

# Sandia's Digital Twin: Dielectric Strength Experiment (DSE) Component



PRESENTED BY

John Emery

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PM: Reno Sanchez

## 2 | Sandia's Digital Twin (DT) Effort: An Overview



30,000': Sandia is developing digital twin technology. The long-term goal is to develop high-fidelity prognoses on a per-serial-number basis for as-built, as-deployed systems and the associated tools and capabilities to support it. The prognoses will integrate systems models, computational simulation models of varying fidelity from reduced-order to high-fidelity, including multi-scale, multi-physics, aging and environments, and all available data from physical simulation, development and production builds, and remote sensing and non-destructive evaluation (NDE). The prognoses are necessarily statements about the probability of future performance.

15,000': Among our present focuses, one line of investigation is considering a component that is subject to dielectric breakdown. Breakdown has been studied to various extents but models to predict it based on manufacturing defects do not exist. Further, it is not known how or if materials aging affect the associated uncertainties.

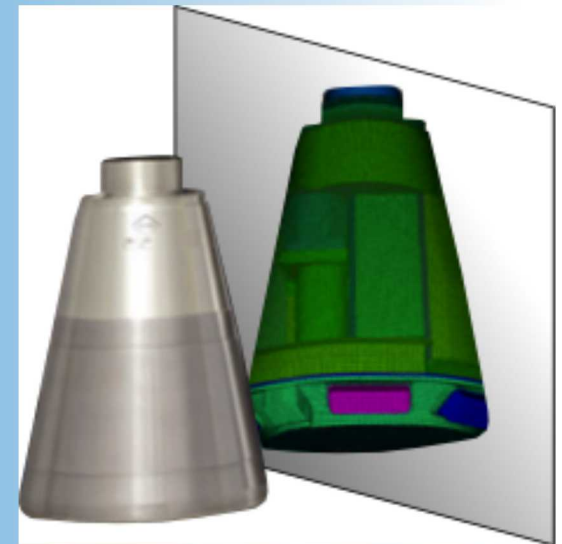
Ground level: Our present effort is developing a discovery experiment to emulate dielectric breakdown. The experimental "component" design will follow the digital twin paradigm for the entire "life" of the component, from feasibility through end of life (breakdown measurement). Our dielectric strength experiment (DSE) component will include 4 design variants: defect free, small delamination, large delamination, and non-planar defect. The defects are intentionally added with a controlled indentation technique. We are combining model-based systems engineering concepts and software, with CAD models, with mesh generation tools, and with finite-element analysis for component prognosis. We are collecting x-ray computed tomographic measurements to inform the models about the size and shape of existing manufacturing defects with a high degree of certainty. And we will be predicting the performance (dielectric strength) of the DSE based on as-built properties. A second round of DSE experiments will explore aging effects.

## **Sandia's DT provides accurate, multi-physics-based prognosis**

- Integrated hierarchy of increasingly complex models including precise as-built details, e.g. geometry and materials properties
- Assimilates data from surveillance, sensing and non-destructive evaluation (“physical twin”)
- Statistically accurate materials and manufacturing data
- Multiscale, multi-physics, probabilistic prognosis
- Prognoses for all environments plus aging
- Serial-number specific

## **Revolutionary outcomes for design, assessment and lifetime:**

- Enables agility for mission responsiveness
- Helps modernize the surveillance program
- Reduces development cycle time
- Transforms the annual assessment activities
- Predicts Significant Findings Investigations (SFIs)
- Provides a virtual environment to evaluate future weapon systems and features (CONOPS)



