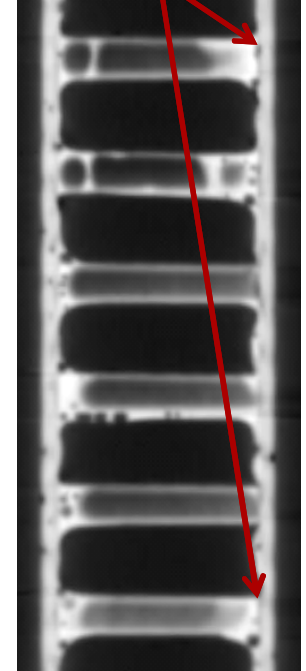
Inter-ply layer 2-3  
(delaminations detected)



Laminate and adhesive bond  
line (disbonds and epoxy fill  
detected)

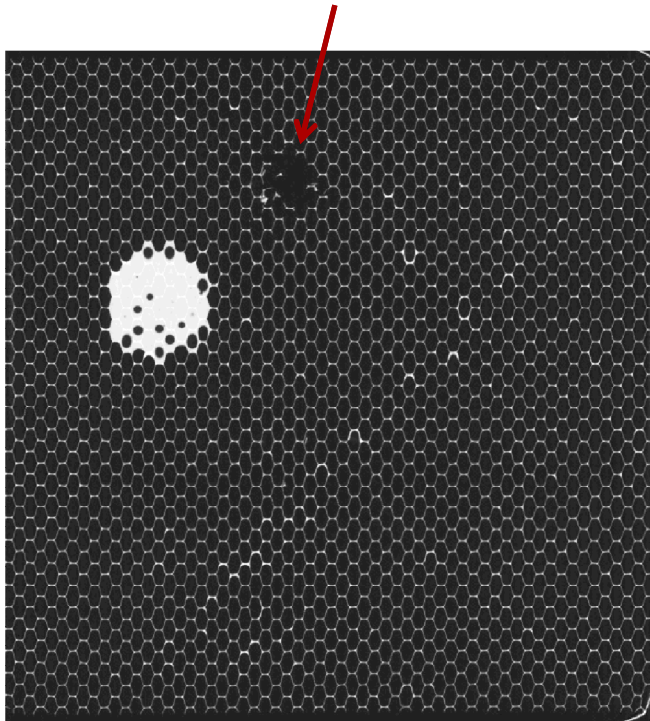


Side view  
showing  
disbond

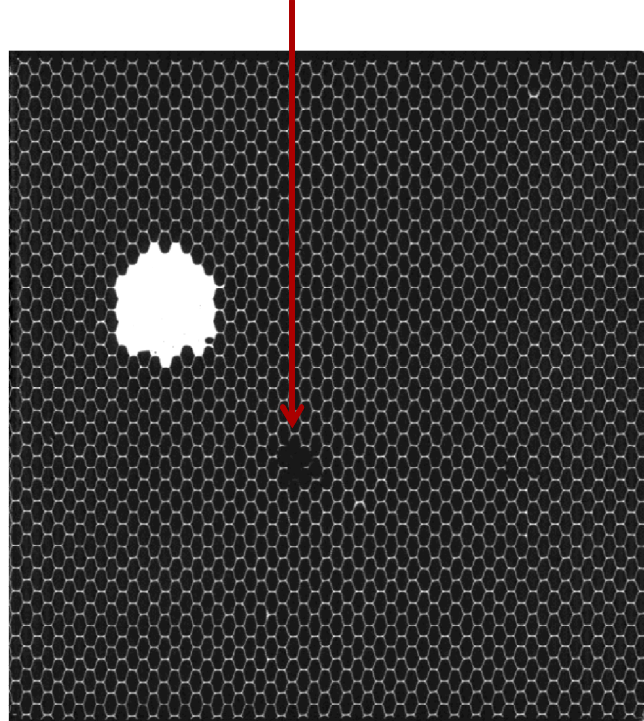


# Manufacturing Anomalies in Honeycomb

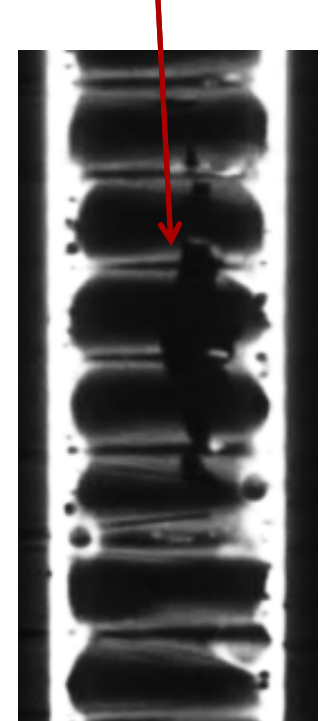
Damaged core site near  
middle of sample



