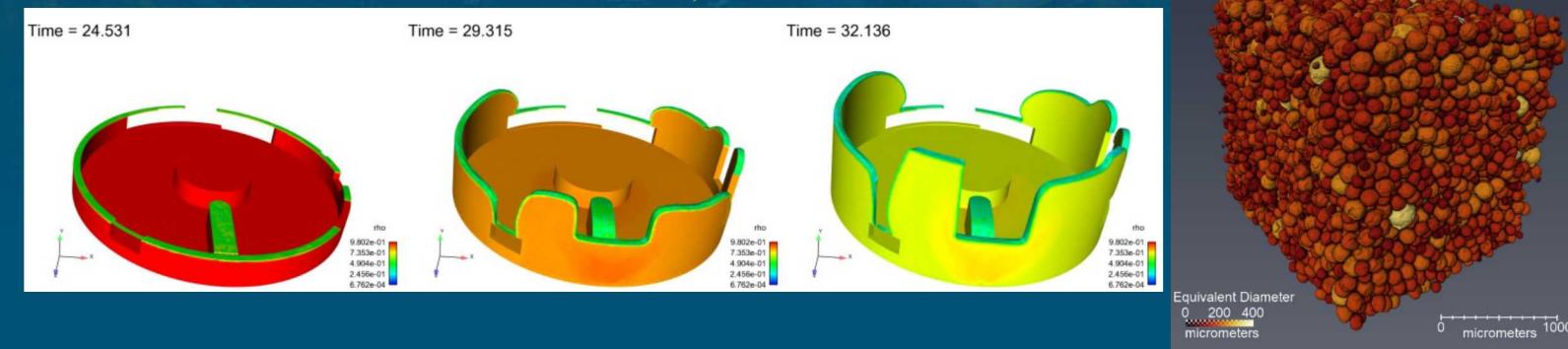


# Foam process models for polyurethane, including blowing and curing kinetics

# Evonik Meet Science, North America 2019

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
December 5-6<sup>th</sup>, 2019



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James Tinsley (KCNSC)

SAND2019-????

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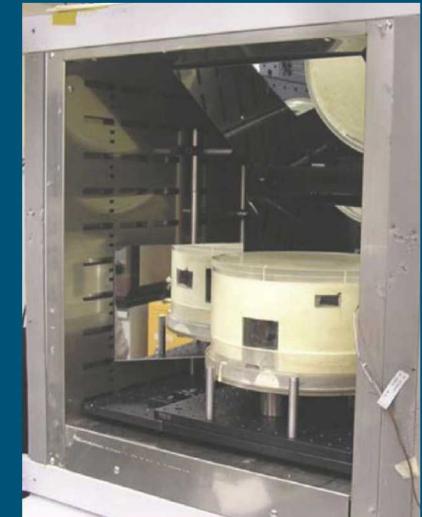
**Polyurethane foams are widely used in manufacturing due to ease of use and useful material properties**



thesleepjudge.com (CC-BY-2.0)



Horia Varlan (CC-BY-2.0)

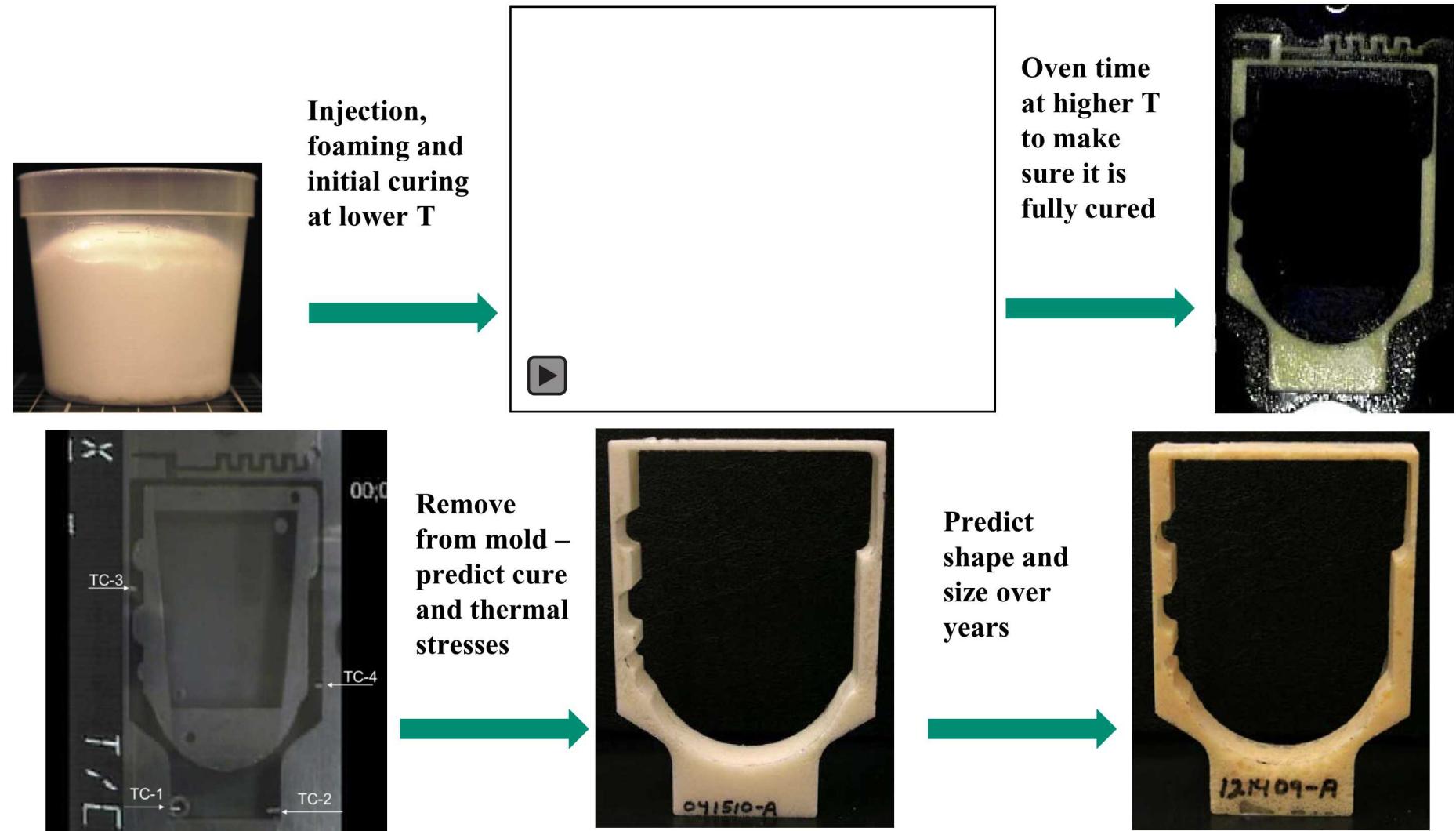


We are developing models that can predict foam mold filling, void location, and final properties including density and modulus for structural foams and thermal conductivity for insulating material.

# Introduction



**Overarching Goal:** Cradle-to-grave model for foaming, vitrification, cure, aging  
Focus on moderate density PMDI foams



# Introduction



## Stage I

Fluid

### Pre-Gel (0- $10^3$ seconds)

Chemistry results in both gas production (foaming) and matrix polymerization (curing)

Foaming liquid rises to fill the mold until polymer matrix gelation

Heat, pressure generated

Gelation

## Stage II

Soft-Solid

### Post-Gel Cure ( $10^3$ – $10^4$ seconds)

Variations in temperature cause variations in density and extent of cure

Solid polymer matrix locks in density gradients

Further gas production causes bubble pressurization with minimal volume increase

Vitrification

## Stage III

Solid

### Vitrified and Released ( $10^4$ + seconds)

Residual stresses, density, and properties vary spatially

Both long and short term shape change is possible as different parts of the foam relax at different rates

Boundary conditions strongly influence residual stresses

- Processing parameters at earlier stages will affect quality of part at later stages

# Foam Filling is Complex



Foam front moving past camera, with bubble sizes at transparent wall determined with image processing.

3 views of foam filling a mock AFS with several plates spaced unevenly. Vent location is critical to keep from trapping air.

- PMDI is used as an encapsulant for electronic components and lightweight structural parts, to mitigate against shock and vibration.
- **We would like to develop a computational model to help us understand foam expansion for manufacturing applications and how inhomogeneities effect the structural response of the final part, including long term shape stability.**
- Gas generation drives the foam expansion, changing the material from a viscous liquid to a multiphase material.
- Continuous phase is time- and temperature-dependent and eventually vitrifies to a solid.

# Polyurethane (PMDI): Model Development



We use a variety of physically and chemically blown foams. PMDI is used as an encapsulant for electronic components, to mitigate against shock and vibration, and to make light-weight structural parts.

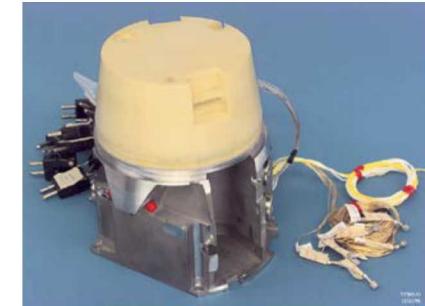
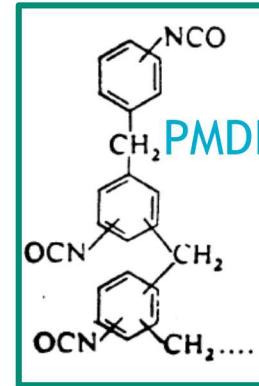
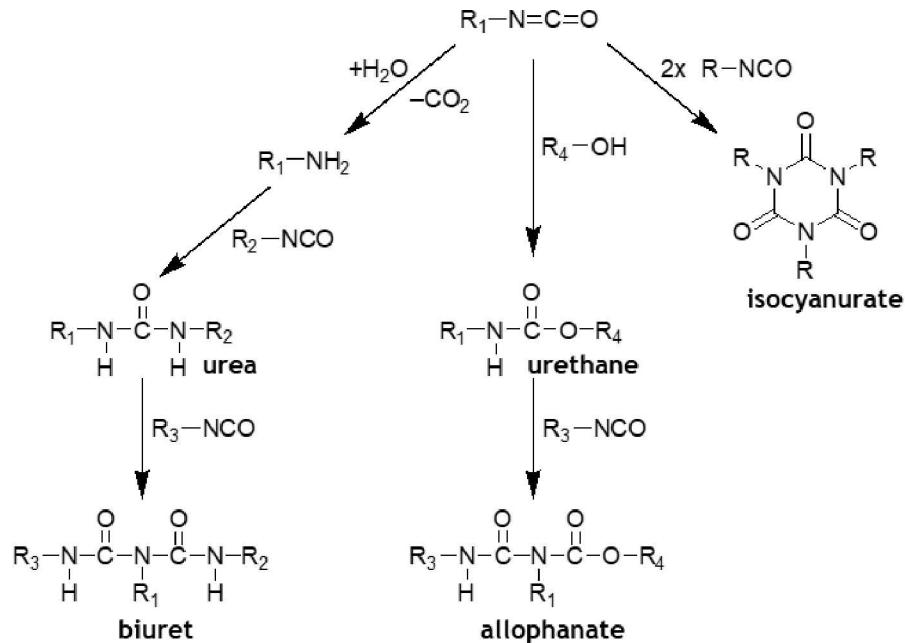
We would like to develop a computational model to help us understand foam expansion for manufacturing applications.

Polyurethane is a chemically blown foam having two primary, competing simultaneous reactions:  $\text{CO}_2$  production and polymerization. Separating these reactions can be difficult.

We use IR spectroscopy to track polymerization. IR does not provide a clear signal for the foaming reaction: Tracked with volume generation.



PU has a short pot-life: models can help reduce defects and improve filling process



Mock component encapsulated with PMDI from “KCP Encapsulation Design Guide” (Mike Gerding, UUR)

# Kinetic Model Must Include CO<sub>2</sub> Generation and Polymerization Reaction



$$rate_1 = k_1 e^{-\Delta E_1 / RT} [isocyanate]^a [polyol]^b$$

Polymerization

$$rate_2 = k_2 e^{-\Delta E_2 / RT} [isocyanate]^c [H_2O]^d$$

CO<sub>2</sub> generation

- Must track five species: water, polyol, polymer, carbon dioxide, and isocyanate, since we have competing primary reaction
- Use experiments to determine Arrhenius rate coefficients

$$\frac{D[CO_2]}{Dt} = +rate_2$$

$$\frac{D[H_2O]}{Dt} = -rate_2$$

$$\frac{D[isocyanate]}{Dt} = -rate_1 - rate_2$$

$$\frac{D[polyol]}{Dt} = -rate_1$$

$$\frac{D[polymer]}{Dt} = +rate_1$$

- Must provide initial conditions for all species
- Integrate rate equations as part of the simulation
- Density predicted from gas generation
- Our kinetics are unique because our formulation is different from literature polyurethanes

$$\rho_{gas} = \frac{PM_{CO_2}}{RT}$$

$$v = \frac{V_{gas}}{V_{liq}} = \frac{M_{CO_2} C_{CO_2}}{\rho_{gas}} \quad \phi_v = \frac{v}{1+v}$$

$$\rho_{foam} = \rho_{gas} \phi_v + \rho_{liq} (1 - \phi_v)$$

# Equations of Motion Include Evolving Material Models



Momentum equation and continuity have variable density, shear viscosity, and bulk viscosity

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = -\rho \mathbf{v} \bullet \nabla \mathbf{v} - \nabla p + \nabla \bullet (\mu_f (\nabla \mathbf{v} + \nabla \mathbf{v}^t)) - \nabla \bullet \lambda (\nabla \bullet \mathbf{v}) I + \rho \mathbf{g}$$

$$\frac{D \rho_f}{Dt} + \rho_f \nabla \bullet \mathbf{v} = 0$$

Energy equation has variable heat capacity and thermal conductivity including a source term for heat of reaction for foaming and curing reactions

$$\rho C_{pf} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \rho C_{pf} \mathbf{v} \bullet \nabla T = \nabla \bullet (k \nabla T) + \rho \varphi_e \Delta H_{rxn} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t}$$

Extent of reaction equation for polymerization: condensation chemistry

$$\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} = \left( \frac{1}{(1+wa)^\beta} \right) \left( k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) \right) (b + \xi^m) (1 - \xi)^n$$

Molar concentration equations for water and carbon dioxide

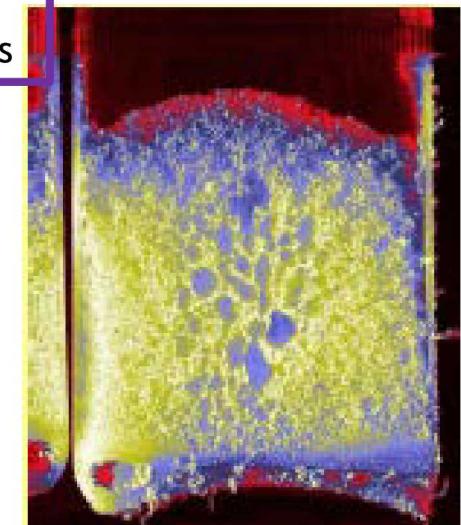
$$\frac{dC_{H_2O}}{dt} = -k_{H_2O} C_{H_2O}^n$$

$$C_{H_2O} = \frac{\rho_{foam} x_{H_2O}}{M_{H_2O}}$$

$$\frac{dC_{CO_2}}{dt} = +k_{H_2O} C_{H_2O}^n$$

$$C_{CO_2} = \frac{\rho_{foam} x_{CO_2}}{M_{CO_2}}$$

$$k_{H_2O} = A_{H_2O} \exp(-E_{H_2O} / RT)$$



NMR imaging shows coarse microstructure (Altobelli, 2006)