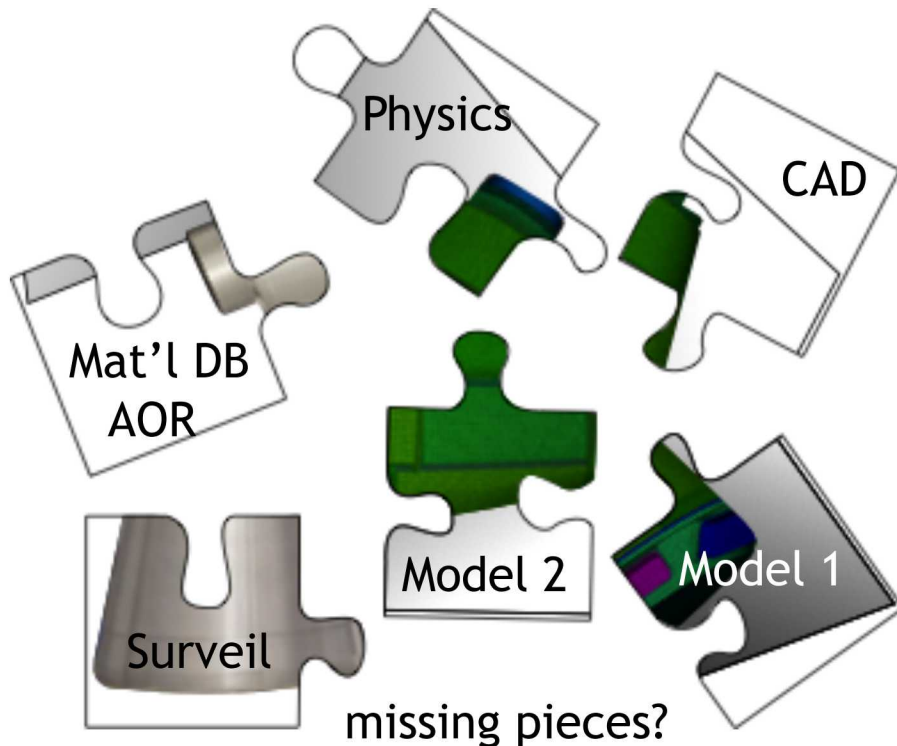


# Transforms business operations



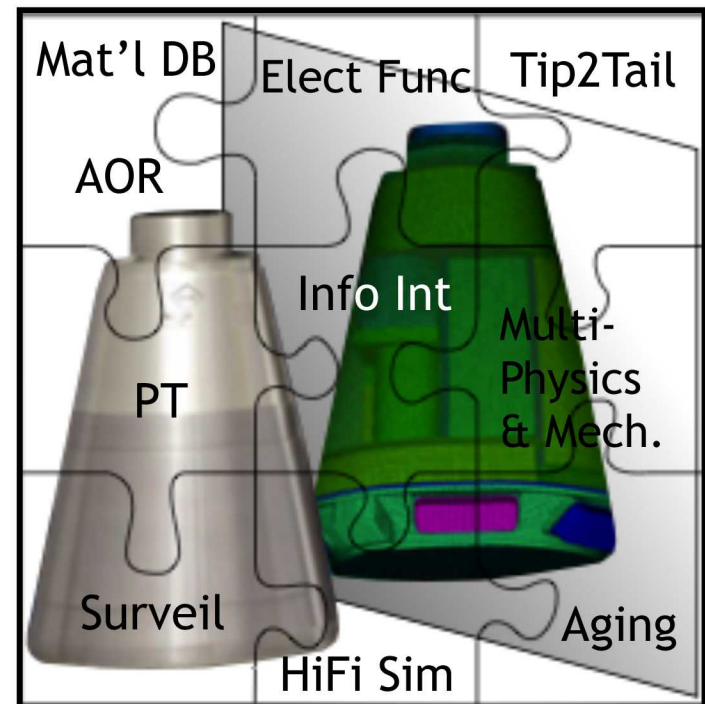
## Business Today

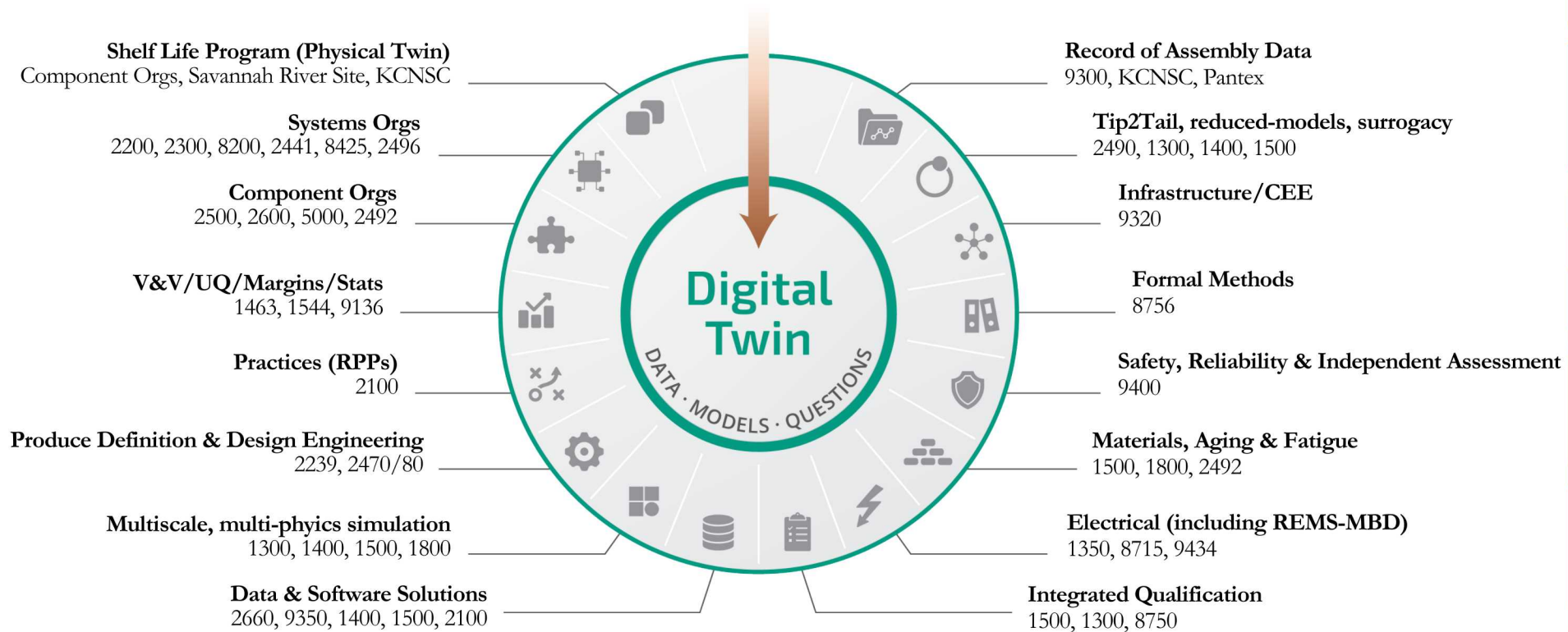
- LEPs & ALTs use disconnected, single-physics models starting late in development
- Annual Assessment is largely test based with comp sim playing a supporting role in SFIs or addressing focused knowledge gaps
- Lessons learned are transferred via the technical library or word of mouth



## Business w/ NWDT

- Integrated information connecting multiscale, multi-physics models with data from surveillance and physical surrogates
- High-fidelity prognosis with physics-based, mechanistic underpinnings
- Connected physics and engineering models
- Leverages surveillance activities for physical surrogacy (a physical twin, PT)