Another damaged core site  
near middle of sample



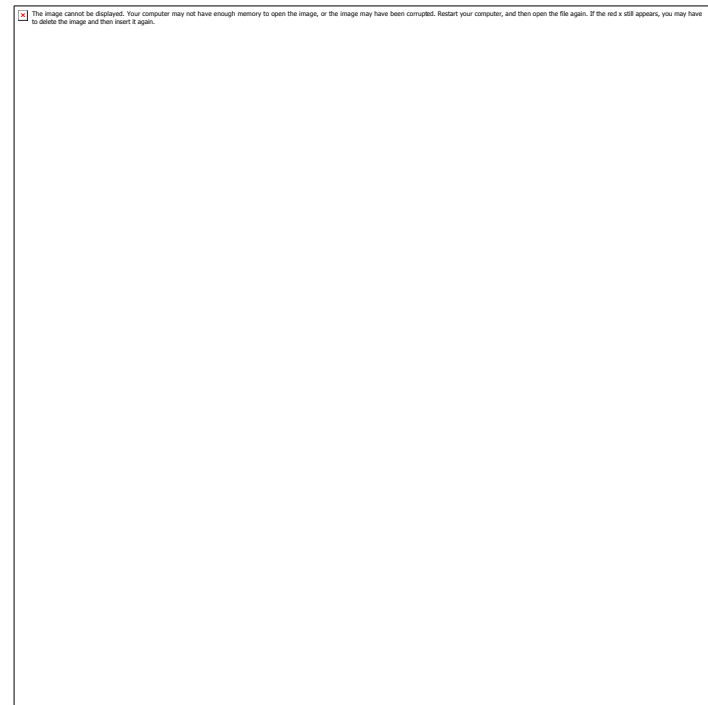
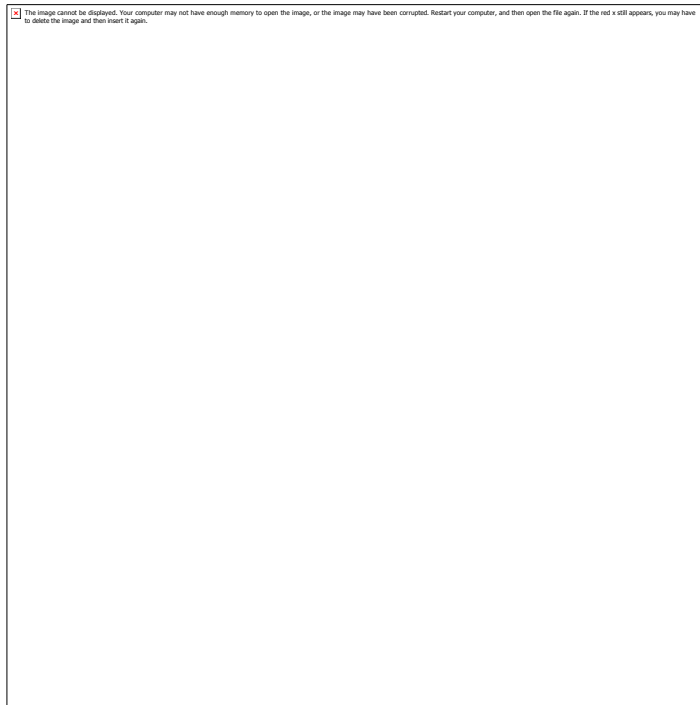
Side view showing  
core damage



# Measurements – Disbond/Delamination

## Simulated Flaw Measurement

- 1) Teflon Shim #1: 28mmX26mm
- 2) Teflon Shim #2: 12mm Dia.
- 3) Disbond #1: 20mmx16mm
- 4) Disbond #2: 27mm



# Measurements – Epoxy Fill

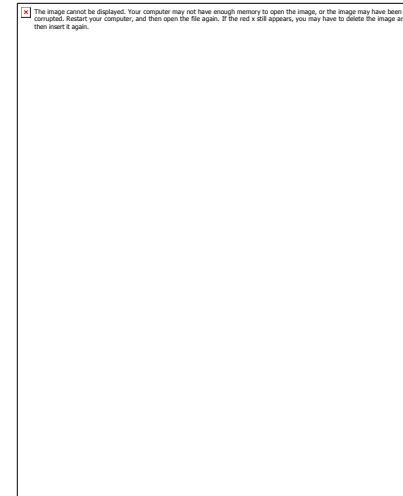
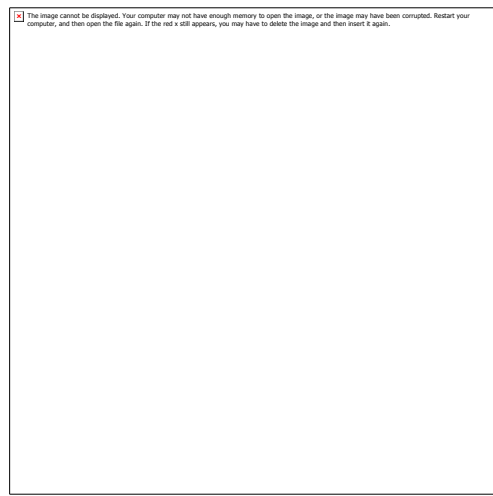
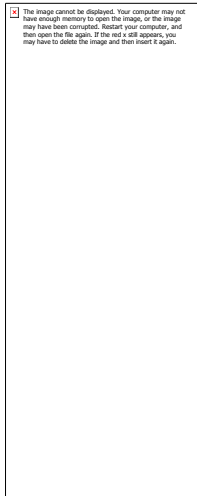
- Simulated Flaw Measurement

- 5) Potted epoxy fill:  $27\text{mm}/10,000\text{mm}^3$

- Ideal cells filled = 39

- Ideal volume =  $10,920\text{mm}^3$


- Missing  $920\text{mm}^3$  of epoxy fill



# Measurements – Core Damage

## ■ Flaw Measurement

- 6) Core damage affected area #1: 840 mm<sup>2</sup>
- 7) Core damage affected area #2: 335 mm<sup>2</sup>