# Complex Material Models Vary with Cure, Temperature, and Gas Fraction



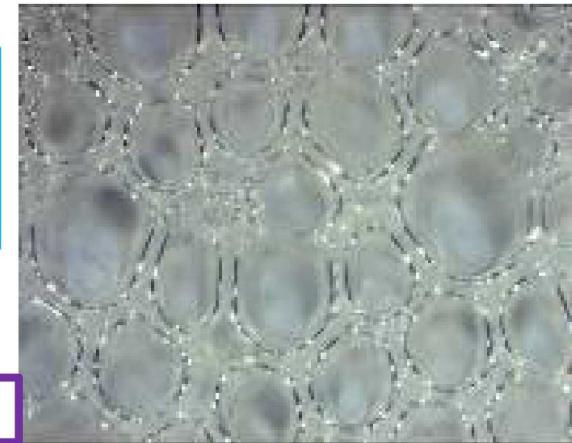
Foaming reaction predicts moles of gas from which we can calculate density

$$\rho_{\text{gas}} = \frac{PM_{\text{CO}_2}}{RT}$$

$$v = \frac{V_{\text{gas}}}{V_{\text{liq}}} = \frac{M_{\text{CO}_2} C_{\text{CO}_2}}{\rho_{\text{gas}}} \quad \phi_v = \frac{v}{1+v}$$

$$\rho_{\text{foam}} = \rho_{\text{gas}} \phi_v + \rho_{\text{liq}} (1 - \phi_v)$$

Slight compressibility built into this model via the ideal gas law for gas density



Thermal properties depend on gas volume fraction and polymer properties

$$k = \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_e} \right) k_e + \left( 1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_e} \right) k_v$$

$$C_{\text{pf}} = C_{\text{pl}} \phi_l + C_{\text{pv}} \phi_v + C_{\text{pe}} \phi_e$$

Foam is a collection of bubbles in curing polymer

Shear and bulk viscosity depends on gas volume fraction, temperature and degree of cure

$$\mu = \mu_0 \exp\left(\frac{\phi_v}{1-\phi_v}\right) \quad \mu_0 = \mu_0^0 \exp\left(\frac{E_\mu}{RT}\right) \left(\frac{\xi_c^p - \xi^p}{\xi_c^p}\right)^{-q}$$
$$\lambda = \frac{4}{3} \mu_0 \frac{(\phi_v - 1)}{\phi_v}$$

M. Mooney, *J. Colloid Sci.*, **6**, 162-170 (1951).

- Experiments to determine foaming and curing kinetics as well as parameters for model
- Equations solved with the finite element method using a level set to determine the location of the free surface (Rao et al., IJNMF, 2012)

Gibson, L. J.; M. F. Ashby. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 1990

# Extent of Reaction for Polymerization

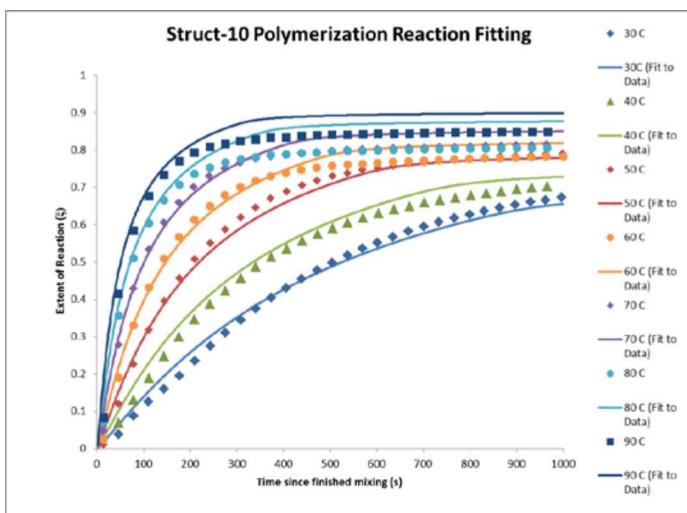


- Fit the rate and the extent of reaction to IR data to a standard equation form
- Fit  $T_g$  to both rheology and DSC data:  $T_g$  changes as cure progresses making this complex

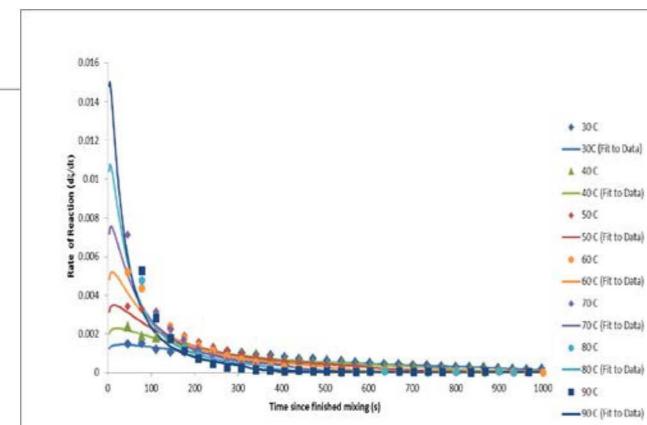
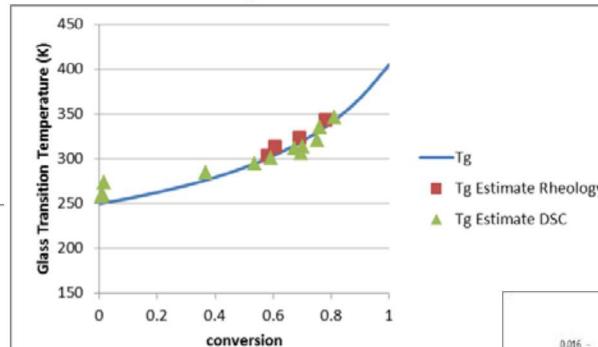
$$\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} = \left( \frac{1}{(1+wa)^\beta} \right) \left( k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) \right) (b + \xi^m) (1 - \xi)^n$$

$$\log_{10} a = \frac{-C_1(T - T_g)}{C_2 + T - T_g}$$

$$T_g = \frac{T_{g0}(1 - \xi) + A\xi T_{g\infty}}{(1 - \xi + A\xi)}$$



- New form captures arrest of reaction below the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$  evolves with extent of reaction)

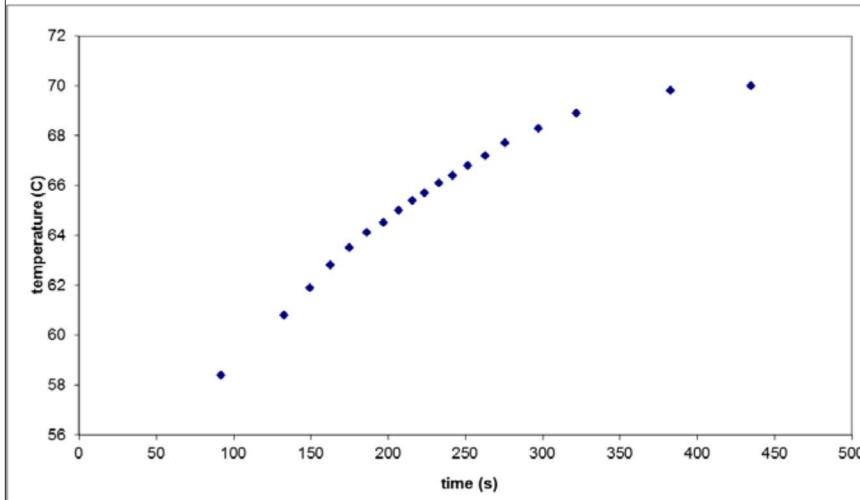
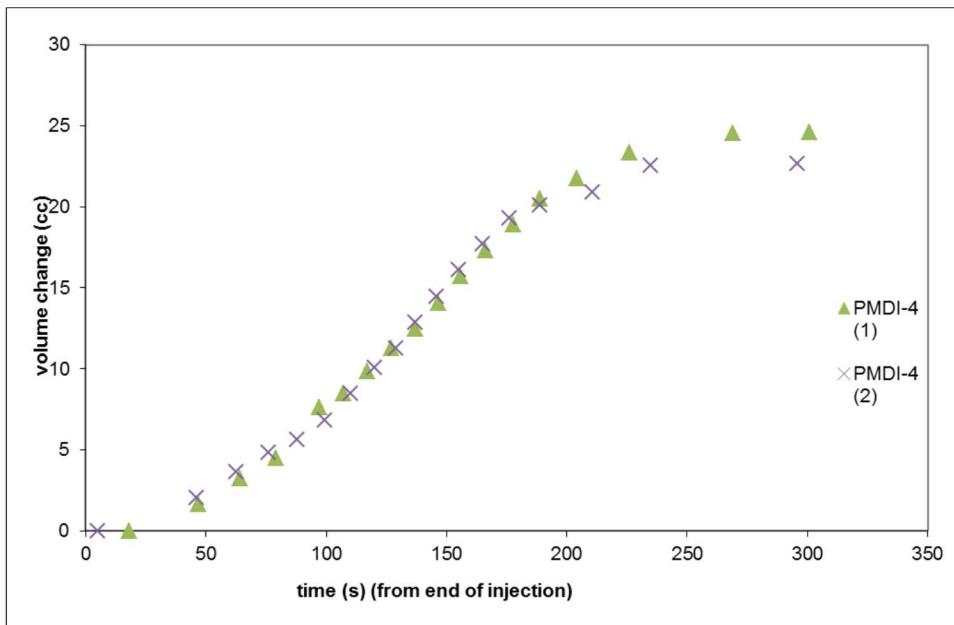
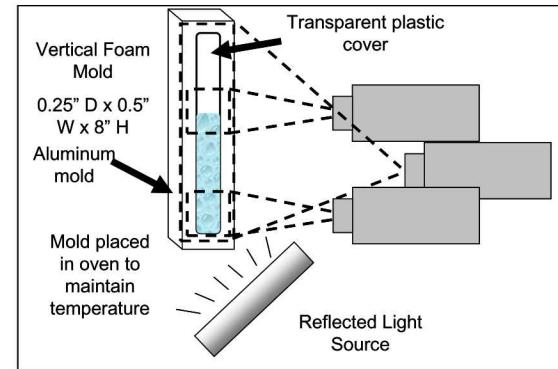


Rate and extent of reaction fit to data, where parameters of the model, including  $T_g$  are optimized for lower temperatures expected in the process. The apparent time-to-gel from rheology is correlated with extent to give a  $T_g$  with conversion. Similar analysis can be done with DSC and results are consistent.

# Measure Height Change in Simple Geometry to Quantify Foaming Reaction



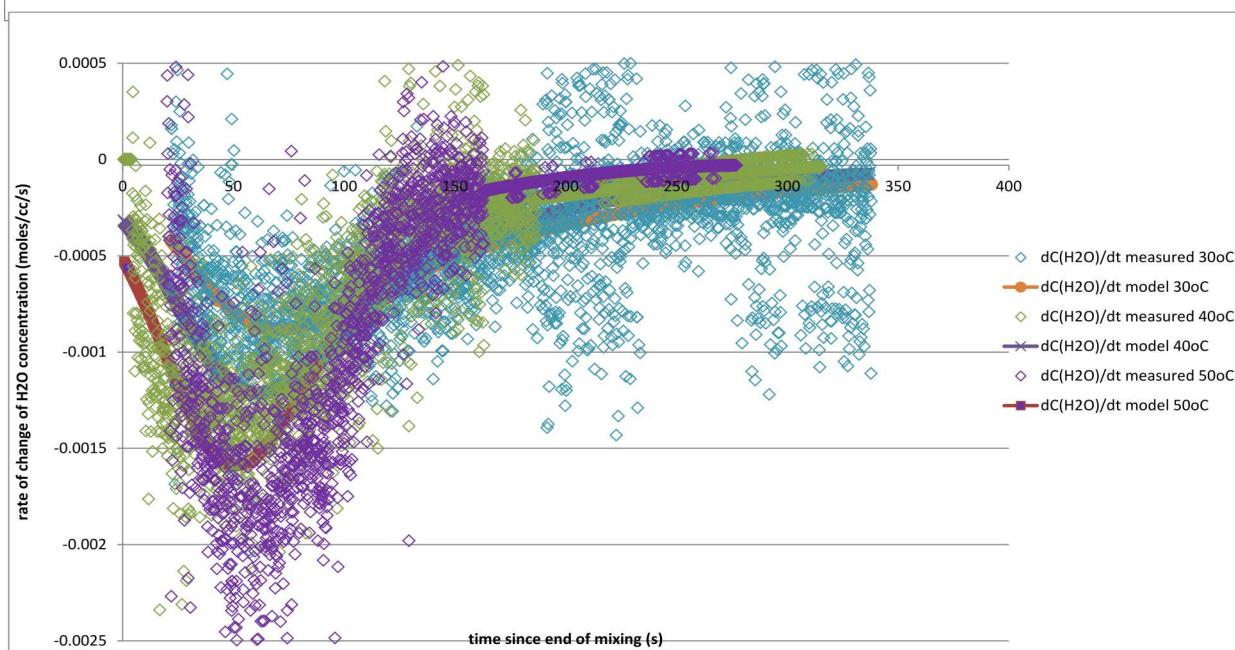
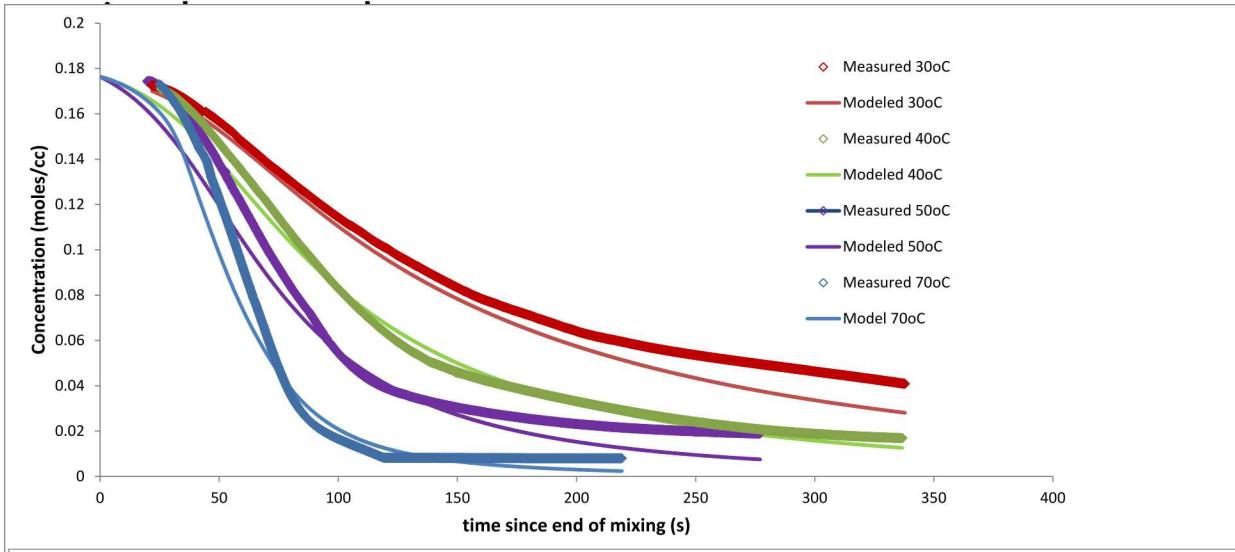
- Data have most uncertainty at early times because reaction is occurring during mixing and injections, but bubbles are being destroyed in these processes, too.
- We can only measure height change after these processes.
- $\text{CO}_2$  loss from bubble breakage at top surface? BUT bottom line: engineering model to predict volume change
- The foam cannot be preheated, so during the foam rise the temperature is not steady.