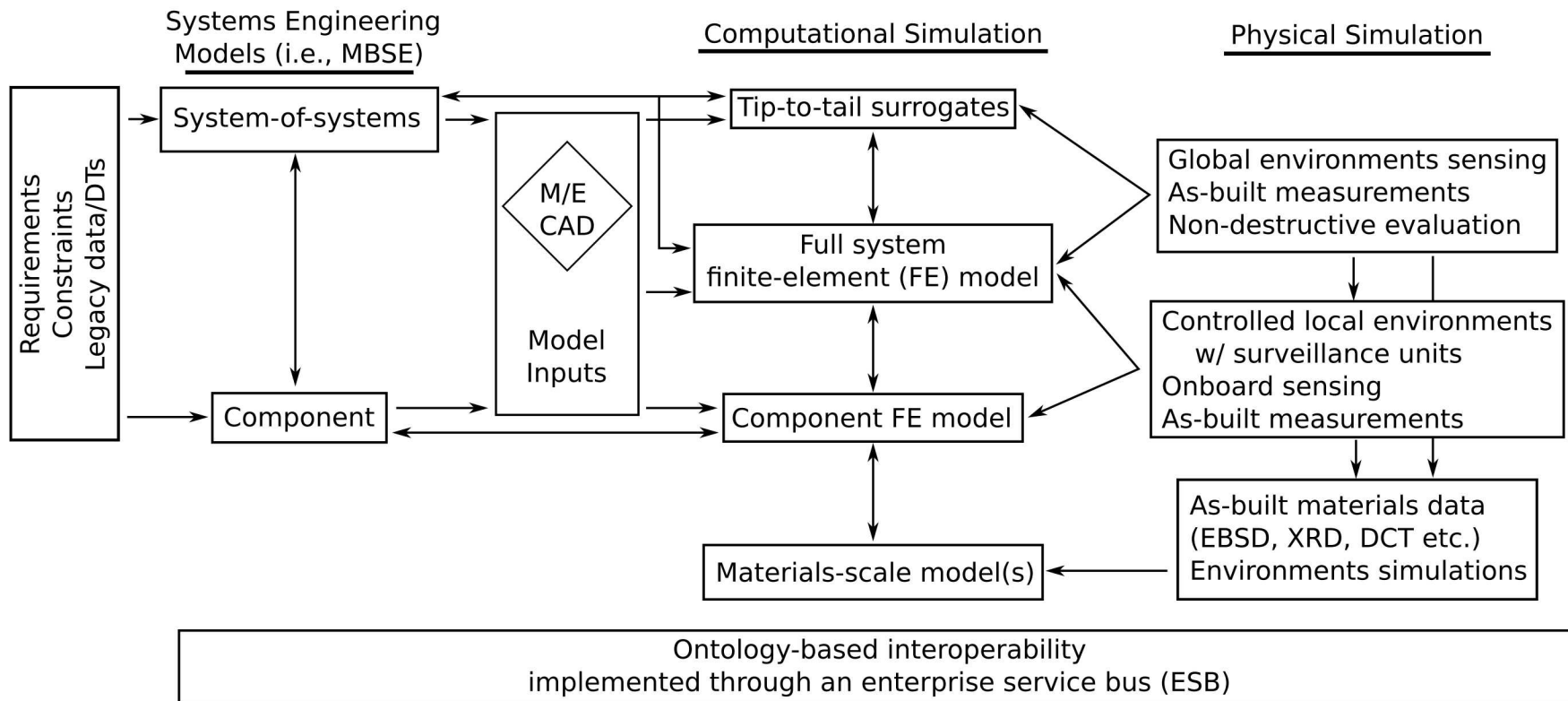


A Digital Twin is a collaboration platform across the laboratory, which **engages our people**.

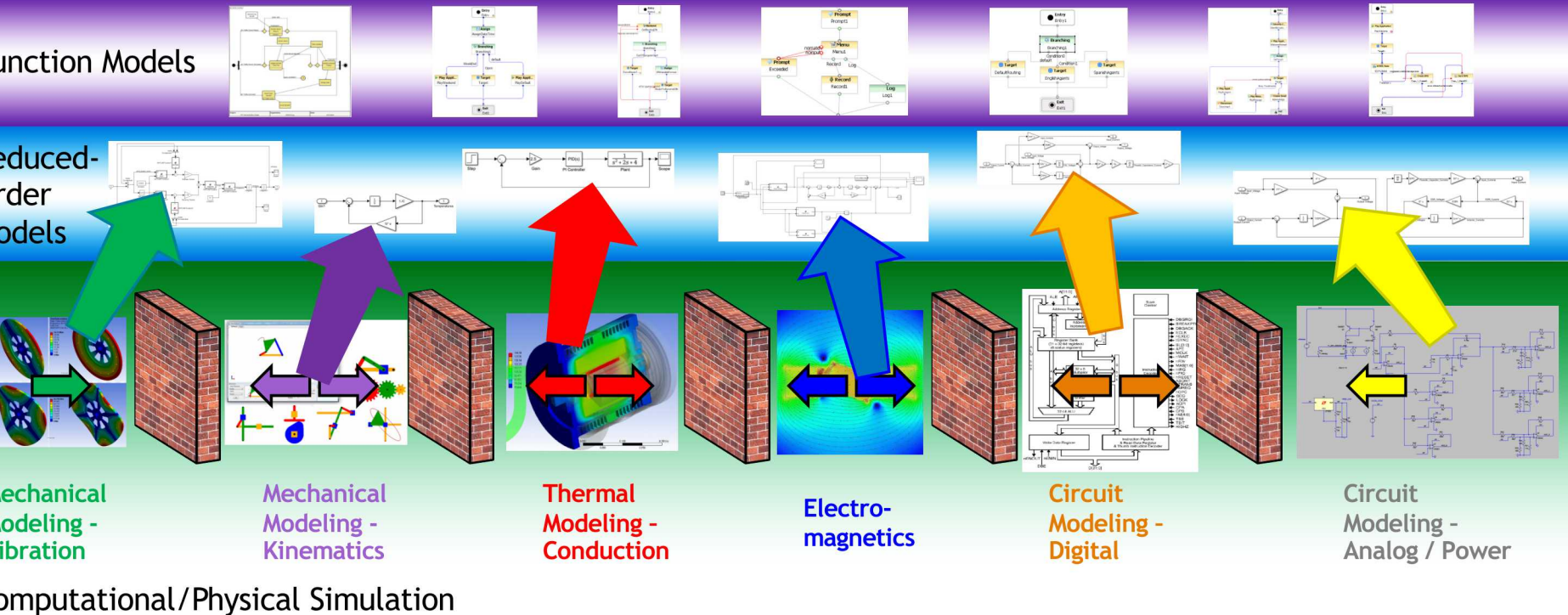
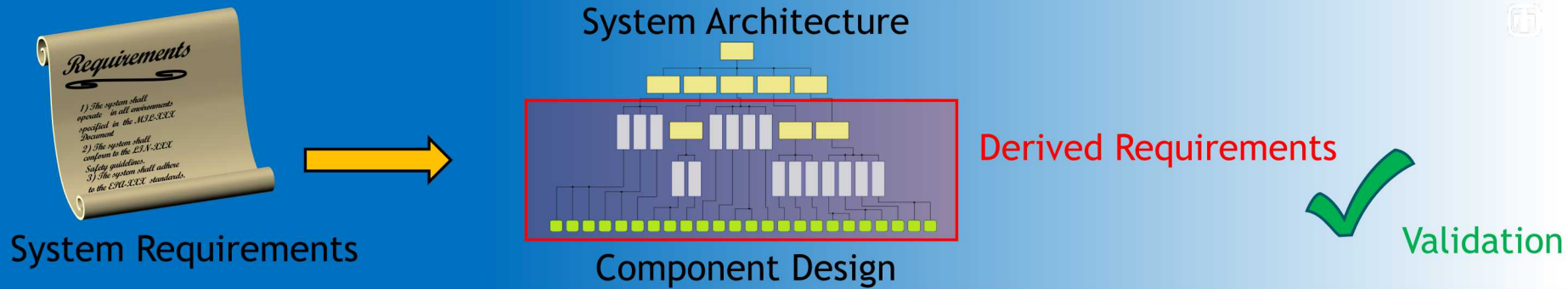
We seek to transition from a document-based process to a **model-based process**, creating a working system for storing and integrating computational simulation models, physical simulation data, and systems engineering information.



## Sandia's Digital Twin



# 7 The DT relationship between MBSE and Simulation







We are developing an experiment to investigate dielectric breakdown, which will have a simplified geometry and relevant materials. The experiment will include an indentation technique that adds a “controlled” surface delamination to simulate a manufacturing defect. We will then characterize the defect with CT, and test the dielectric strength and compare to nominal strength.

For development and motivation, we will treat this like a digital twin (DT) / physical twin (PT) pair.

Objectives of/questions for the experiment:

1. Design a test specimen that allows us to determine how well uCT can characterize manufacturing defects in electrical encapsulants, e.g., delamination.
2. Design the test specimen so that, following the uCT scan, we can measure its dielectric strength (and measure apparent strength of nominal design).
3. Can we use this to develop a relationship between measured defects size/shape and dielectric strength? Can small-signal capacitance describe damage (perhaps by inverse methods)?