 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

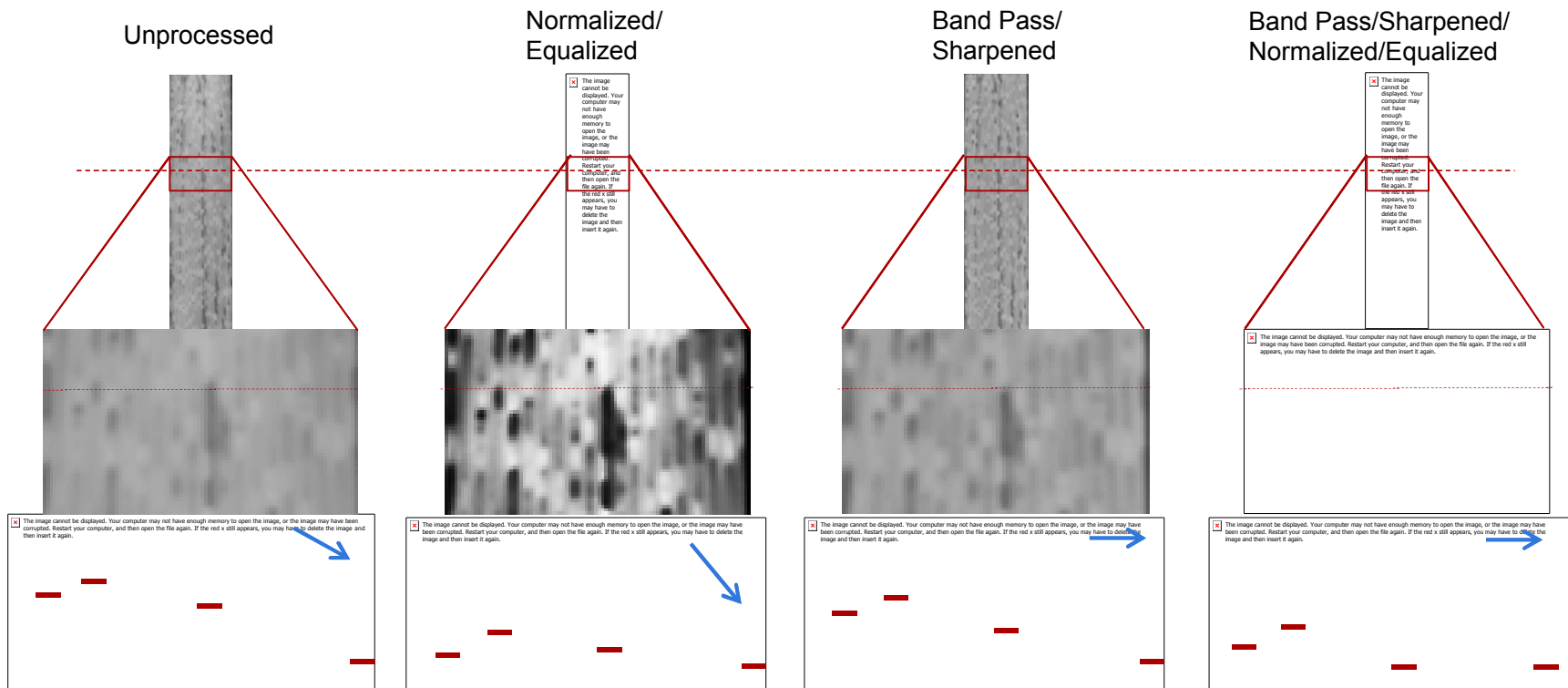
 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.



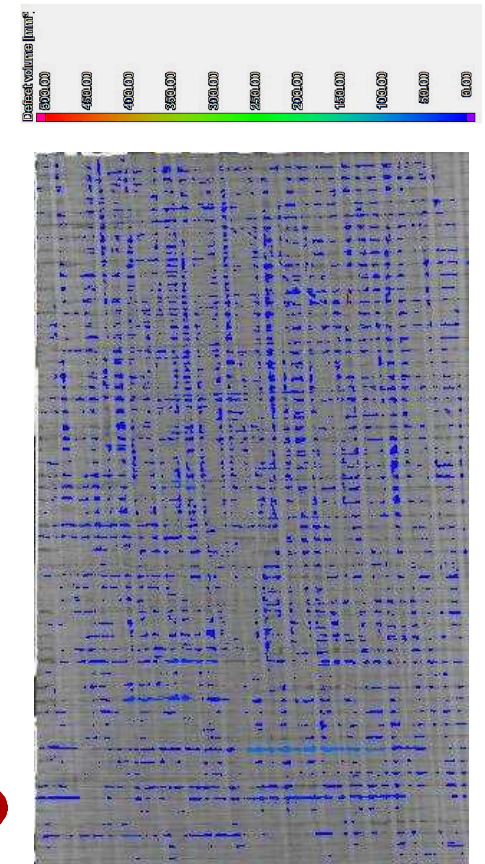
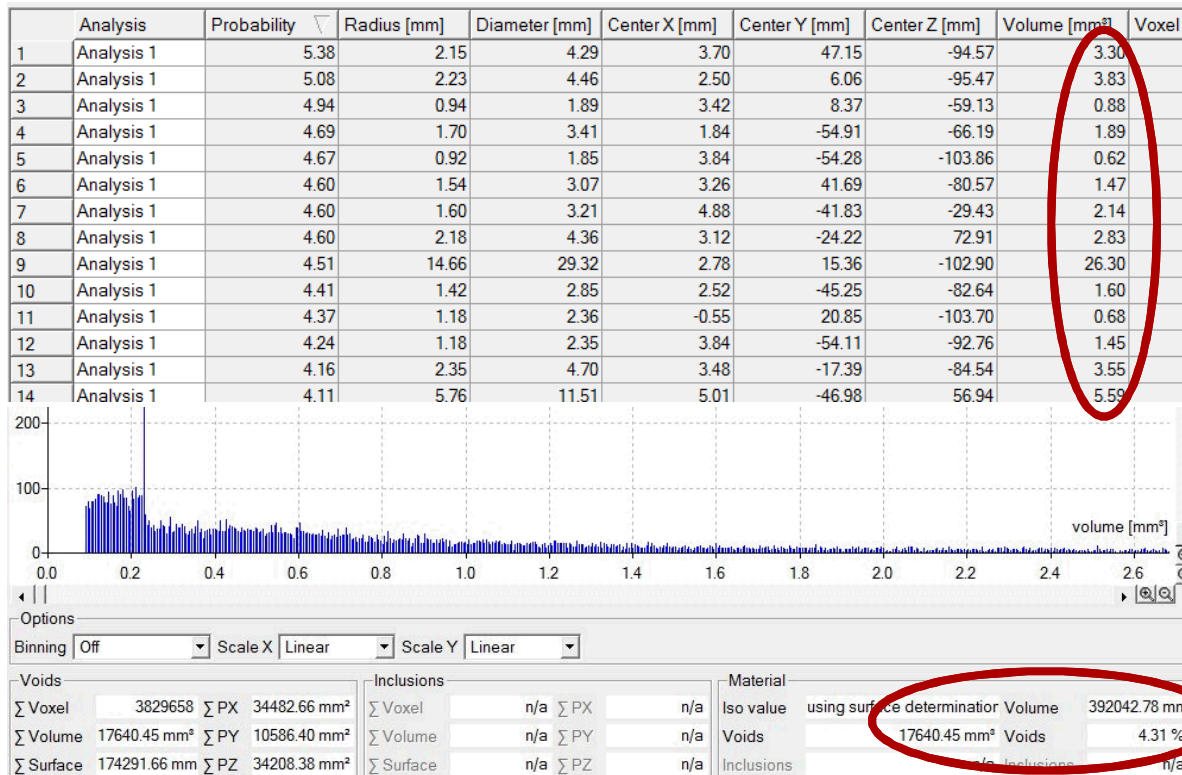
# Fiberglass Post CT Processing