# Kinetics of CO<sub>2</sub> Generation



- Fit the concentration of water and its rate of disappearance



$$\frac{dC_{H_2O}}{dt} = -Nk_{H_2O} C_{H_2O}^n$$

$$\frac{dC_{CO_2}}{dt} = +Nk_{H_2O} C_{H_2O}^n$$

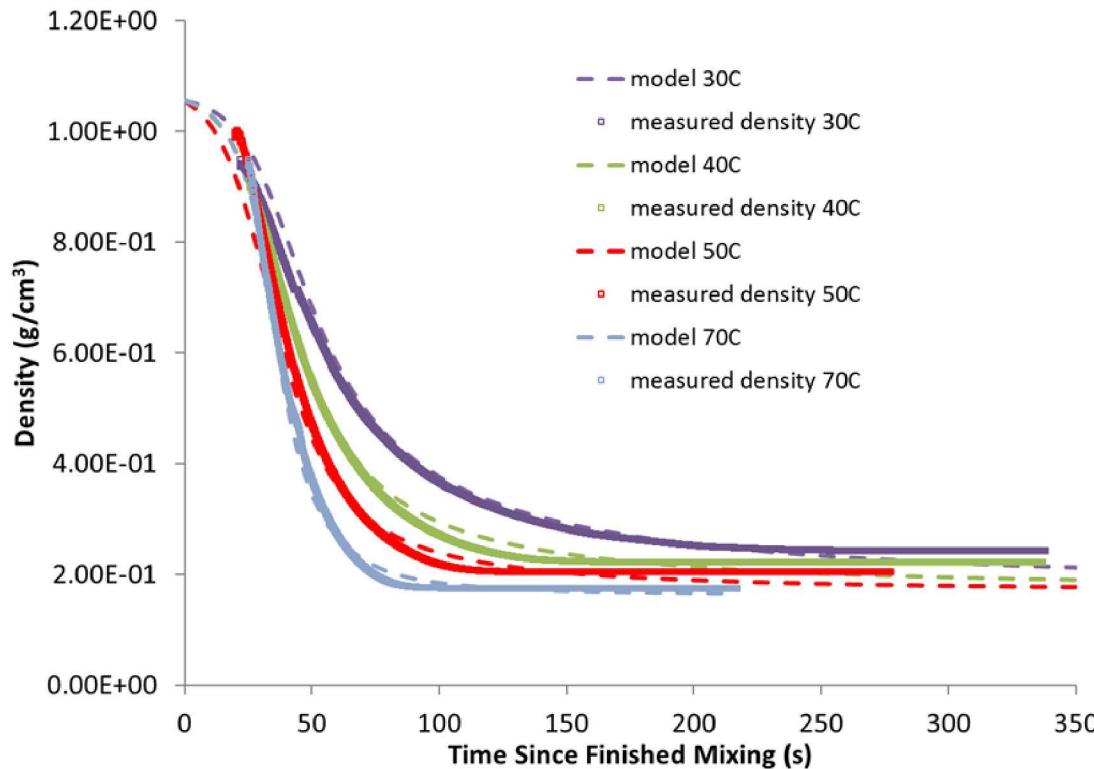
$$N = 0.5 \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{t - t_{nucleation}}{t_{scale}} \right) \right\}$$

- Apparent water concentration shows a change in slope
- Model must capture this
- Physically it relates to the solubility of the carbon dioxide in the polymer
- Must super saturate before nucleation and growth

# Kinetics of CO<sub>2</sub> Generation



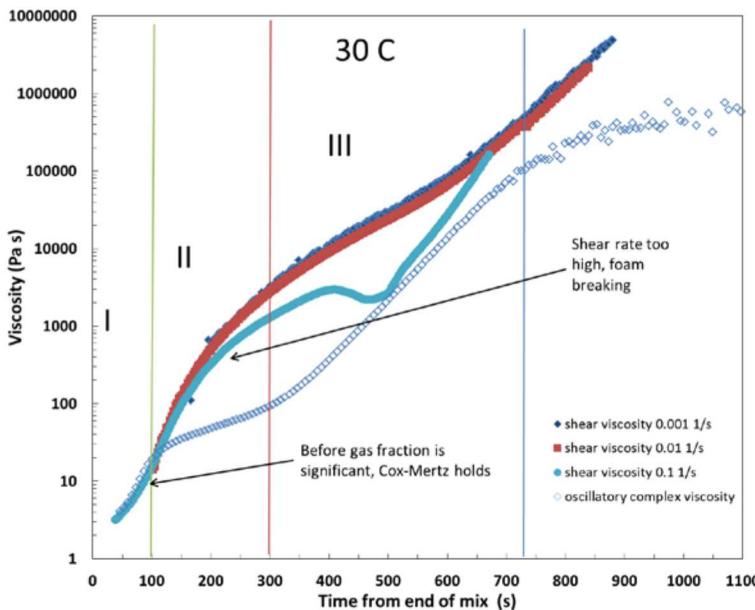
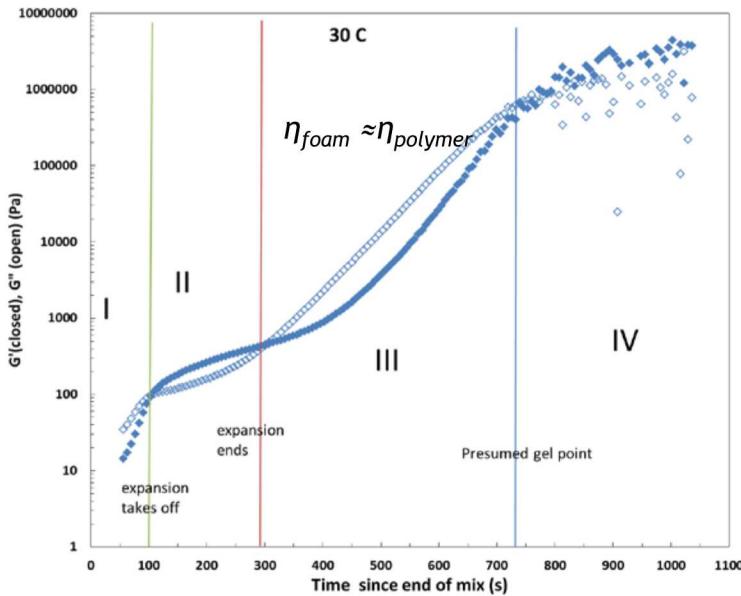
Predictions of density using a nucleation time of 40s and a time scale of 20s compared to measured density with time in the channel for various temperatures.



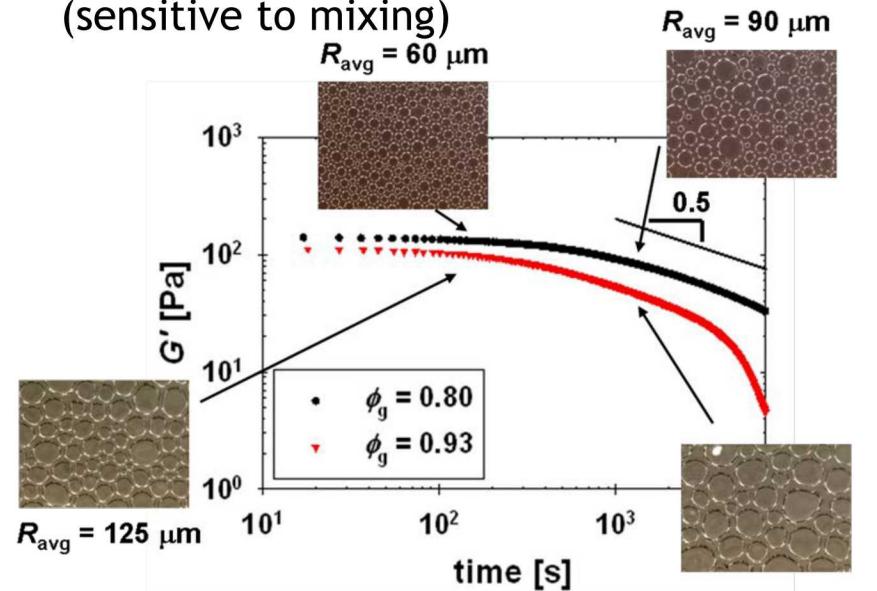
$$\frac{dC_{H_2O}}{dt} = -Nk_{H_2O} C_{H_2O}^n$$
$$\frac{dC_{CO_2}}{dt} = +Nk_{H_2O} C_{H_2O}^n$$

- Experiments give us average density
- Hard to determine evolving density gradients
- Measure density gradients from post-test experiments

# Viscosity of Foam is Complex



- Foam rheology evolves as gas fraction and polymerization increase
- $\eta_{foam} = \eta_{polymer} \eta_\phi$
- After Bouayad et al. Int J. Mater Form (2009), plot foam rheology as function of distinct phenomenological characteristic times
- Test foam viscosity with steady shear at low shear rates
- Be aware of slip
- Effect of bubble size & coarsening (sensitive to mixing)



# Model Foam Viscosity as $f(\xi, \phi)$

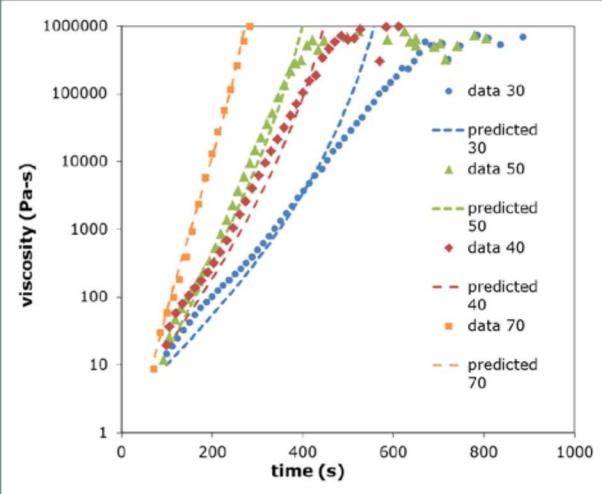


## Start with continuous phase viscosity only

- IR kinetics + dry formulation rheology (two sets of experiments) give an approximation of the curing continuous phase rheology
- Relate time of gel point to  $\xi$  to find  $\xi_c$ .

$$\mu_{polymer} = \mu_0^0 \left( \frac{\xi_c - \xi}{\xi_c} \right)^6 \quad \xi_c = 0.86$$

$$\mu_0^0 = 600 e^{-1549/RT} \text{ Pa-s}$$

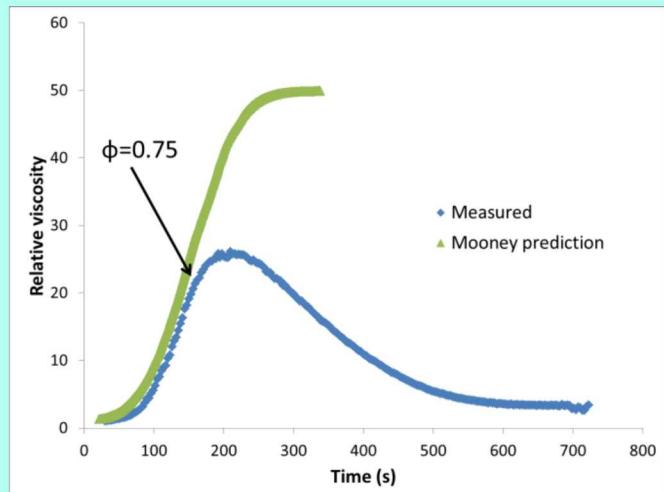


## Relate foam viscosity to continuous phase viscosity

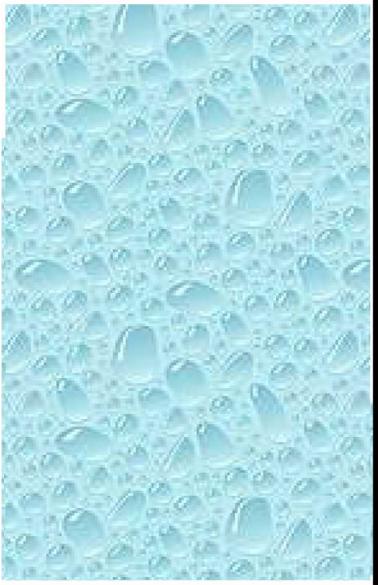
- Foam rise + wet formulation rheology (two sets of experiments) give an approximation of the rheology as a function of gas fraction
- Mooney prediction (for  $\phi_{gas} < 0.5$ )

$$\mu_\phi = \mu_{polymer} \exp \left( \frac{\phi_g}{1 - \phi_g} \right)$$

- For  $\phi_{gas} > 0.75$  estimate  $\mu_{foam} = \mu_{cure} * f(\xi)$



# Coupled Finite Element Method/Level Set to Solve Foam Dynamics



- Given fluid velocity field,  $u(x,y,z)$ , evolution on a fixed mesh is according to:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + u \cdot \nabla \phi = 0$$

- Purely hyperbolic equation ... fluid particles on  $\phi(x,y,z) = 0$  should stay on this contour indefinitely
  - Does not preserve  $\phi(x,y,z)$  as a distance function
  - Introduces renormalization step.

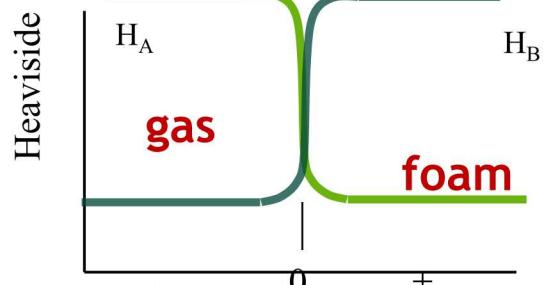
- Equations of motion, kinetics and energy balance averaged based on level set,  $\phi$

$$H_A \rho_A \frac{Du}{Dt} + H_B \rho_B \frac{Du}{Dt} = -\nabla P + H_A \nabla \cdot (\mu_A \dot{\gamma}) + H_B \nabla \cdot (\mu_B \dot{\gamma}) + (H_A \rho_A + H_B \rho_B) g + I.T.,$$

$$H_A \frac{D\rho_A}{Dt} + H_B \frac{D\rho_B}{Dt} + (H_A \rho_A + H_B \rho_B) \nabla \cdot u = 0$$

$$H_A + H_B = 1$$

Rao et al, IJNMF, 2012



# Simulations & Experiments

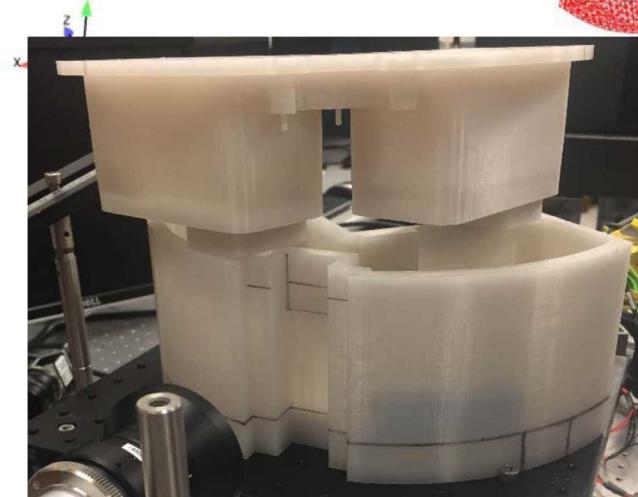
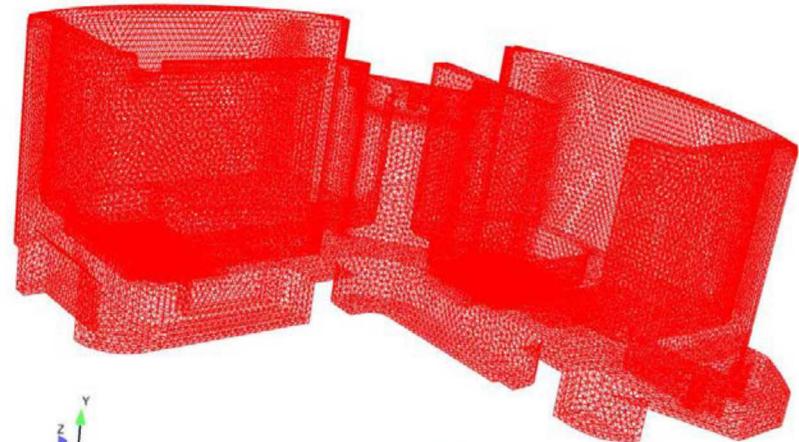
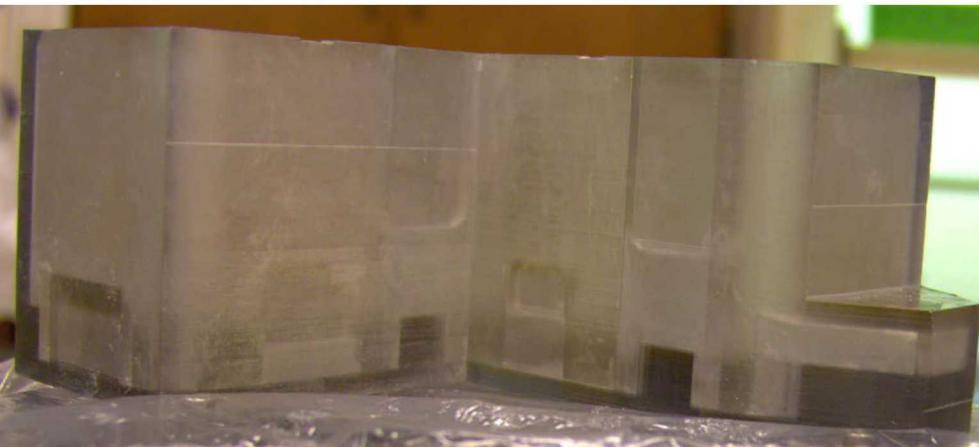