Our testing procedure will span a series of defects, varying in size and shape, and identify a limiting size/shape detectable via CT and develop the relationship between dielectric strength and defect size/shape.

Our tests are designed to span a wide variety of applications.

Our tests shall be designed to remain in the appropriate range of voltages (appropriate for available strength tester).

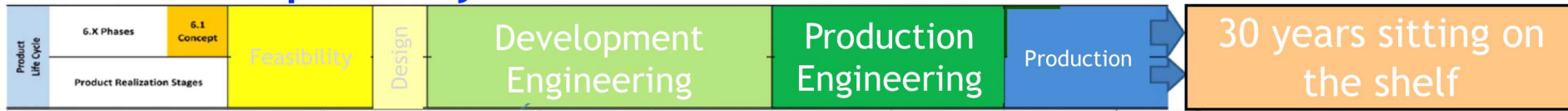
Next steps: we will repeat the experiments with artificial aging to explore age effects.



## 9 DSE Component – A simple component to learn from



### DT development cycle

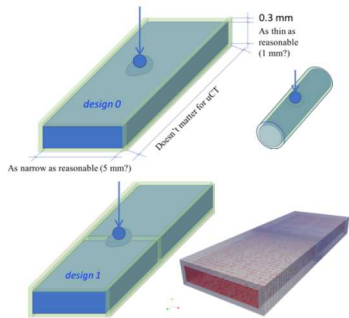
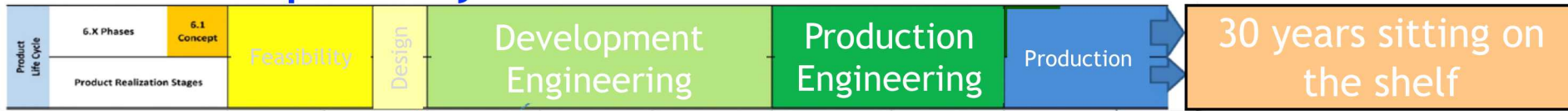


#### Steps:

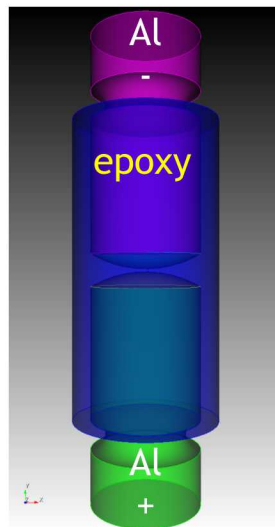
1. Write “systems requirements”
2. Build the systems model (GENESYS)
3. Develop design, e.g., M/ECAD models of the proposed geometry/geometries
4. Develop capabilities to connect SM w/ CAD w/ computational simulation (CS)
5. Demonstrate requirements verification via the SM-> CAD-> CS-> SM workflow. For example, encapsulation shall have no surface flaws greater than 1 mm – Verify via encapsulation simulations estimating residual stress in the epoxy.
6. Iterate 1 – 5 to design the experiment
7. Collect uCT measurements to characterize the manufacturing defects
8. Incorporate the defects into the CS models
9. Compute serial-number specific predictions of strength
10. Measure strength



## DT development cycle

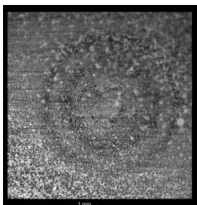
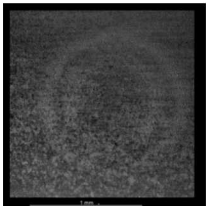


*We're here*



### Steps:

1. Write “systems requirements”
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## Requirements of the test & test specimen



Includes relevant materials

- Encapsulants:
  - EPON epoxies
- Substrates:
  - Alumina
  - Polyamide coated copper

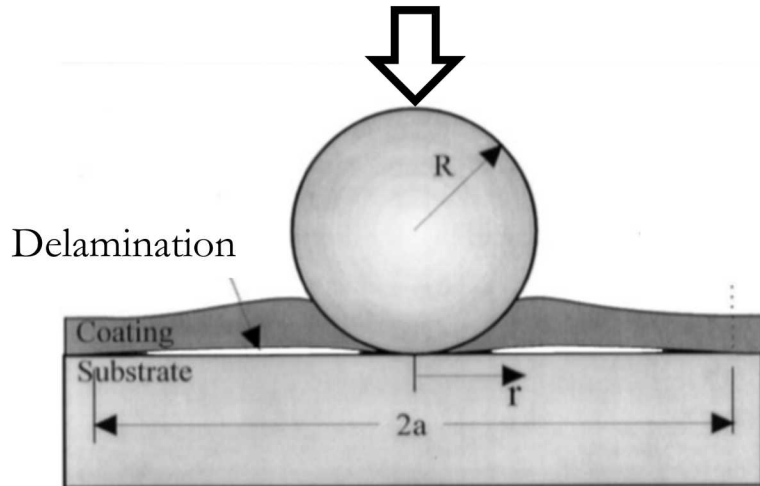
Controllable delamination size

Suitable for uCT (i.e., fits in the test apparatus)

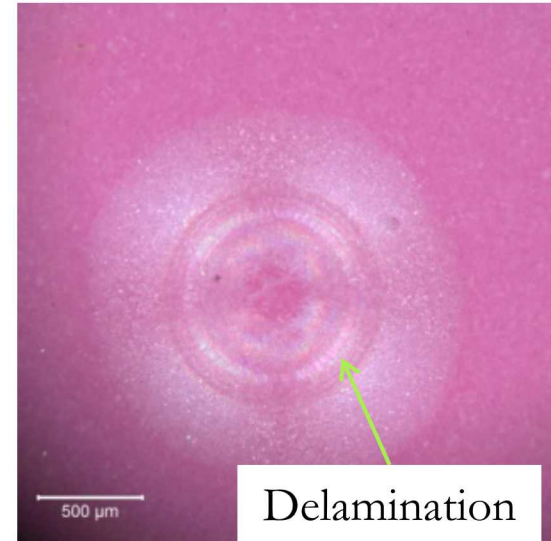
Suitable for simple dielectric strength tests (future could include in situ temp / mechanical / rad insults?)

Encapsulation stresses reasonable to avoid cracking





In theory, delamination forms outside of contact area.