- Accentuation and homogenization of select greyscale values with edge enhancement for porosity segmentation
  - Filter data using band pass technique
  - Find threshold value using the Maximum Entropy method
  - Segmentation of data volumetrically



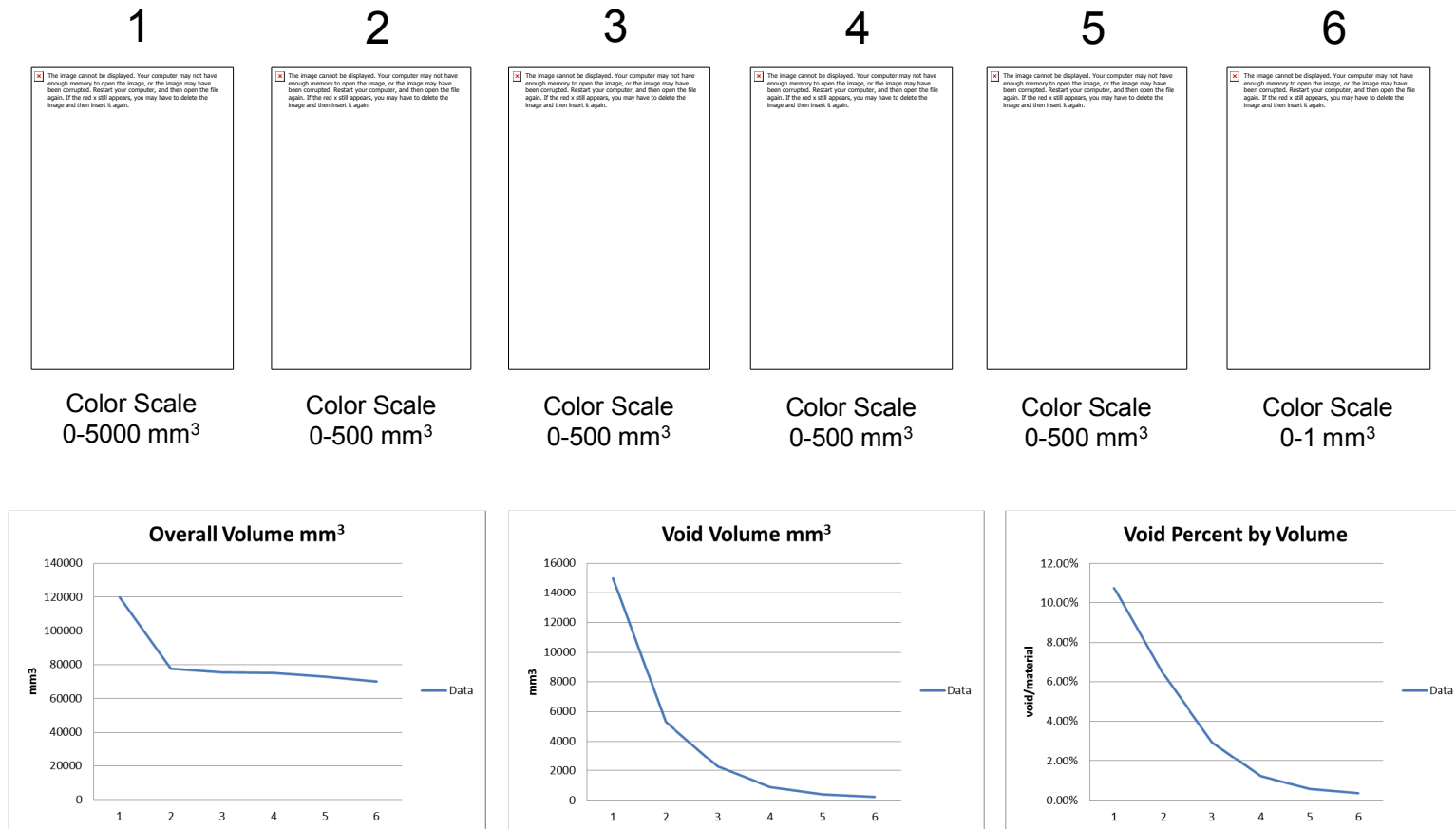
# Fiberglass Porosity Analysis

- Segmentation and measurement of pores
  - Pore propagation dominant along the long fibers and in the upper half of the sample
  - Overall pore volume is 4.31%
  - Correlates with visual observation and expected results