## Simulations

- Flat configuration
- 5° tilt
- 20° tilt
- 20° tilt toward the shelf feature
- Study of vent locations

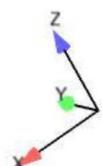
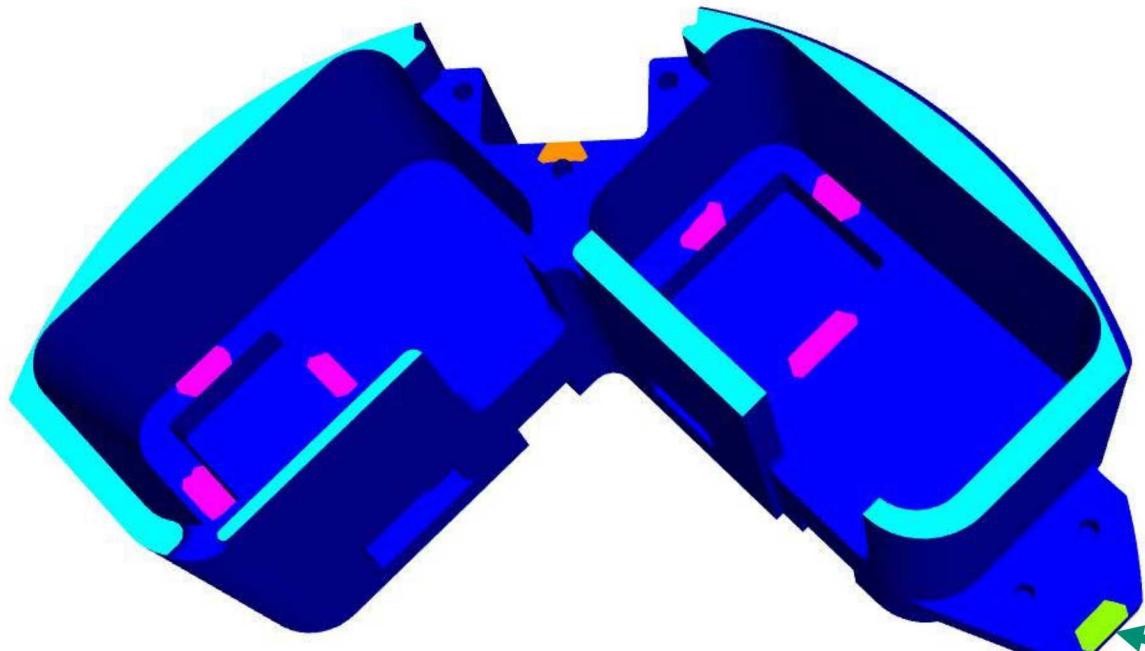
## Experiments

- Flow visualization experiments
- Additive manufacture mold



Goal: Use foaming and filling modeling and flow visualization experiments to develop confidence in foam model

# These Vent Locations Seem Representative of a Foaming Process



Simulation tests the idea of adding a vent on the shelf feature

# Initial Conditions for Model: Experiments Show Shelf Starts Well-Filled



Flow visualization study using opaque mold to determine filling of shelf supports use of flat initial condition



Flow visualization verifies initial condition:

- Foam levels well and flows to fill shelf area
- Simulation initial condition of a flat interface seems fairly accurate

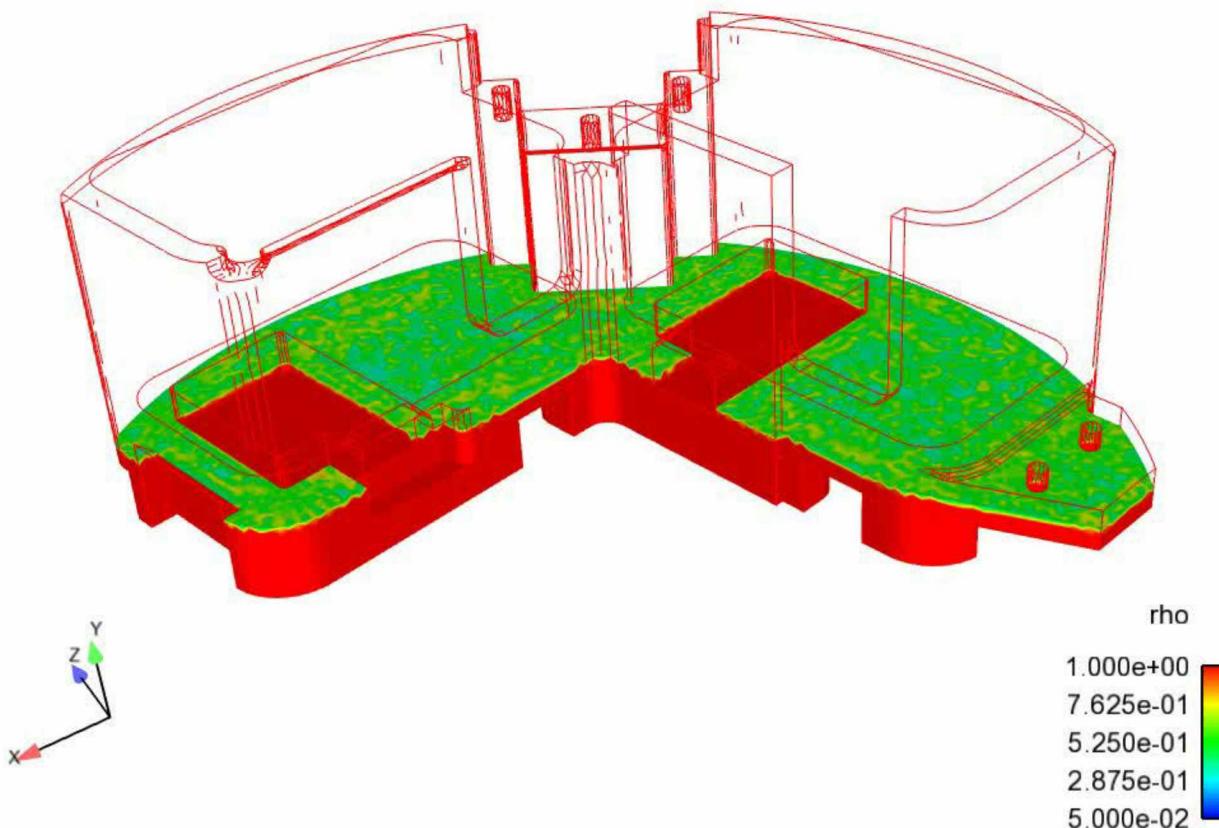
Simulation IC with no tilt

- Shelf is half-filled at start of the simulation

# Foam Filling and Curing for Flat Configuration



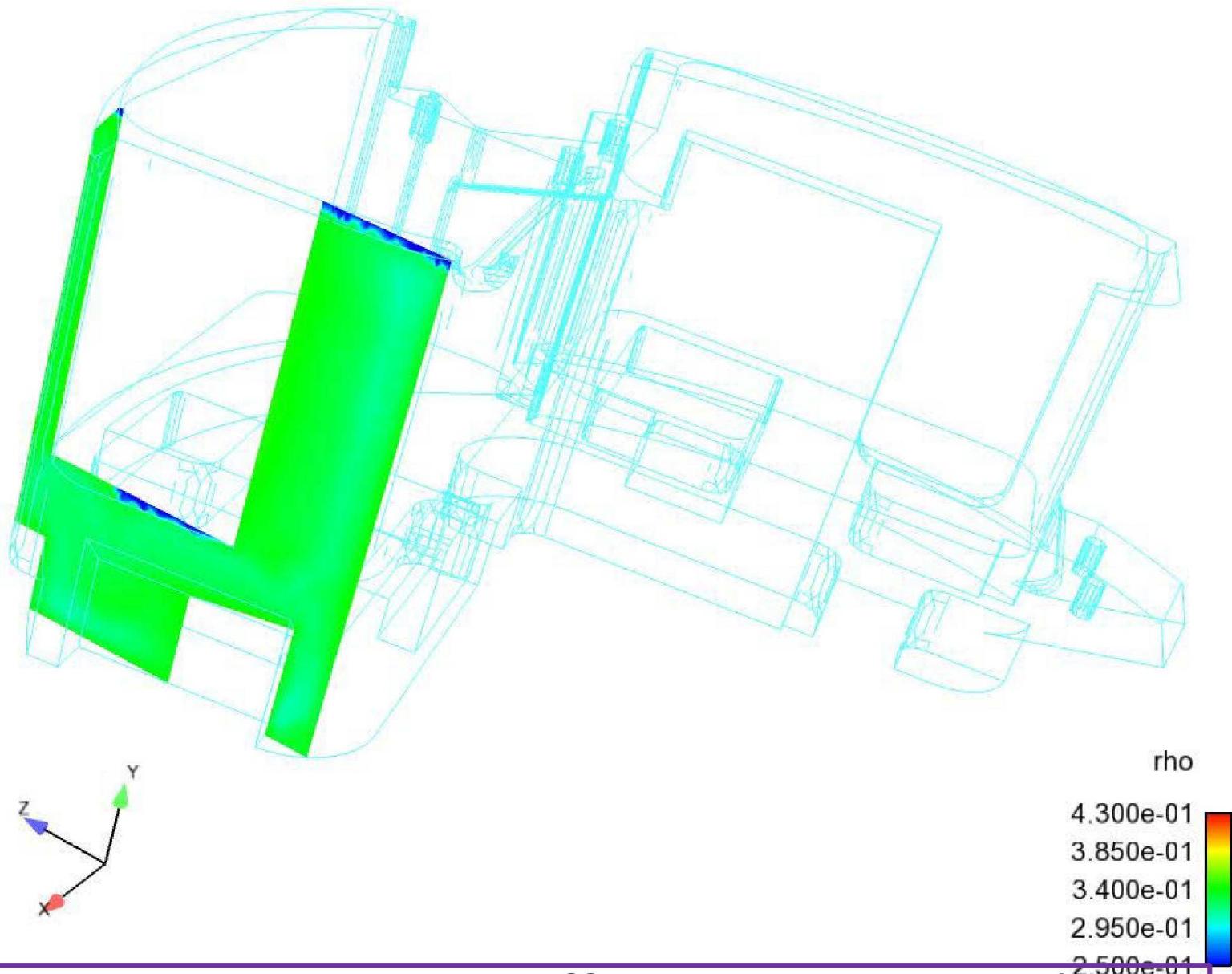
Time = 5.00



Base Case:

- Look at issues for filling the mold when it is flat on the table
- Model shows density evolution and filling profile over time

time=82.7s  
voids = 3.6%



Density Variations at Different Locations: Flat  
Mold with Shelf Vent

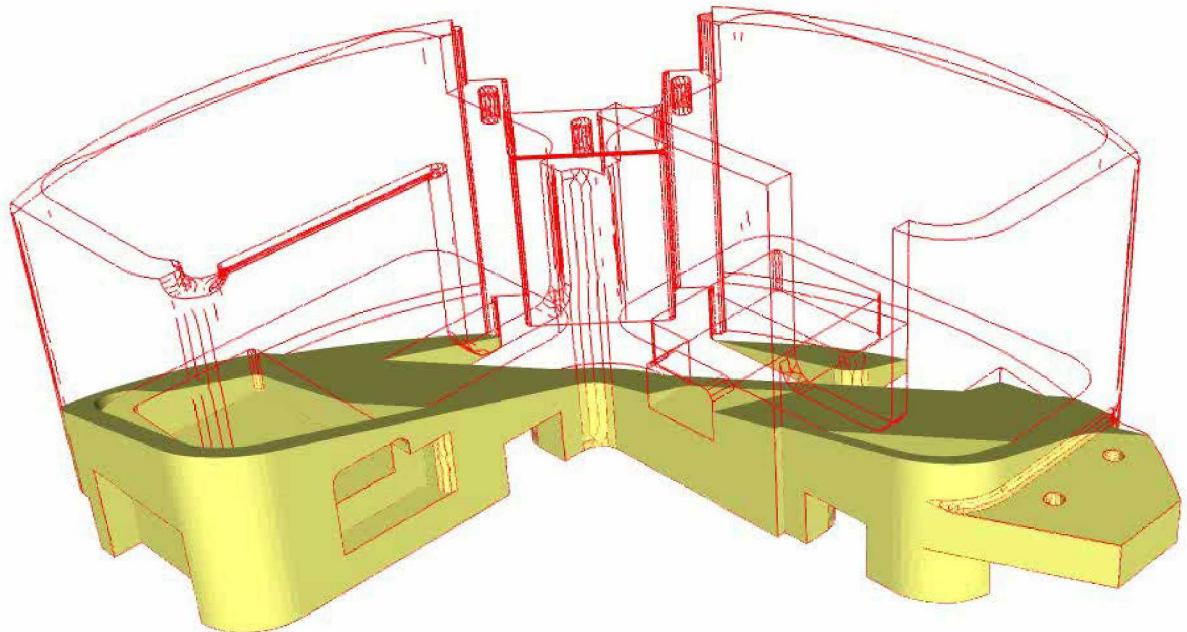
# Dynamics of Filling with 20° Tilt Angle