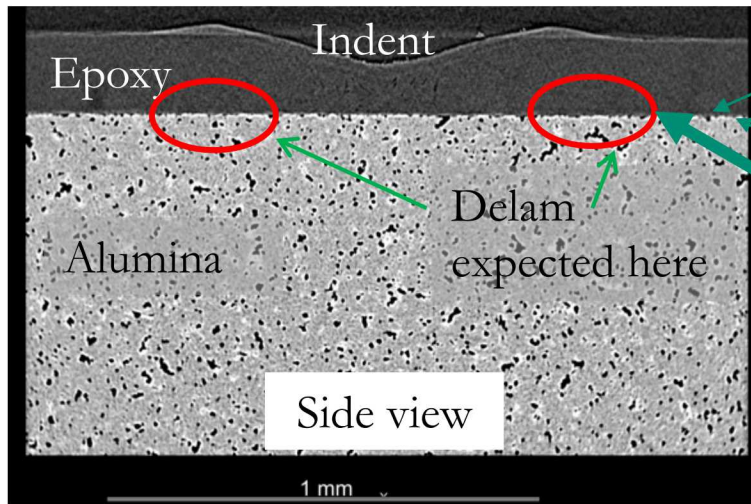
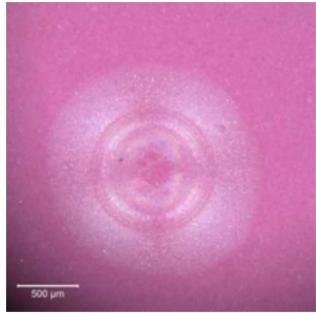


Can we measure size of delamination using X-ray tomography?

Controlled delamination size/shape allows us to validate the uCT measurements. Once we have validated the measurement, controlled delamination size/shape is not necessary but may still be desired.

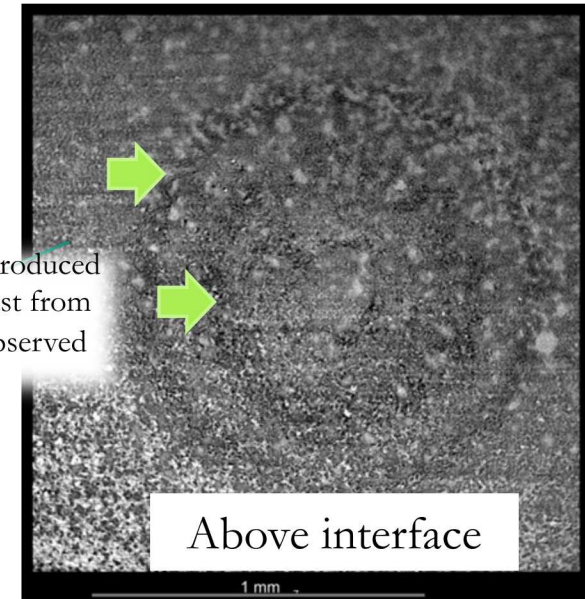


- Mockup with delamination similar to the pictured sample scanned using phase contrast tomography
- Unlike conventional X-ray tomography, which is based on differences in absorption for contrast, phase contrast highlights interfaces in the material

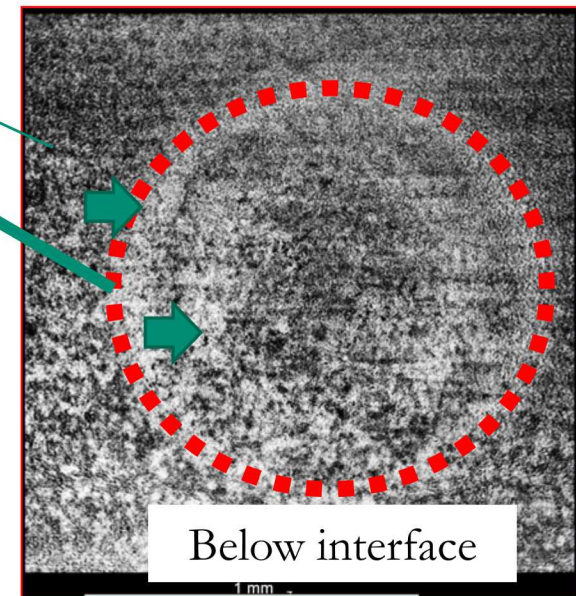


"Rings" likely produced by phase contrast from delamination observed at the interface.

Top down views



Above interface



Below interface

**Early findings: It looks promising that we can detect the delamination and measure it for unfilled epoxy & alumina using X-ray CT!**

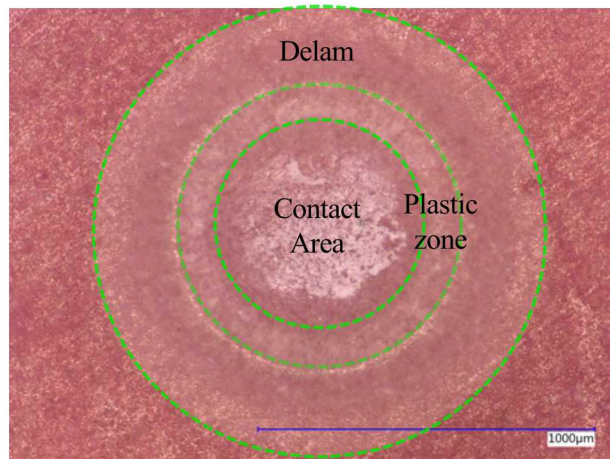


# Comparing optical and X-ray tomography measurements

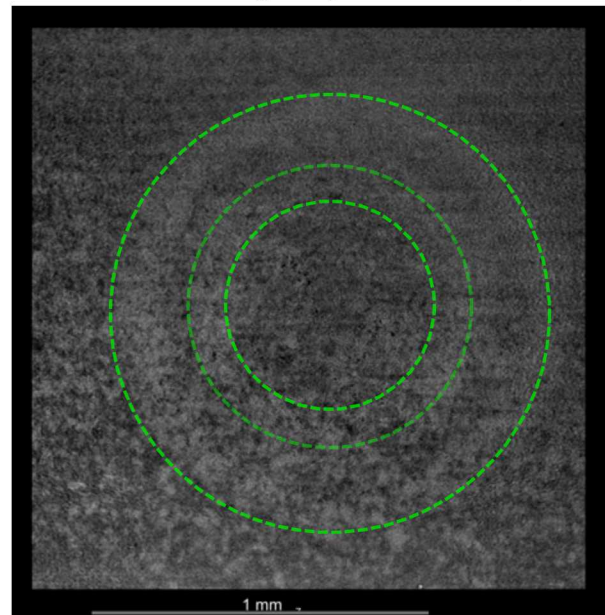


**For unfilled epoxy and alumina using X-ray CT!**

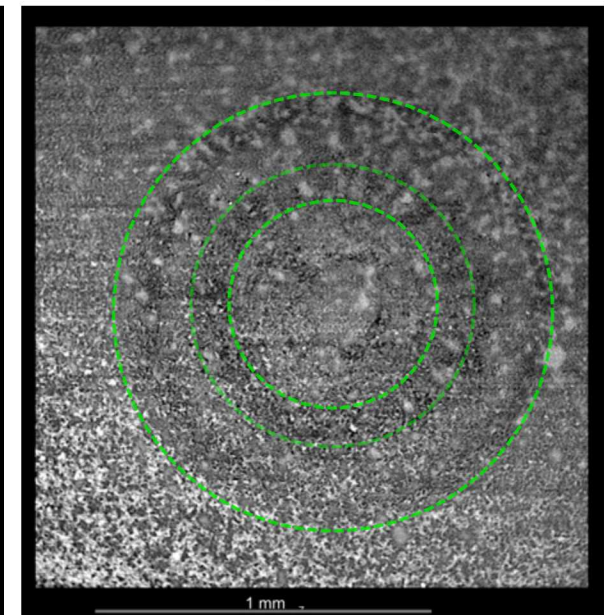
Optical image of indented Alumina/Epoxy sample