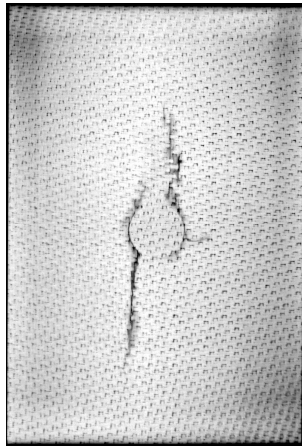
# Carbon Fiber Porosity Analysis

- Calculation of pore sizes and distribution prior to damage

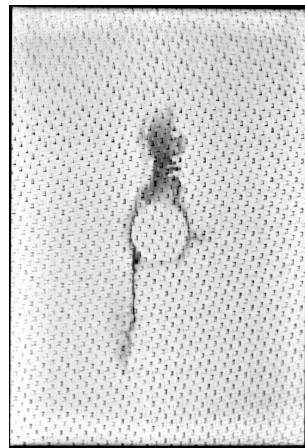


# Post Damage CT Images

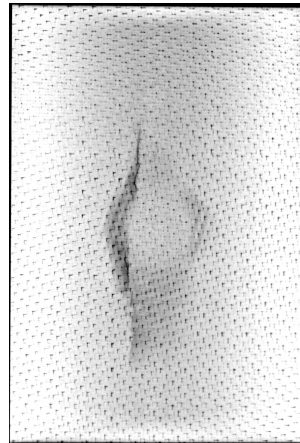
- Example images showing damage at various depths from the impact surface (samples impacted per ASTM D7136 )