Time = 5.000000

Foam Using a 20° Tilt Angle forward similar to legacy process

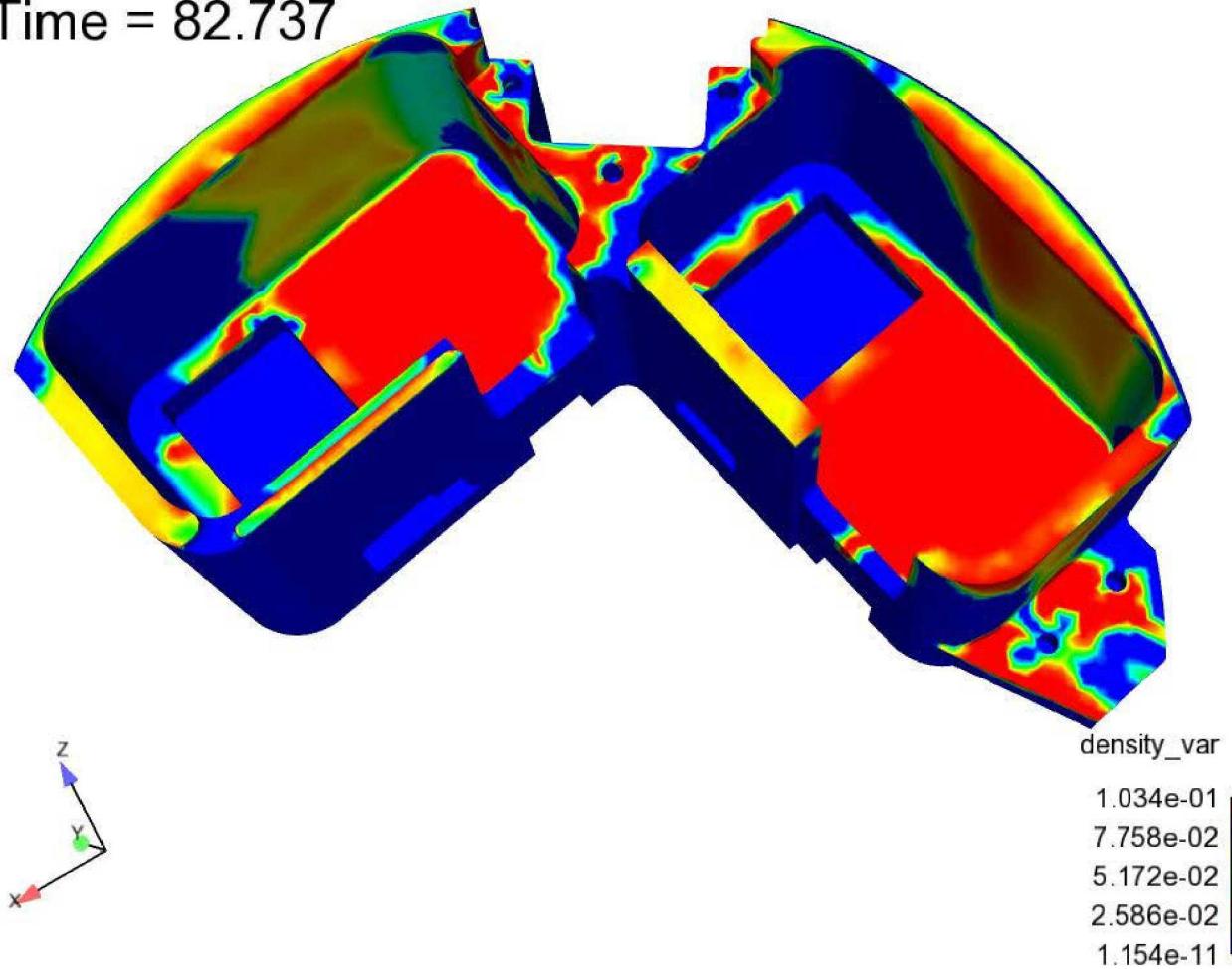
- Initial condition has a tilt forward for foam position and a flat interface
- Gravity vector is also tilted



# Plot of Density Variation From Nominal



Time = 82.737



Density Variation:  
 $(\rho_{\text{local}} - \rho_{\text{nominal}})^2$

$$\int (\rho - \rho_{\text{nom}})^2 dV$$

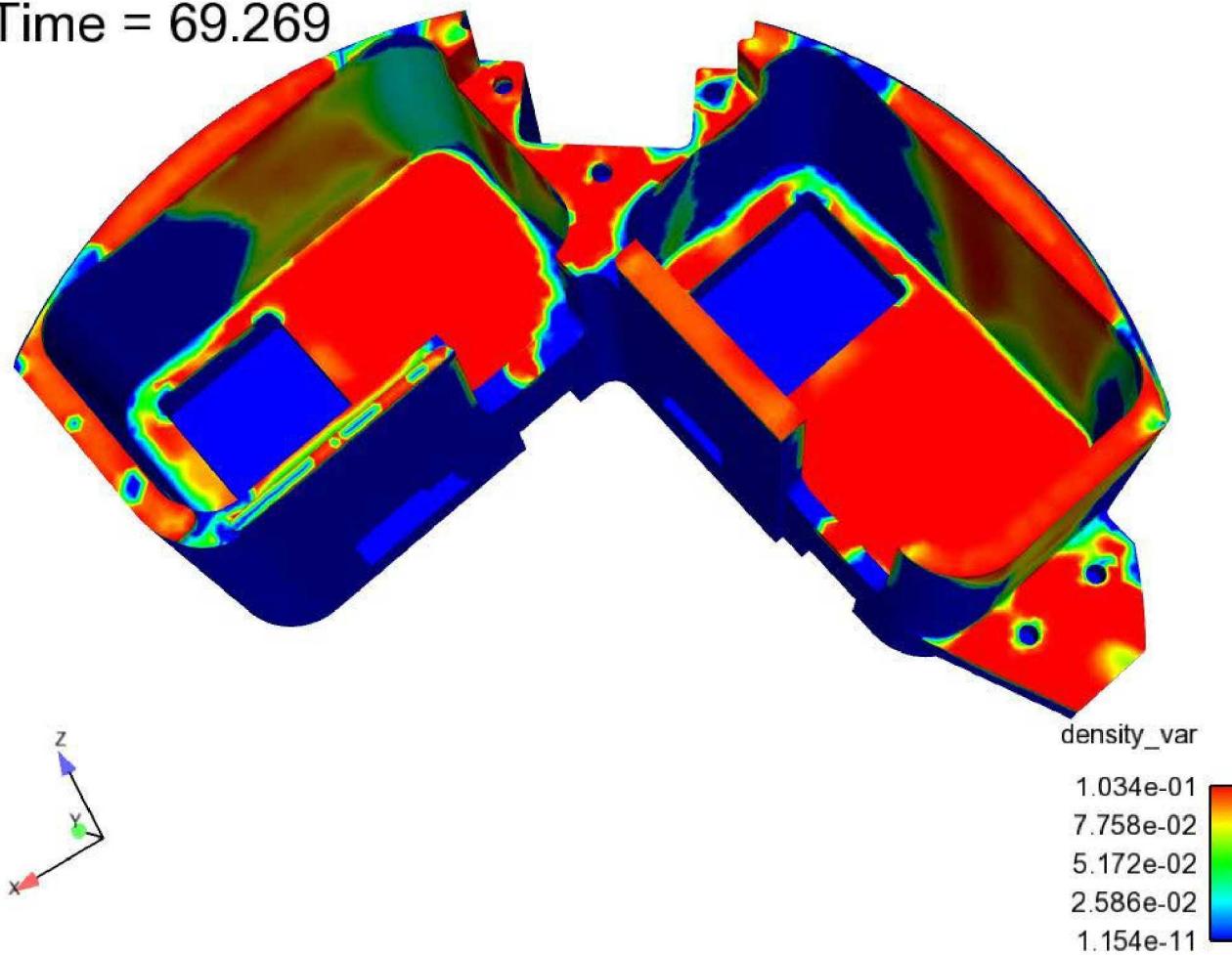
$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{\text{nominal}} &= 240\text{g}/745\text{ml} \\ &= 0.322\text{g/ml}\end{aligned}$$

time=82.7s  
voids = 3.6%  
Int. var. = 2.81

# Plot of Density Variation From Nominal



Time = 69.269



FLAT FILL HOT

Density Variation:  
 $(\rho_{\text{local}} - \rho_{\text{nominal}})^2$

$$\int (\rho - \rho_{\text{nom}})^2 dV$$

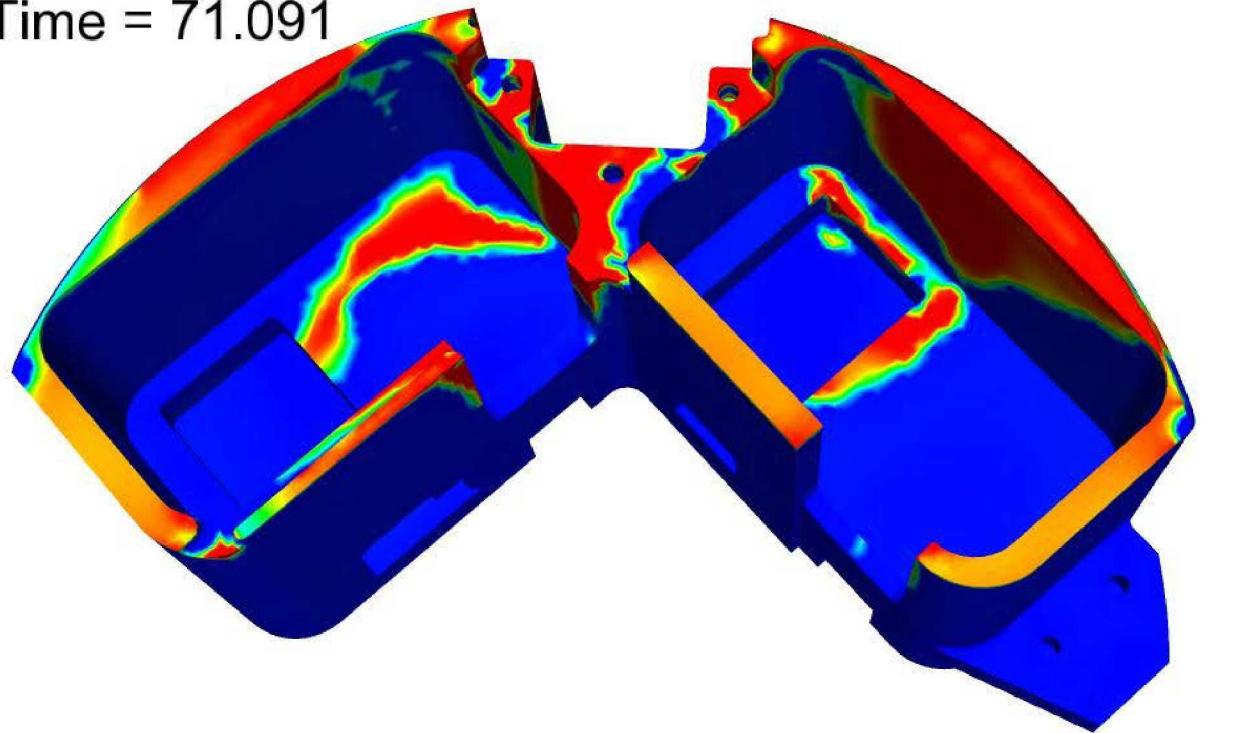
$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{\text{nominal}} &= 240\text{g}/745\text{ml} \\ &= 0.322\text{g/ml}\end{aligned}$$

time=69.3s  
voids = 4.5%  
Int. var. =  
3.56

# Plot of Density Variation From Nominal



Time = 71.091



TILT 20 DEGREES FILL

Density Variation:  
 $(\rho_{\text{local}} - \rho_{\text{nominal}})^2$

$$\int (\rho - \rho_{\text{nom}})^2 dV$$

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{\text{nominal}} &= 240\text{g}/745\text{ml} \\ &= 0.322\text{g/ml}\end{aligned}$$

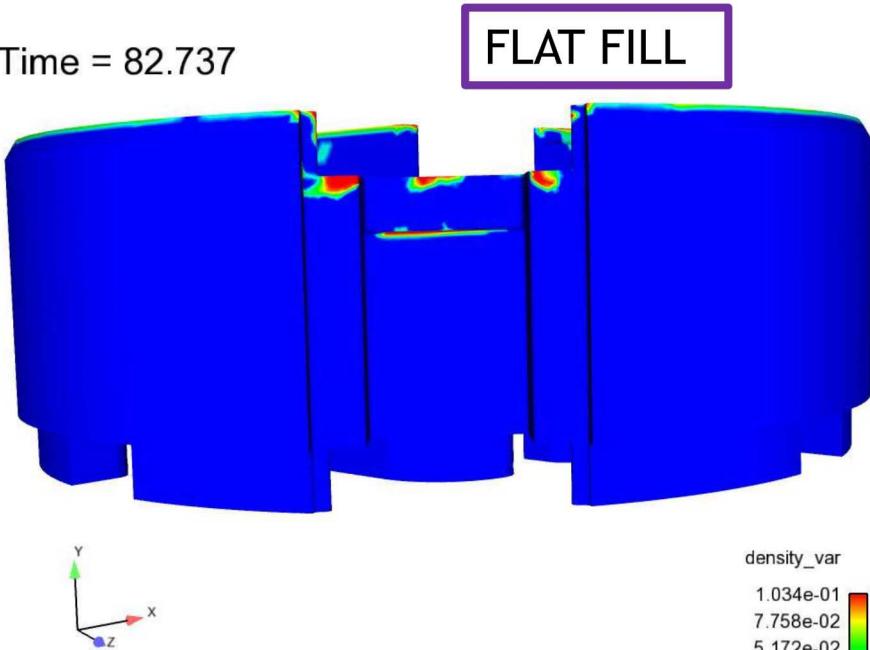
time=71.1s  
voids = 2.9%  
int. var. = 2.87