X-ray tomography data of indented Alumina/Epoxy sample (slice above alumina/epoxy interface)



X-ray tomography data of indented Alumina/Epoxy sample (slice below alumina/epoxy interface)



**\*\*All images at the same scale**

- Measurements from optical indicate that the delamination is  $248 \mu\text{m}$  wide  $\pm 10 \mu\text{m}$
- Measurements from X-ray CT indicate that the delamination is  $233 \mu\text{m}$  wide  $\pm 18 \mu\text{m}$



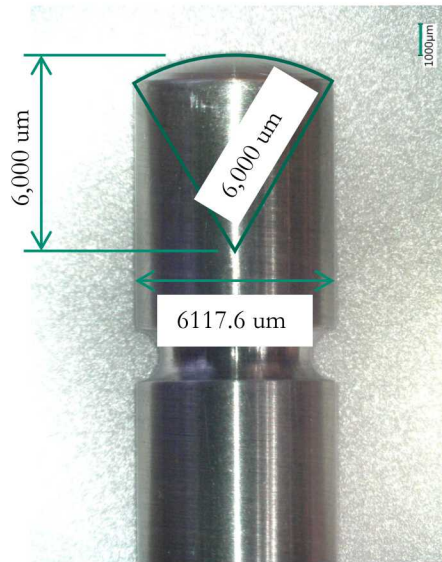
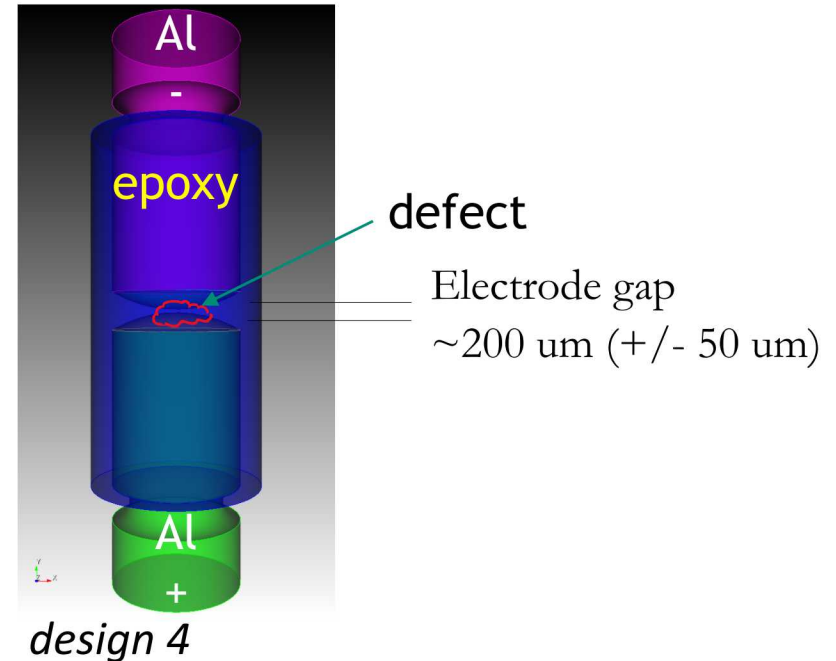


image of aluminum electrode

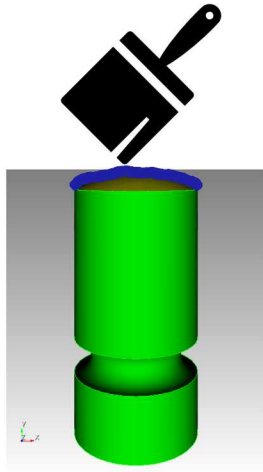


The specimen design ideas requires a \_validated\_ uCT capability. Note that Al has a higher z-number than alumina, so that the uCT measurement will be harder.

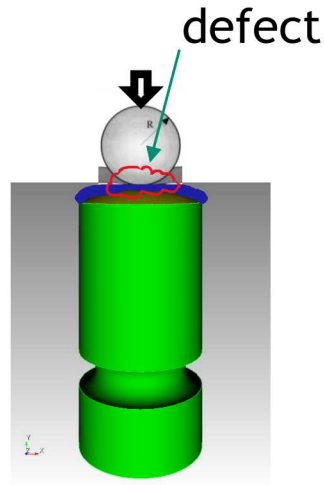
Defects may be achieved by incremental manufacturing:

1. Fingernail paint epoxy on Aluminum electrode
2. “Insert” manufacturing defect, *e.g.*, by indentation
3. Encapsulate within greater electrode assembly

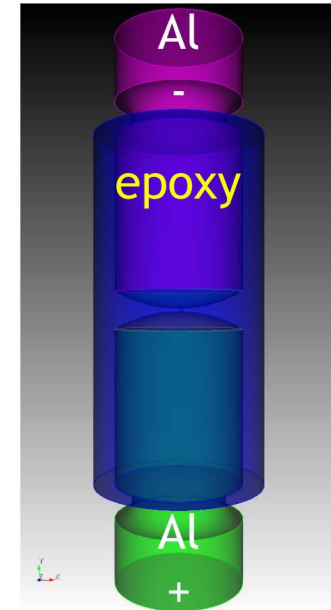
Other ideas: can the manufacturing defect be inserted by a mechanical loading of the electrodes? For example, picture applying a tensile load to electrodes.



1. Build-up an epoxy layer with paintbrush



2. Add “defect” with indentation experiment



3. Encapsulate the full specimen

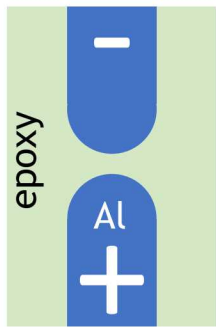
Notes:

1. Assume a cylindrical specimen.
2. Build a set of samples skipping step 2 to understand the dielectric strength of the undamaged part that was manufacture in the multi-step epoxy curing process.