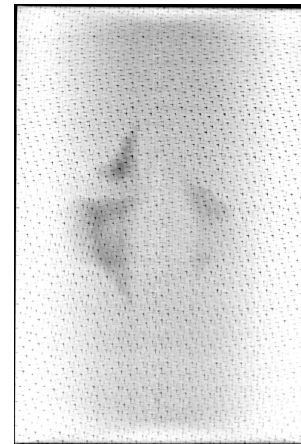
0.75mm depth



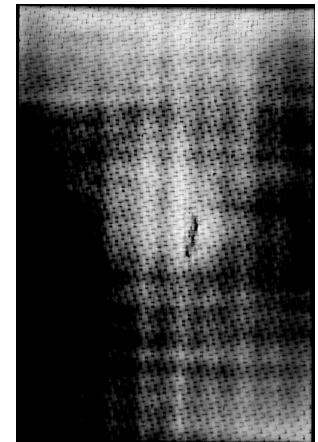
1.2mm depth



2.3mm depth



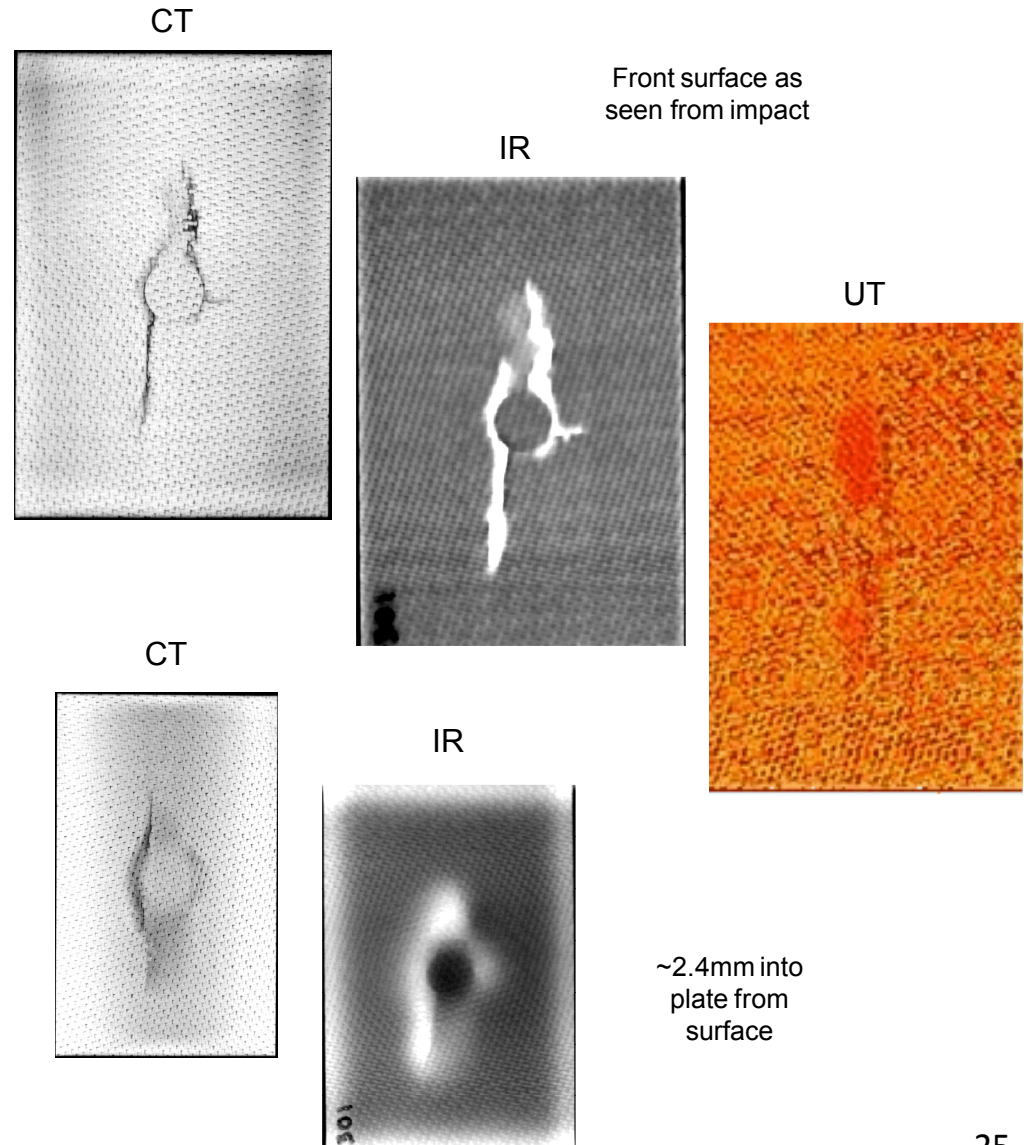
3.4mm depth



4.9mm depth

# Carbon Fiber CT – IR – UT Comparison

- Samples inspected with CT, IR, UT
- CT data shows good correlation with IR
  - On surface and at shallow depths
  - IR dispersion beyond shallow depths
- UT interrupted by porosity

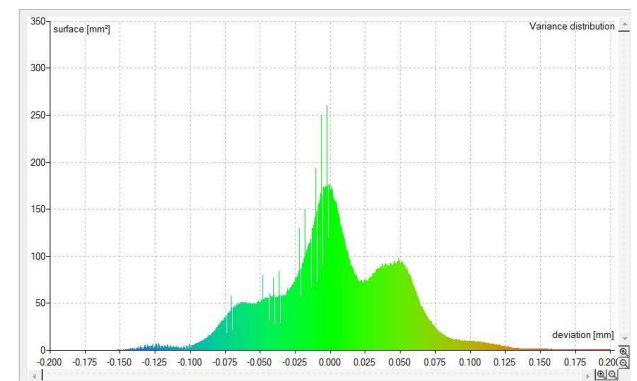
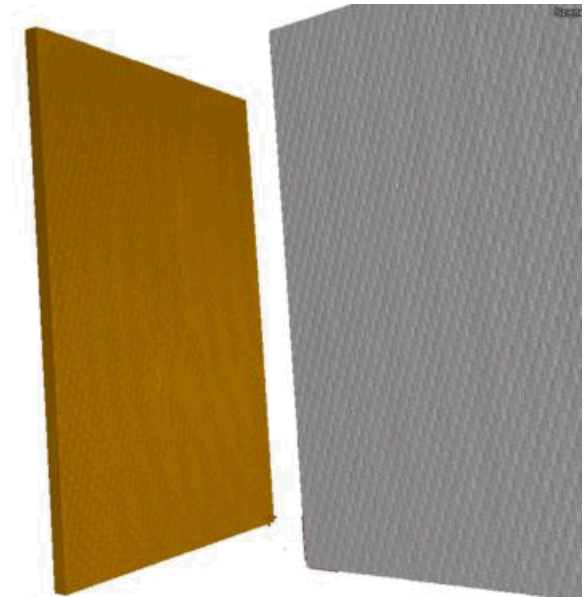
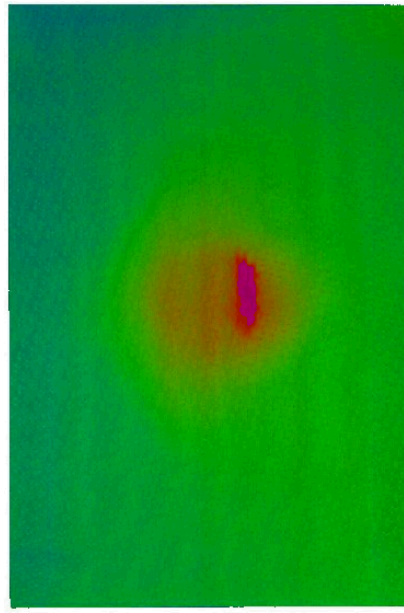
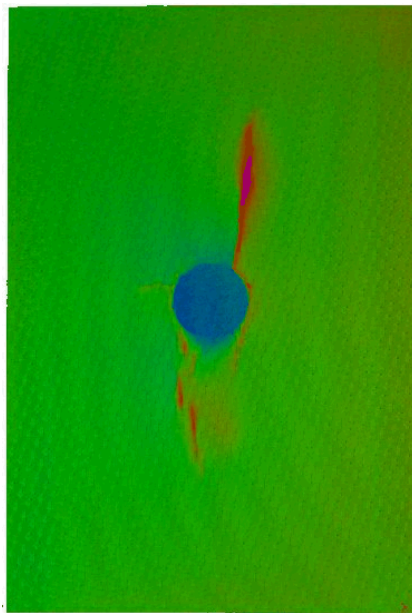
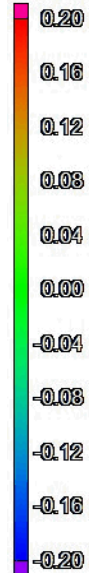




# Nominal Actual Comparison

- Compares reference CT or CAD model to another CT
  - Visualization of differences
  - Measurement of variance

Variance [mm]