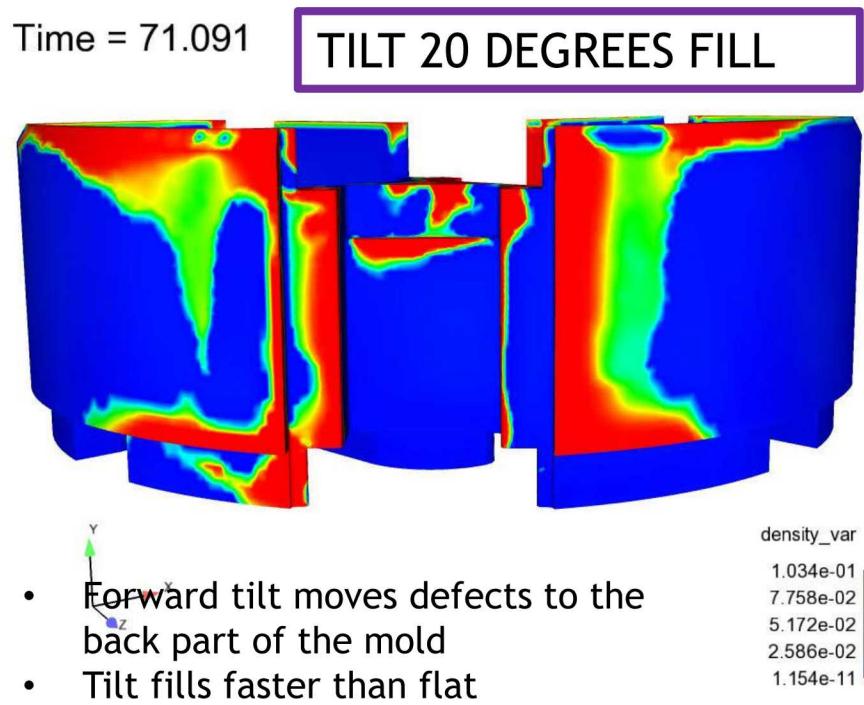
# Density Variations: Back View



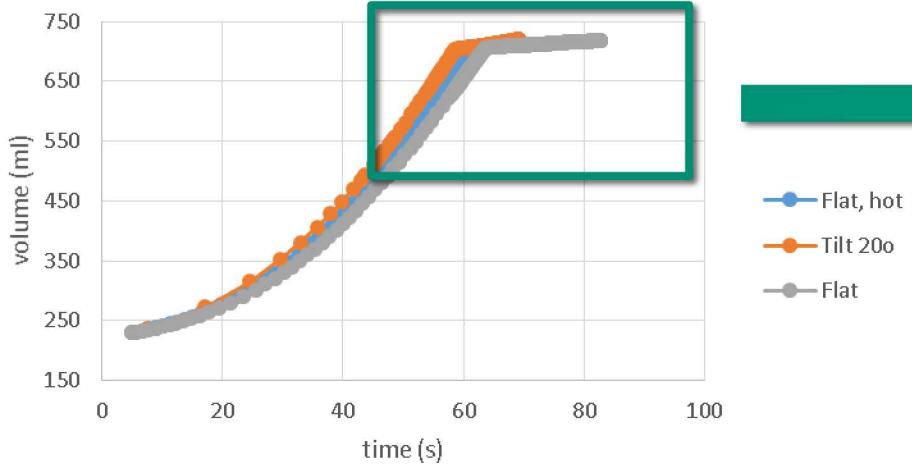
Time = 82.737



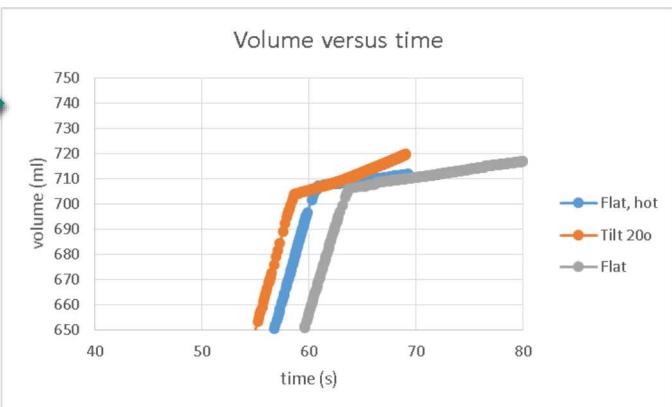
Time = 71.091



Volume versus time

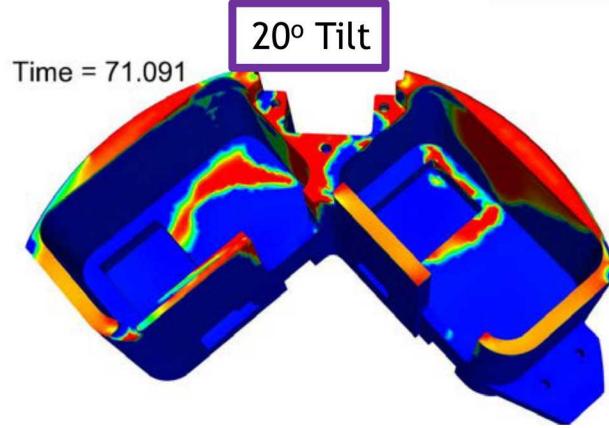
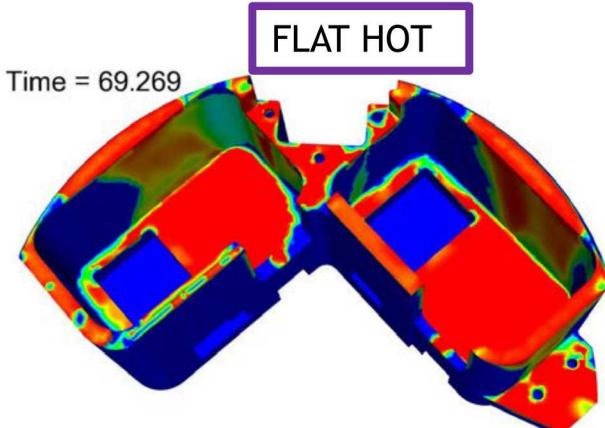
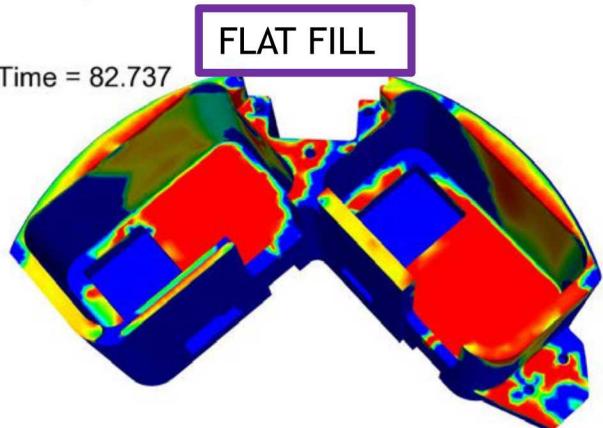


Volume versus time



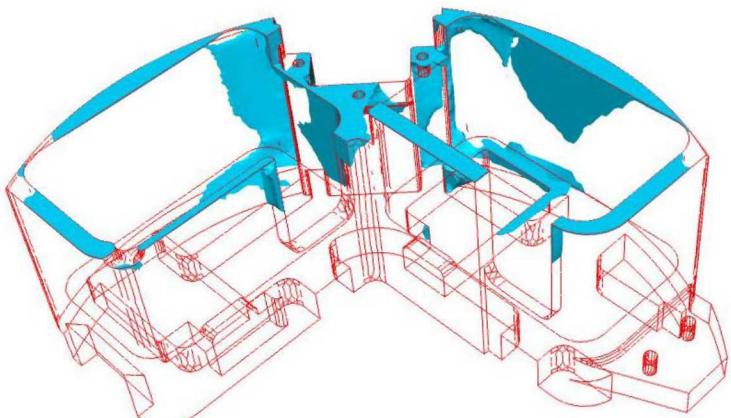
# Computational Models of Foam

27



Density variations for three cases of interest

Time = 75.2433



Foam filling for 20° tilt: the angled fill reduces voids on the new shelf

Case	Flat	Flat Hot	20° Tilt
Max. Time (s)	83s	70s	71s
Voids	3.6%	4.4%	2.9%
Density variation	2.8	2.9	3.6

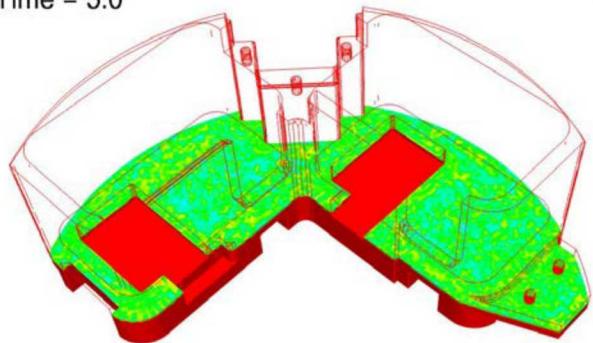
All cases fill well!

- Model over-predicts voids, but predictions are small
- Density variation greater with tilt

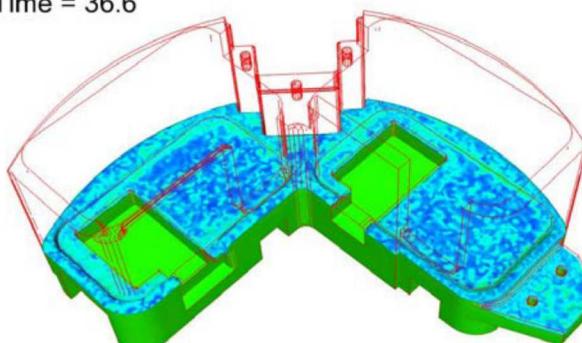
# Computational Models of Foam



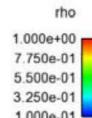
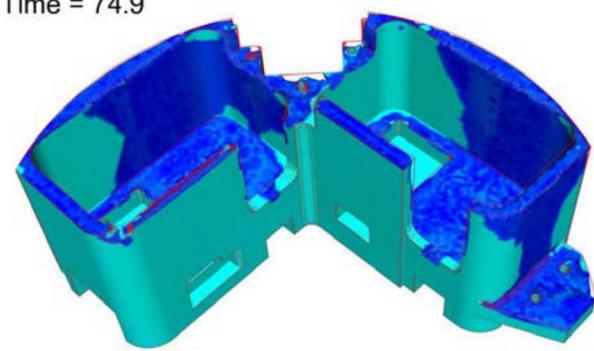
Time = 5.0



Time = 36.6

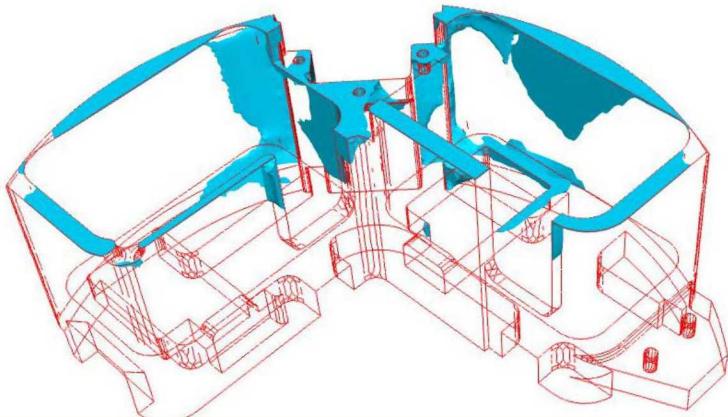


Time = 74.9



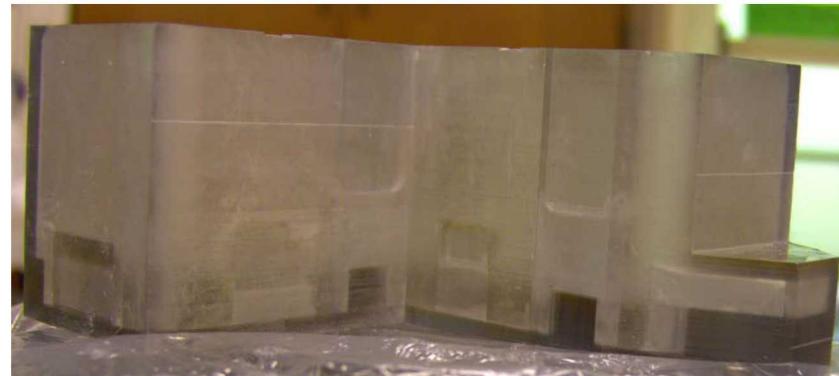
Evolution of density for flat mold with vent on the shelf feature

Time = 75.2433

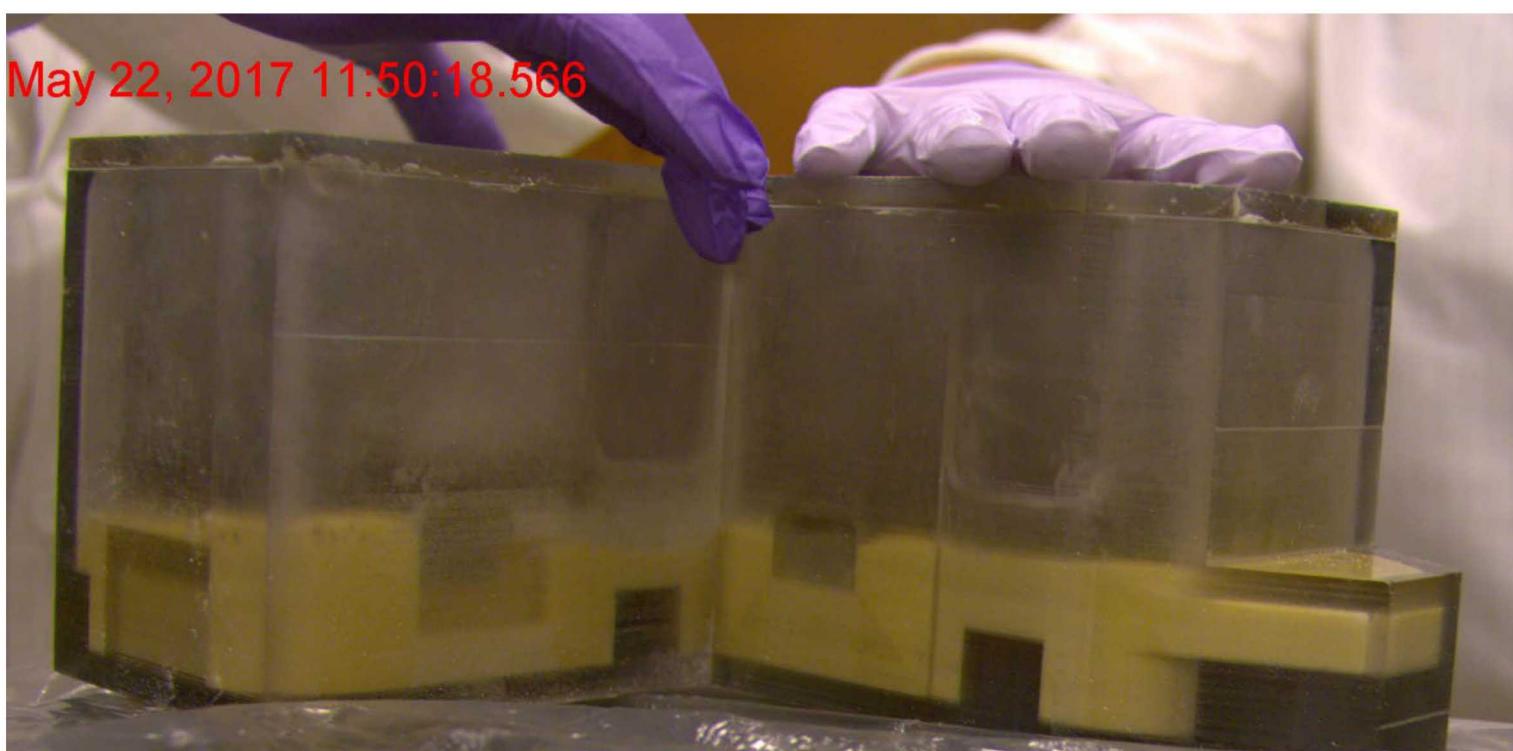


Flow visualization study supports computational conclusions

Foam filling for 20° tilt: the angled fill reduces voids on the new shelf



# Validation Experiment: 5 Degree Tilt: Foam Fills Shelf and Levels Quickly



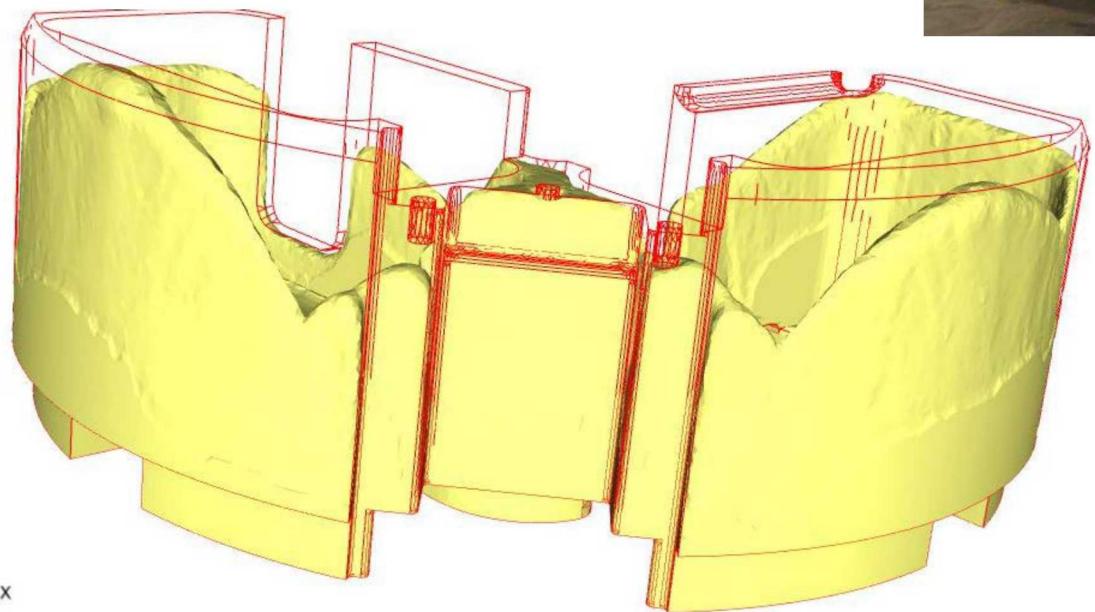
- New experiment using clear mold
- Room temperature mix of foam, which heats up to 24°C
- Mold stays roughly 22°C
- 5 degree tilt towards the front of the mold

# Experimental Conditions: Back of Mold



Run model with similar initial conditions:

- 240g material
- 4 degree tilt
- Room temperature mold and foam

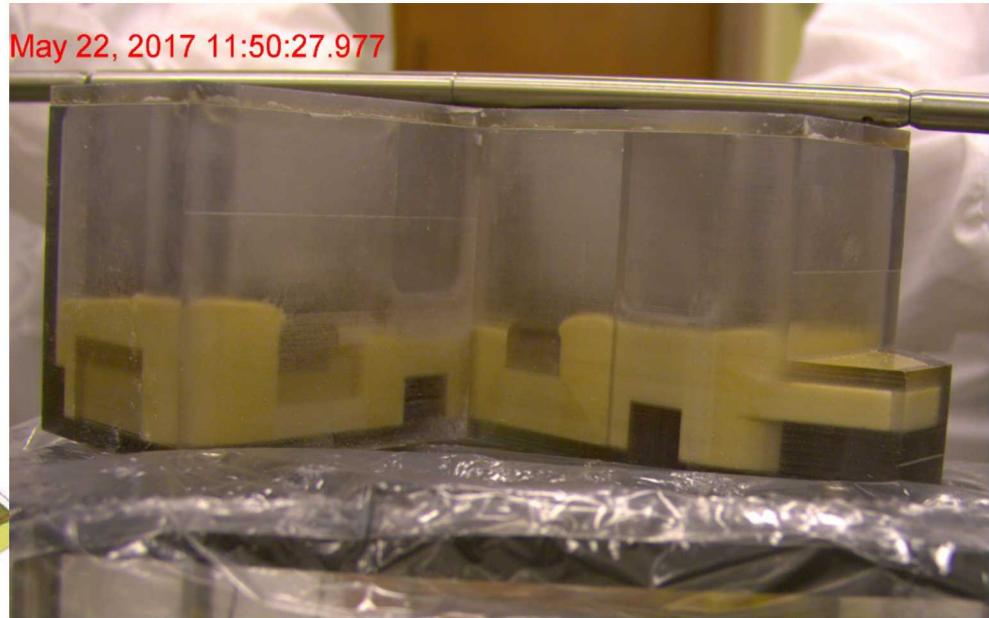
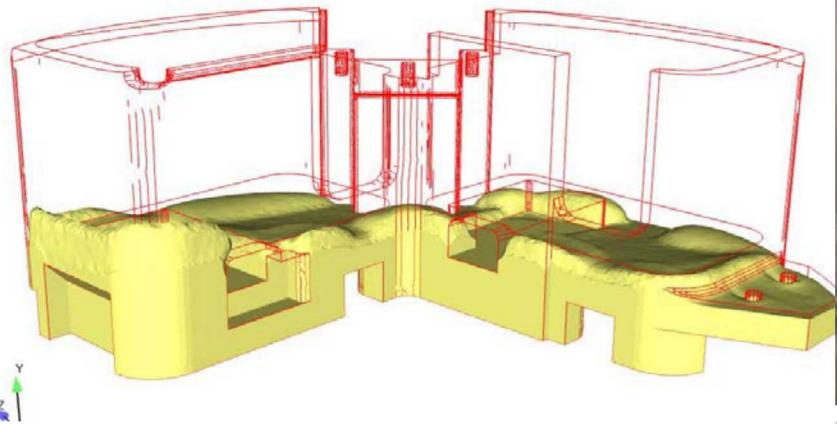


Shape of the model interface matches well with shape of experiment thought model fills back feature faster

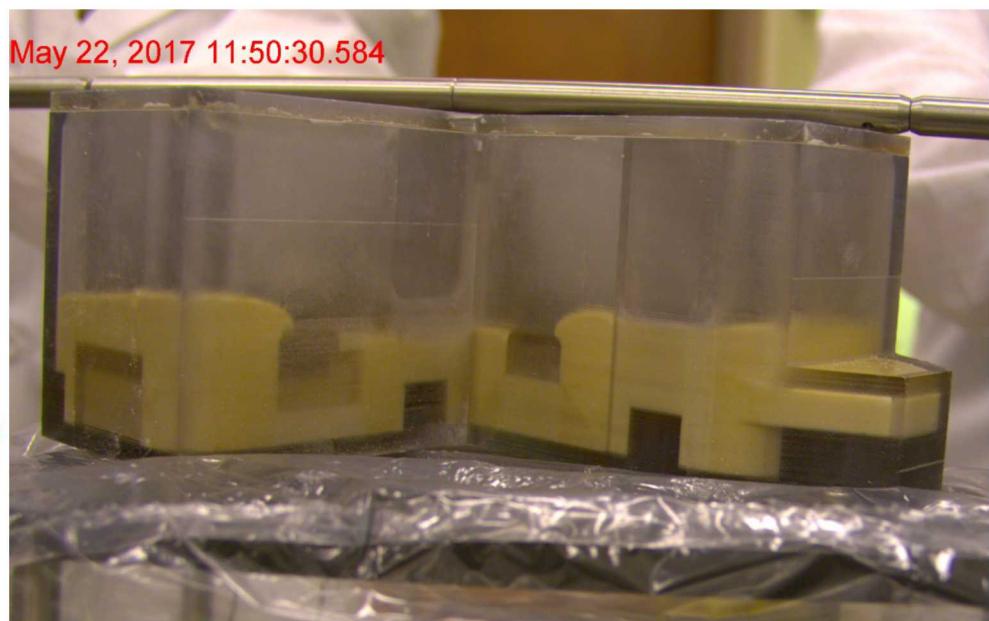
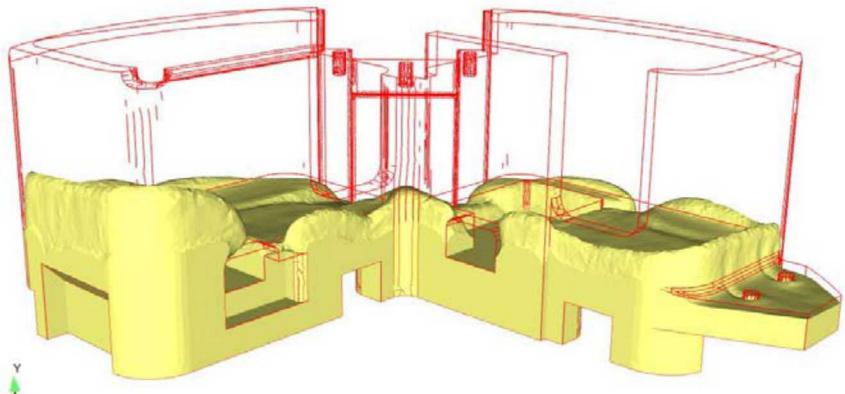
# Compare Mold Front: Early Times



Time = 34.184



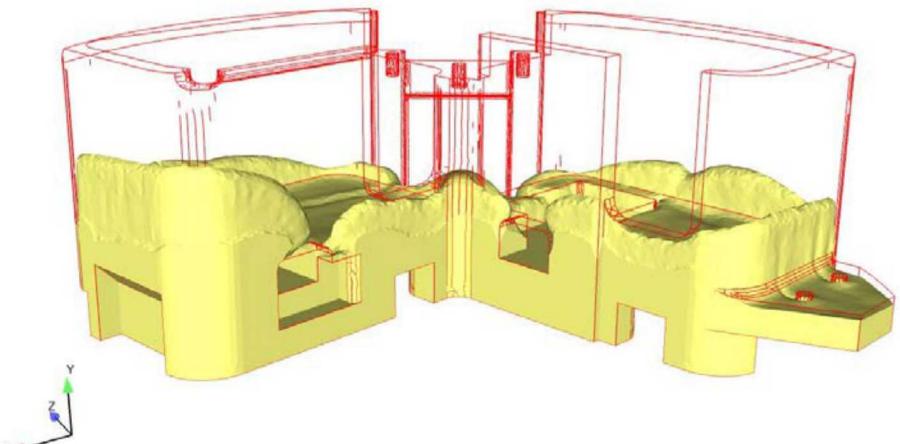
Time = 44.617



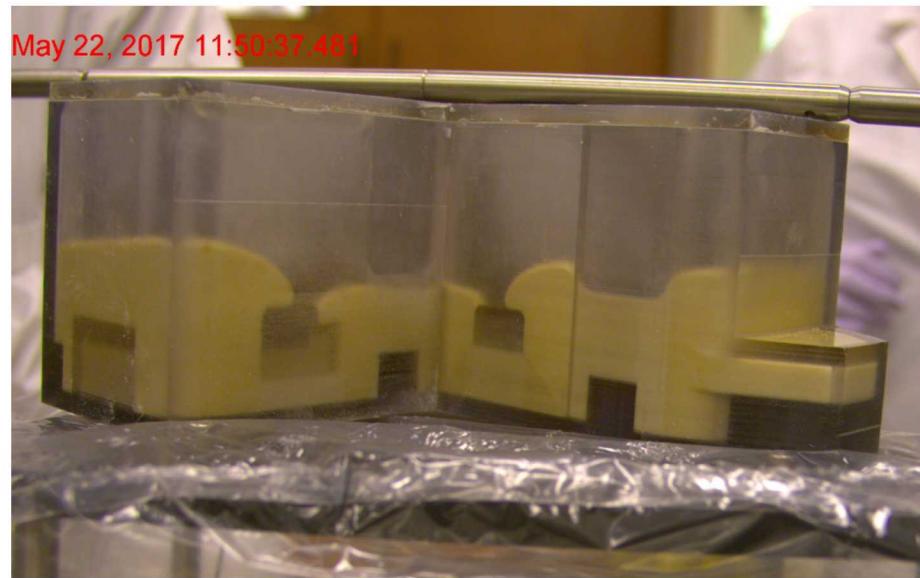
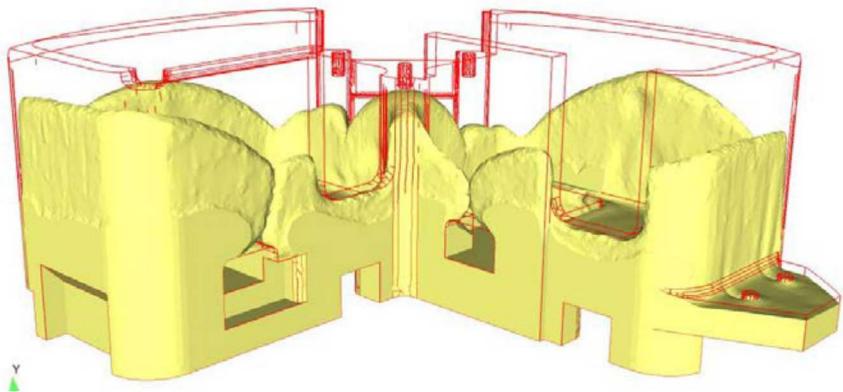
# Compare Mold Front: Moderate Time



Time = 49.913



Time = 62.538



May 22, 2017 11:50:37.481

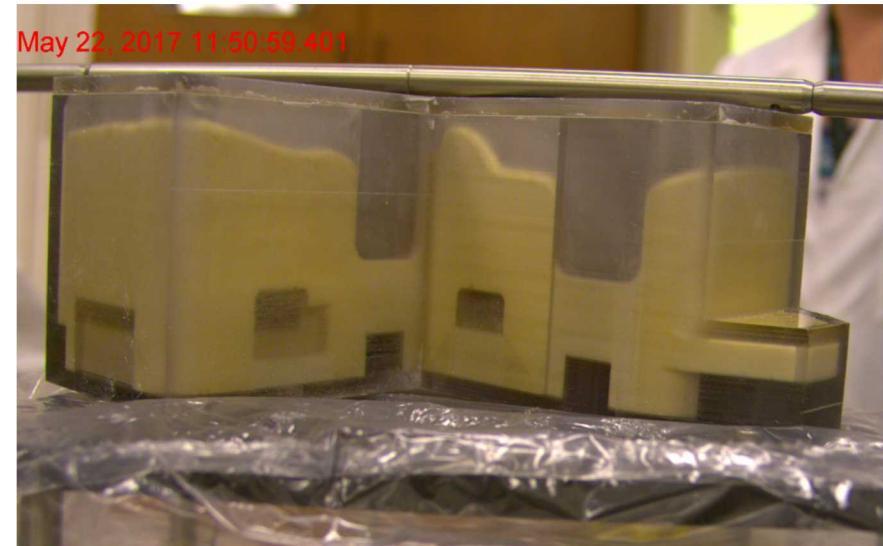
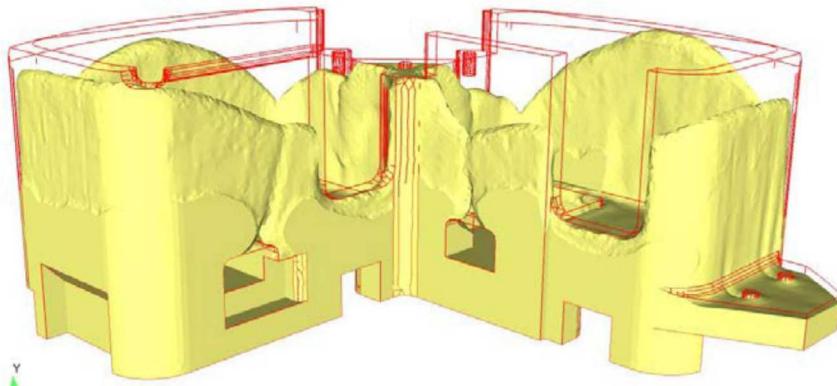


May 22, 2017 11:50:45.296

# Compare Mold Front: Late Time



Time = 68.204



Shape of the model interface matches well with shape of experiment and the time-scale is similar

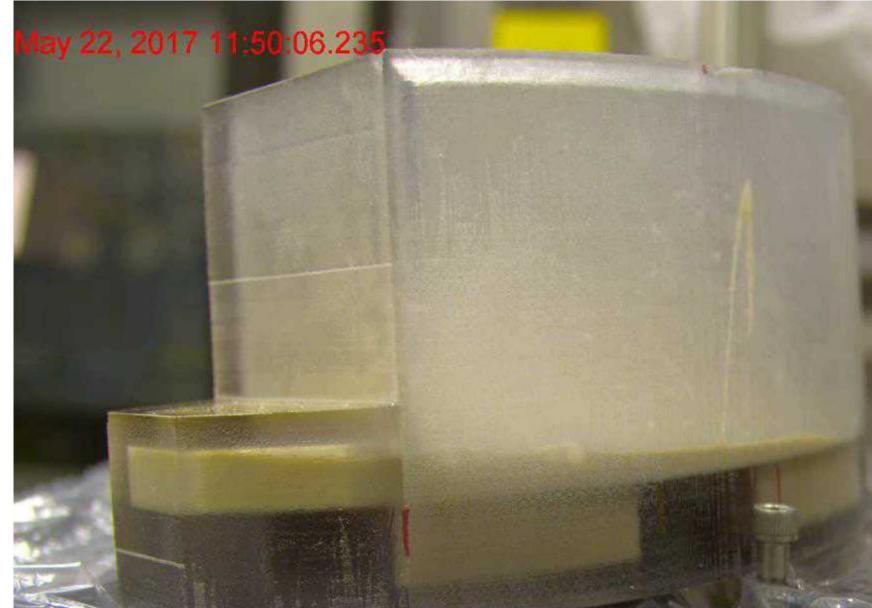
# Shelf Feature Fills Well in Clear Mold



May 22, 2017 11:49:52.821



May 22, 2017 11:50:06.235

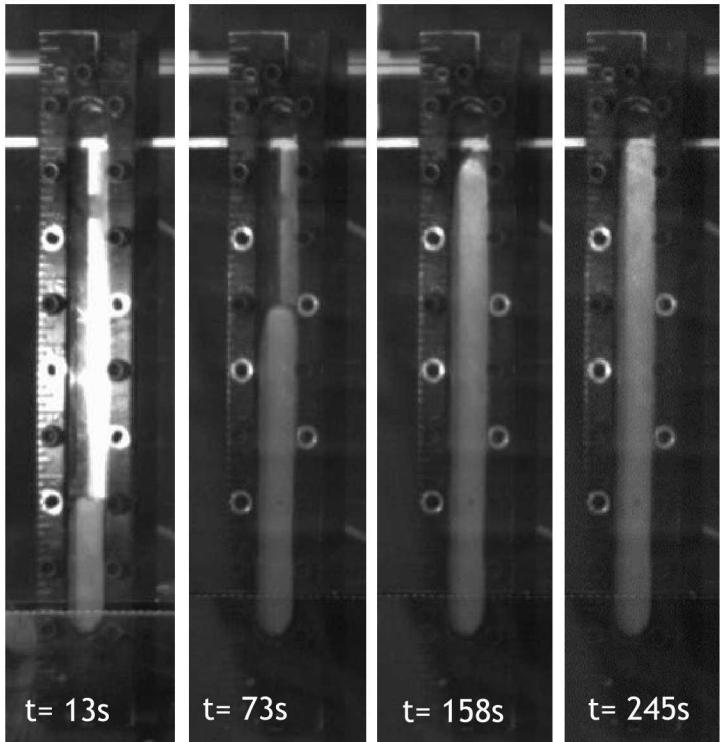


May 22, 2017 11:50:29.356

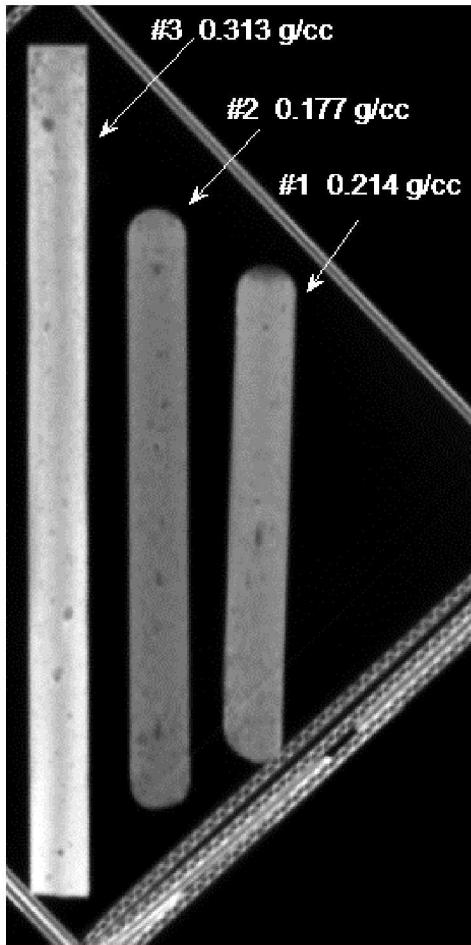


Experiment shows good filling of the shelf feature even at early times giving confidence in the foam model

# Density Study for Structural Foam PMDI-10



Foam expanding in a mold at 30°C. Time shown on frames is after the end of mixing the resin and the curative together for 45 seconds.