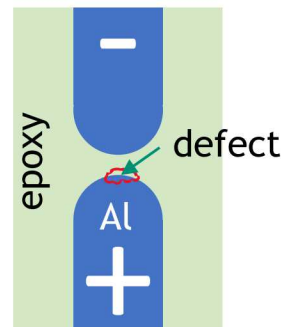
Initially, we will have a series of 4 experiments w/ 2 repeat samples in each category. Here are the proposed experiments:

Experiment #1



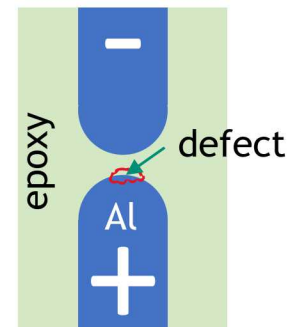
2 experiments,  
defect free

Experiment #2



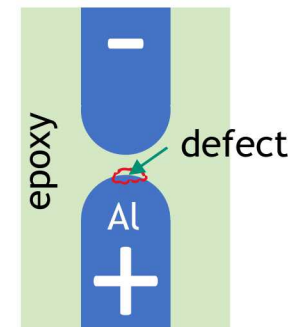
2 experiments,  
defect at P N  
indentation force

Experiment #3



2 experiments,  
defect at 2P N  
indentation force

Experiment #4



2 experiments,  
defect at P N  
indentation force,  
different shape  
indenter

Hopefully experiment #1 is a fairly repeatable measure of the inherent dielectric strength of the epoxy. Experiments #2 and #3 give us data to plot strength versus defect size (assumes defect size scales with indenter load). Experiment #4 explores effects of defect shape (assumes some way of normalizing defect size/shape based on indenter load).



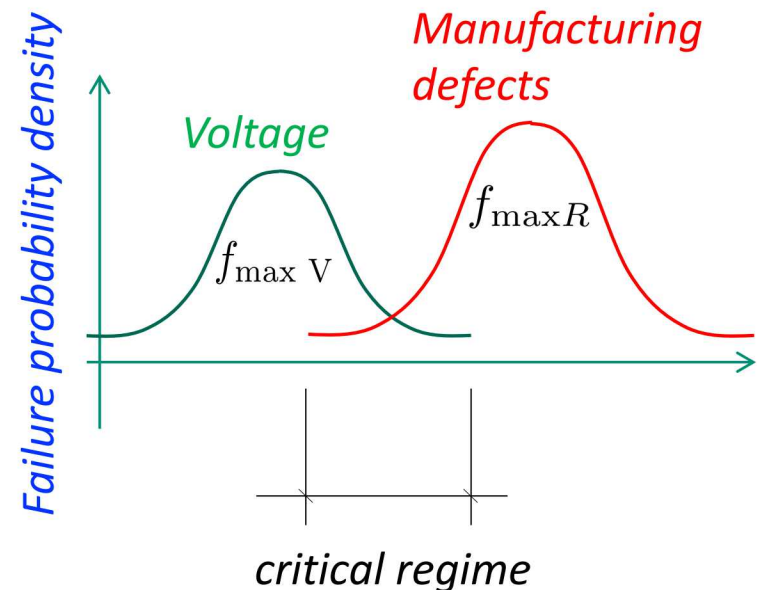
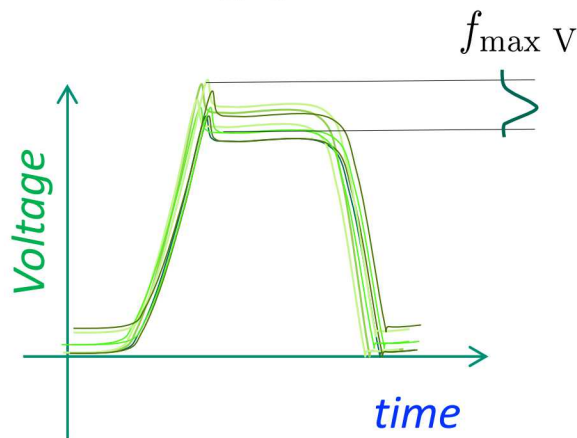
**INPUT:**

- Mesh/geometry/void /flaw description
- electron/neutron chemistry
- Outgassing in void
- Relative permeabilities
- Particle BCs at surfaces
- Voltage profile

Aleph/EMPIRE  
(transient analysis)

**OUTPUT:**

- Energy flux, current to outer casing / wall
- Electron density
- Temperature



\*\*\* Figures are notional



The first model for dielectric breakdown will be a 45-degree wedge containing a 1- $\mu\text{m}$  radius, semi-spherical pore at the tip of the bottom (positive) electrode.

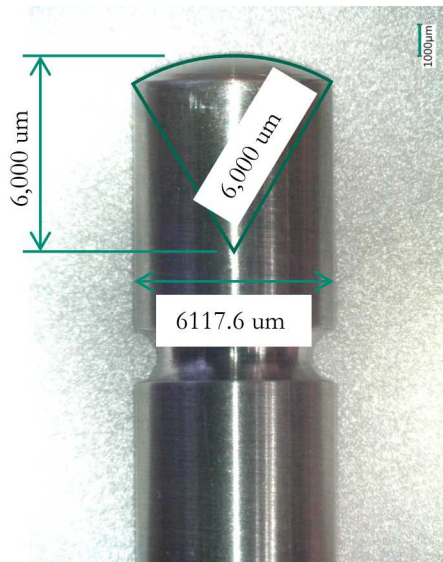
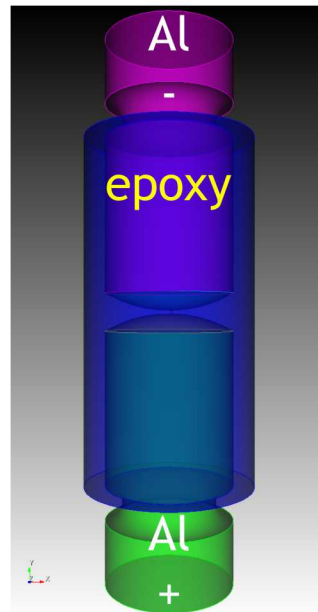
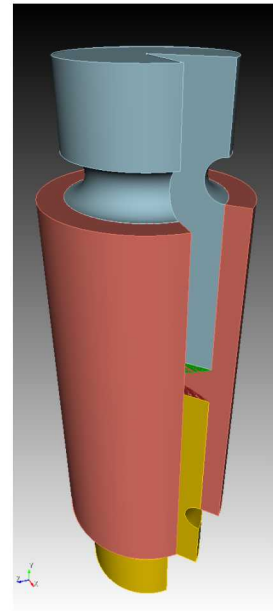