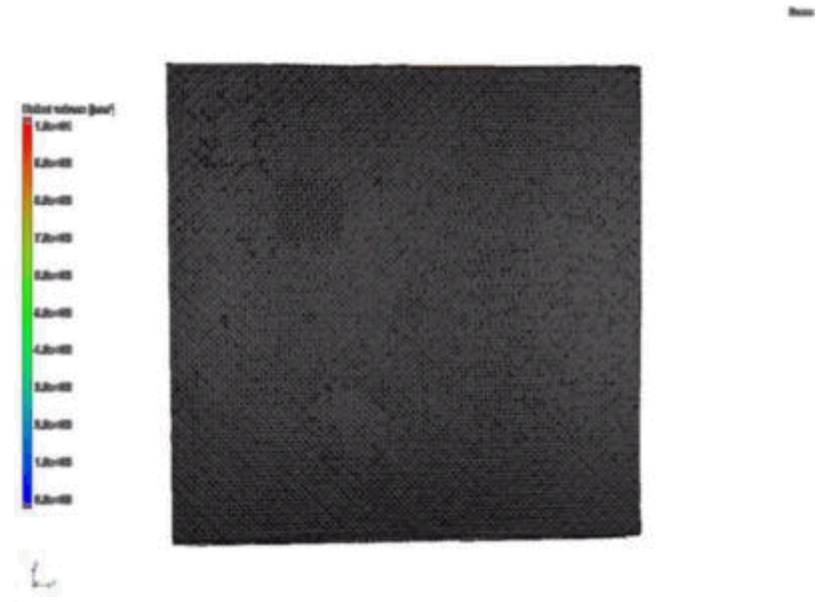


# Computed Tomography and 3D Rendering of Composite Materials

- Background
- Computed Tomography - *overview*
- Technique Development - *3 different sample types*
- Data Analysis - *comparison to other NDT techniques*
- Conclusion

# Conclusions

- CT is an Excellent Validation and Research Tool
  - Holistic
  - High Resolution
  - 3D Image Visualization
  - Metrology Capable
- CT Constraints
  - Hardware Cost
  - Sample Size





# Questions?

**Burke L. Kernen**  
**blkerne@sandia.gov**  
**505-284-9096**

# Artifact – Beam Hardening and Under Sampling

BEAM HARDENING

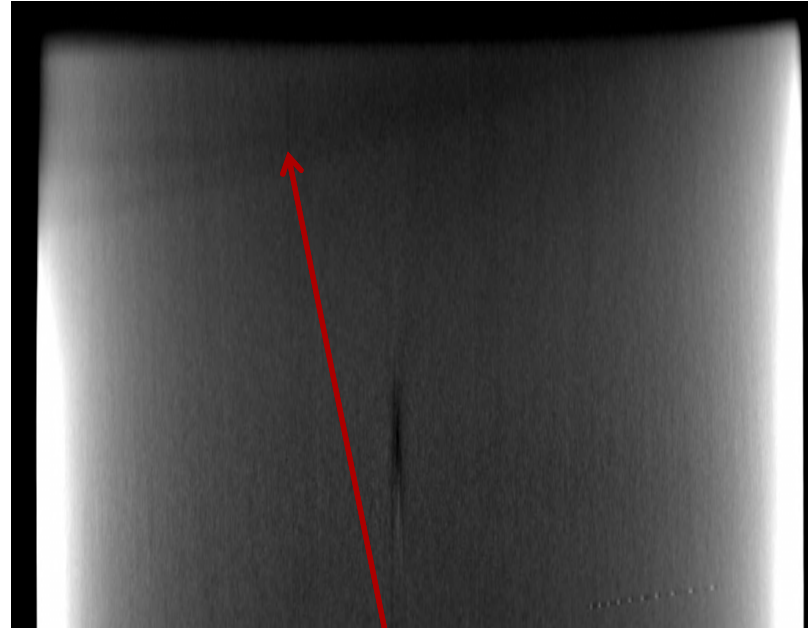
UNDER SAMPLING



- Non-Linear Photon Absorption
  - Increase Filtering
  - Collimate Beam
  - Software Correction
- Nyquist Sampling Criteria
  - Increase Sampling