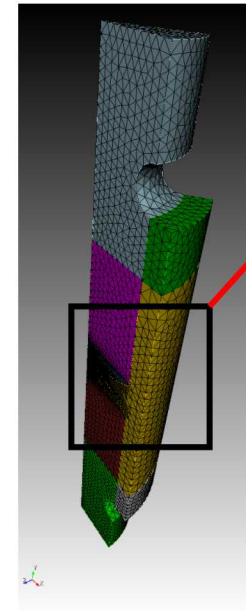
image of aluminum electrode



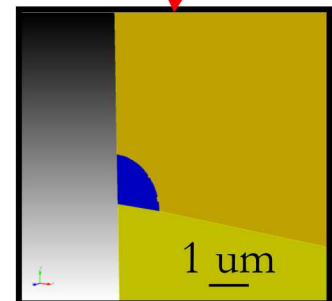
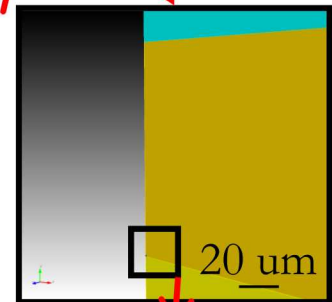
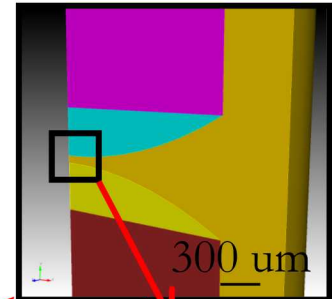
solid model



remove this part



45-degree wedge with symmetry and 1  $\mu\text{m}$  radius pore





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**Effects of void size and gas content on electrical breakdown in lightweight, mechanically compliant, void-filled dielectrics**

R. A. Anderson,<sup>a)</sup> R. R. Lagasse, E. M. Russick, and J. L. Schroeder  
*Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185*

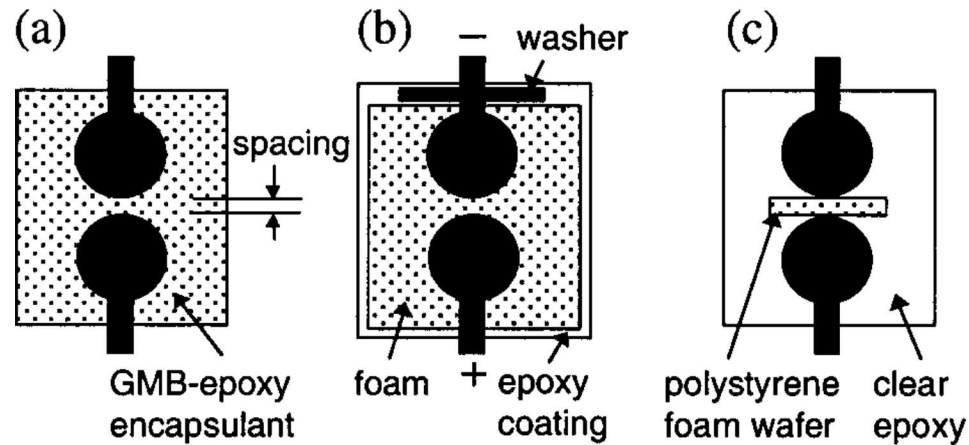


FIG. 4. Test specimens used to measure breakdown strength: (a) 12.7 mm diam spherical steel electrodes cast in GMB-filled epoxy. (b) Similar electrode arrangement, used with the gel-derived and urethane foams, which includes an epoxy coating to exclude the dielectric liquid in the high-voltage test chamber. A field-shielding metallic washer was needed with the gel-derived foams to prevent breakdown along the foam/coating interface. (c) Wafer of CO<sub>2</sub>-blown polystyrene foam, in contact with the electrodes, cast in clear epoxy.

## Pulsed electrical breakdown of a void-filled dielectric

R. A. Anderson,<sup>a)</sup> R. R. Lagasse, and J. L. Schroeder  
*Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185*

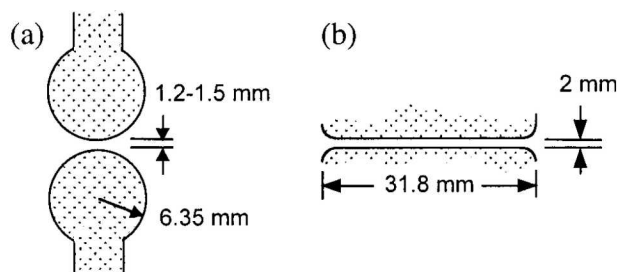


FIG. 1. Uniform-field electrode geometries: (a) 12.7 mm diam spheres. (b) Electrode geometry which produces uniform electrical stress in a volume of approximately  $1400 \text{ mm}^3$ .

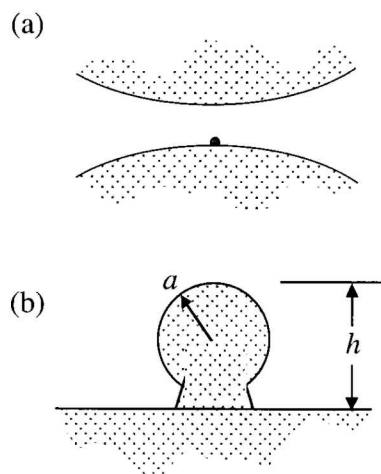


FIG. 3. Spherical-electrode geometry with a small conductive protrusion on one electrode: (a) sketch of the 12.7 mm diam spheres showing a protrusion, (b) closeup of the protrusion which defines its height,  $h$ , and tip radius,  $a$ .

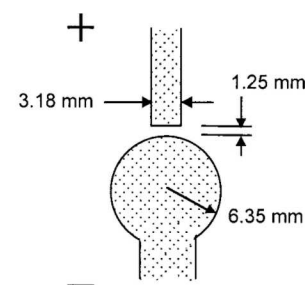


FIG. 2. Electrode geometry which produces local regions of concentrated electrical stress. The peak field at the edge of the square-cut cylindrical anode (with an edge radius of curvature of approximately  $30 \mu\text{m}$ ) is roughly three times as large as that along the gap centerline. In a second set of similar test specimens the diameter of the square-cut cylinder was 6.35 mm.

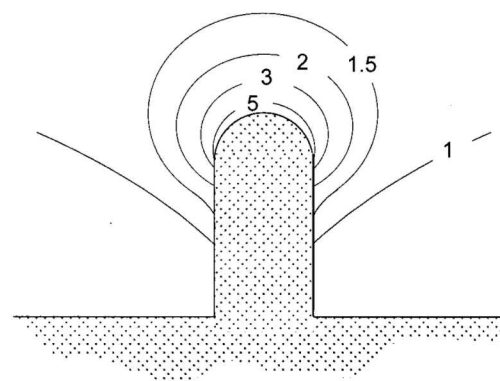


FIG. 4. Computed field-magnitude distribution near the tip of a dome-topped cylindrical protrusion on a conductive surface with  $h/a=4$ . Numbers on the contours indicate the local field magnitude relative to the uniform field further away. The ratio reaches 6.3 at the protrusion tip, which is close to the Eq. (1) prediction of 6.0.