# Artifact – Cone Beam

- Geometry Related
- Reduce Angle from Source to Top/Bottom of Detector



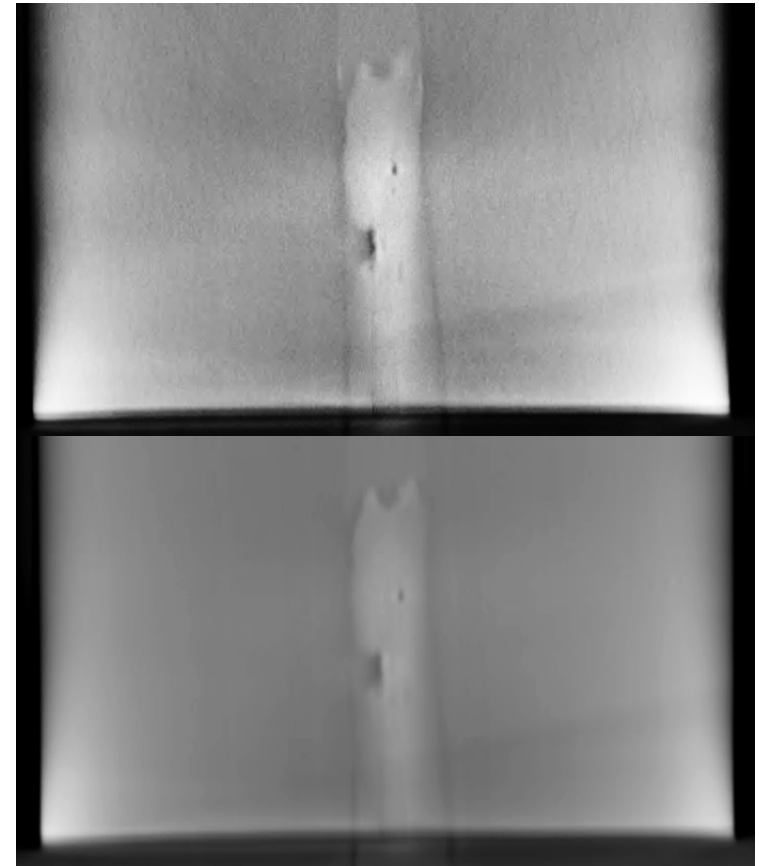
**CONE BEAM**

# Artifact – Geometric Unsharpness

**SHARP**

- Geometry Related
- Reduce Angle from Source to Top & Bottom of Detector

**UNSHARP**



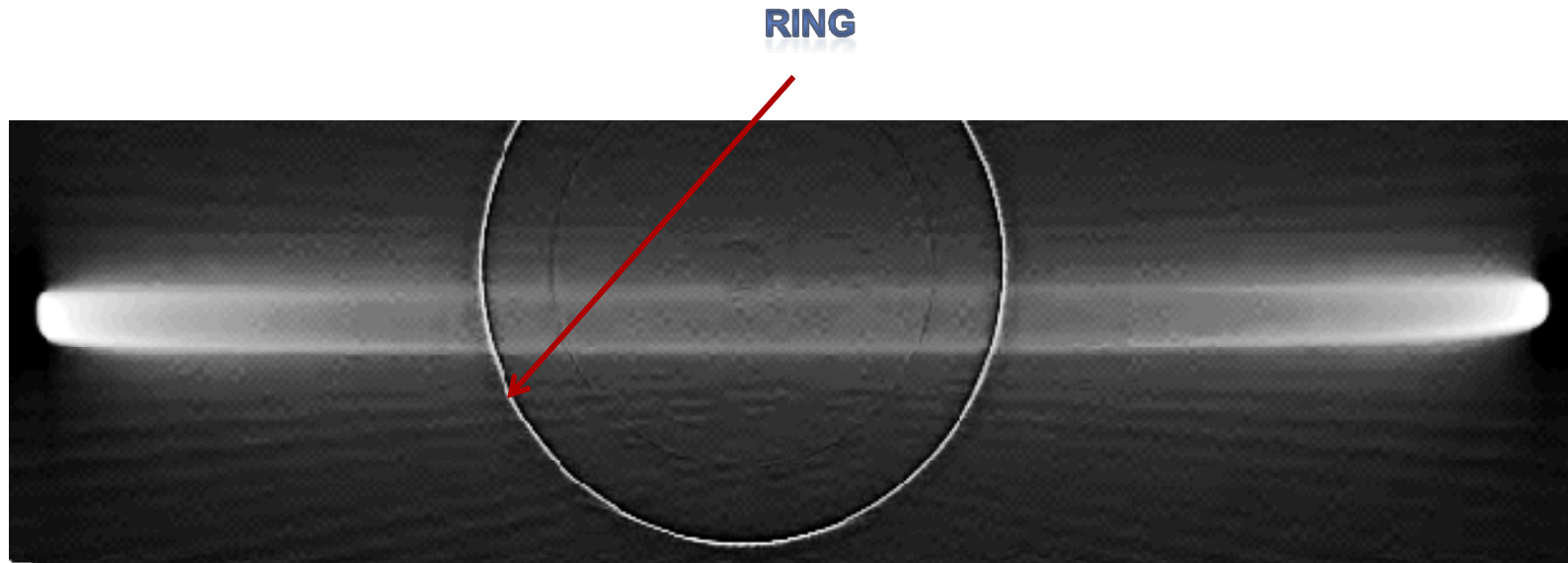
# Artifact – Motion and Centering



- Faulty Fixturing
  - Secure Fixturing

- Incorrect Geometry Data
  - Experimentation or Re-Measure

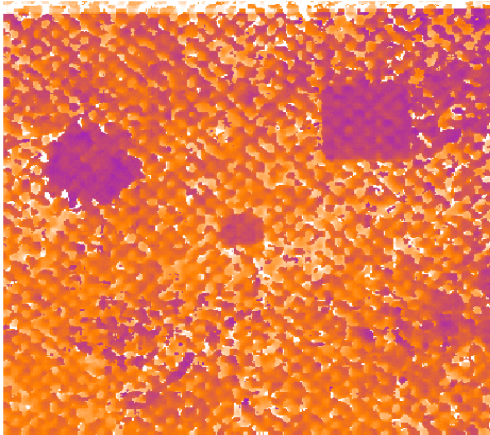
# Artifact - Ring



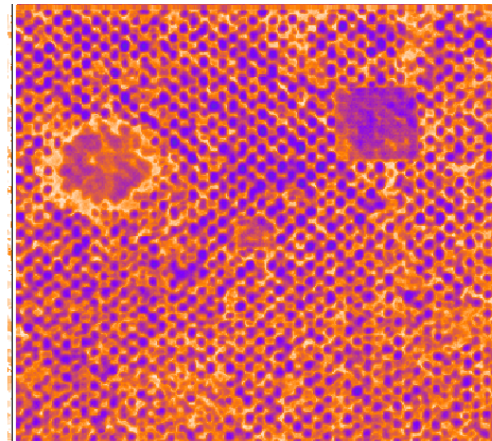
- Bad Detector Pixel
  - Defective Pixel Mask
  - Detector Calibration

# Honeycomb CT UT Comparison

- Only the epoxy fill and Teflon delaminations were detected
  - Porosity interference



Amplitude  
Gate Image



Depth  
Gate Image

## ***UT Setup***

- MAUS V™, (Mobile automated UT scanner) was used to acquire the images
- A 5 MHz probe, 6.35 mm in diameter
- Scanner resolution- 0.5 mm
- The gate was set to monitor the back wall signal from the laminate