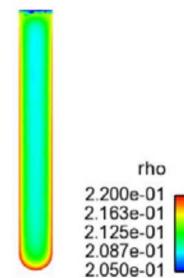
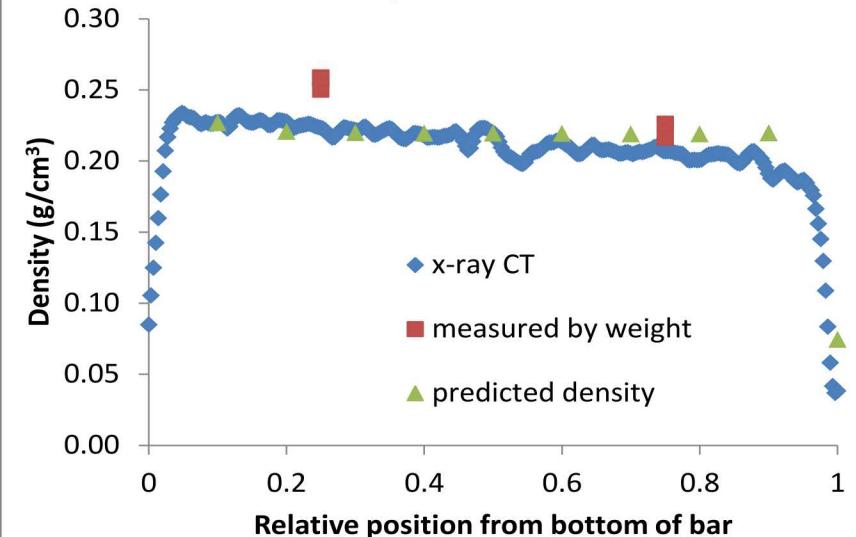
X-ray image of PMDI-10 foam bars:  
1) free rise at 30°C, 2) free rise at 50°C, 3) over packed (1.5) at 30°C

- Can the model predict the effects of over packing seen experimentally?
- Over-packed sample shows higher density and greater density variation
- 17% for free rise and 31% for over-packed foam bars

# Density Study for Structural Foam PMDI-10

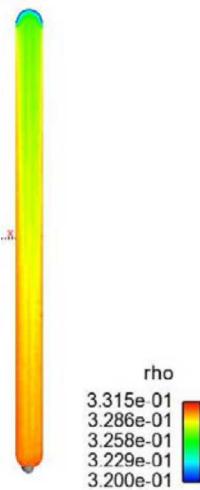


Sample #1, 30°C

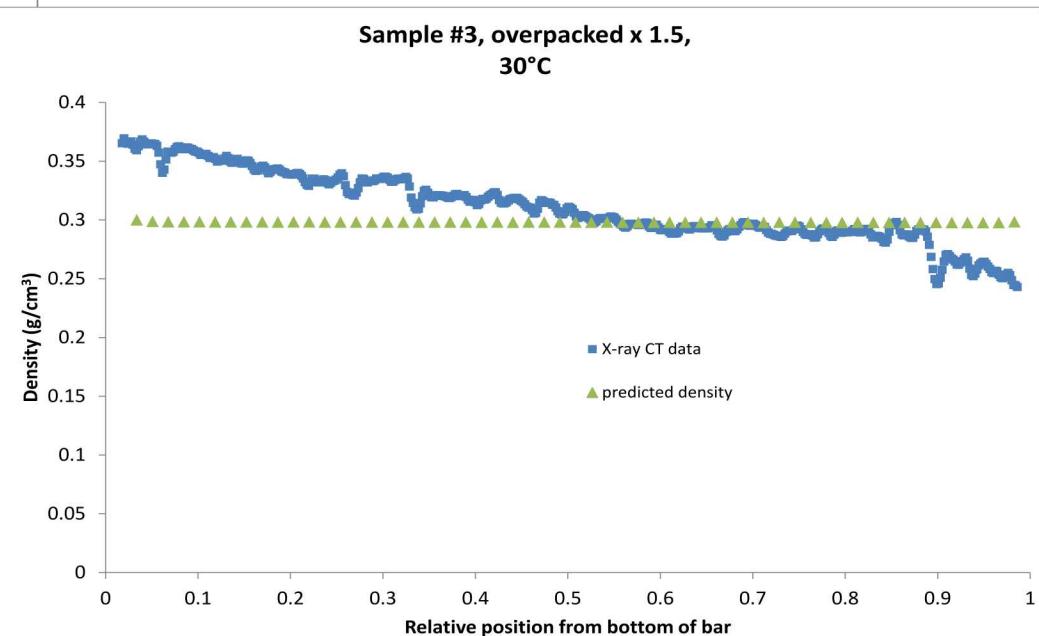


- Free rise foam density gradients. Plots are shown at the centerline of the foam cylinder
- Cylinder is under filled to give the free rise density

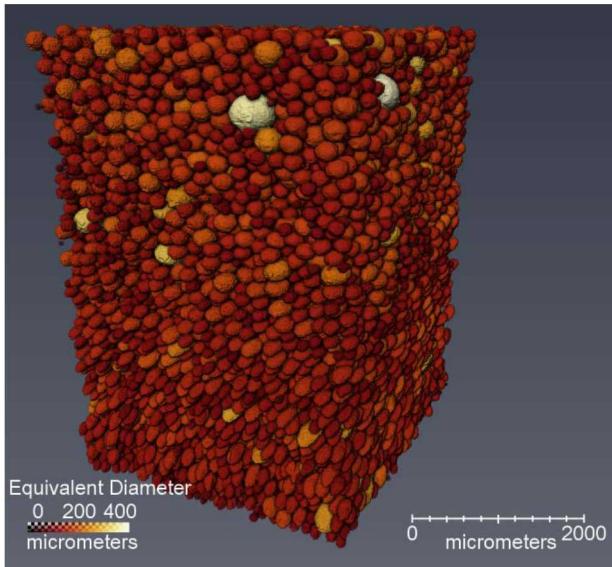
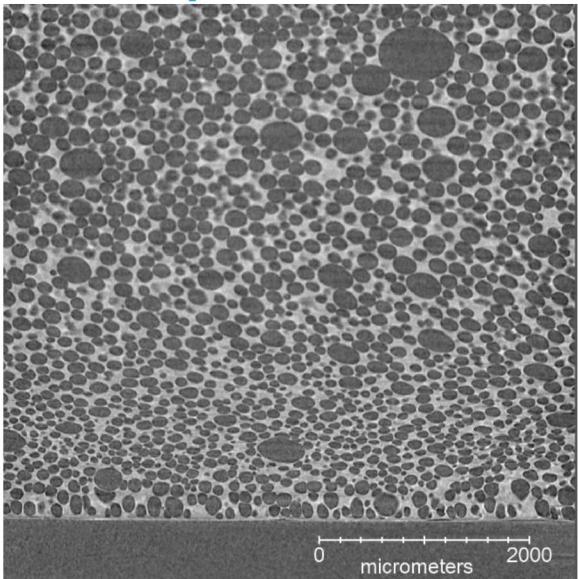
- Over packed (1.5) foam density gradients. Plots are shown at the centerline of the foam cylinder
- Self-closing vent lets air out, but keeps foam in for pressurization



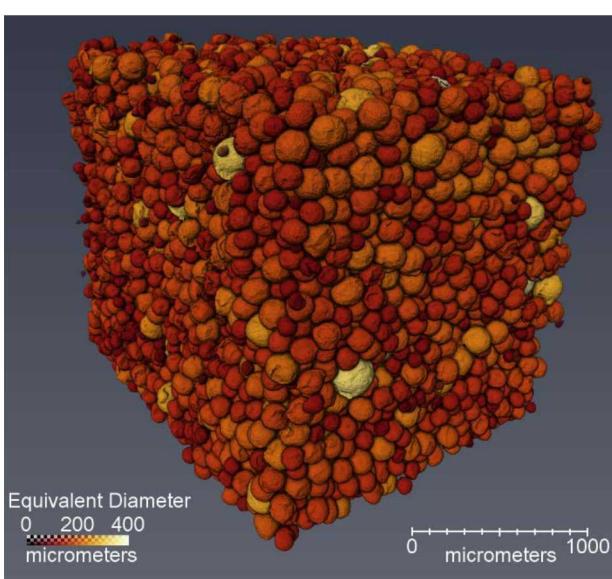
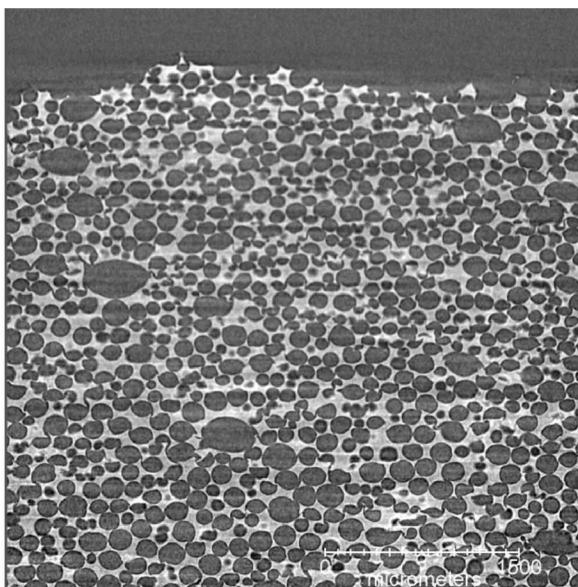
Sample #3, overpacked x 1.5,  
30°C



# CT Microstructure of Bubbles from Large Complex Mold



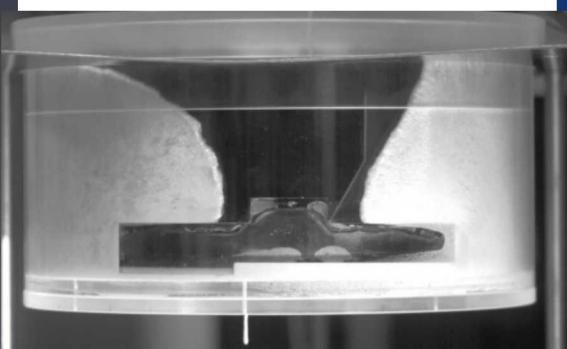
Sample 1 top



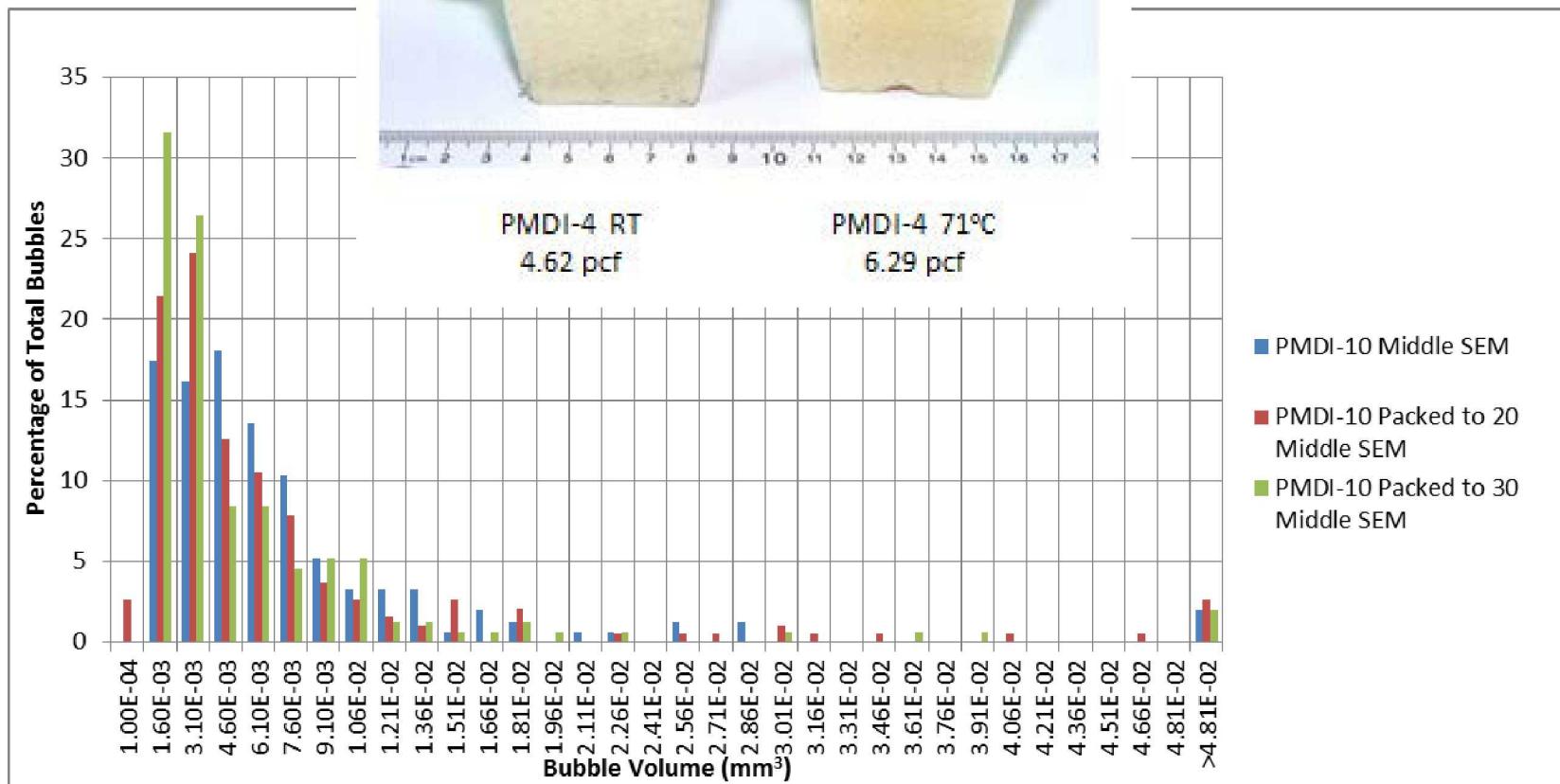
Sample 1 bottom

Foam microstructure

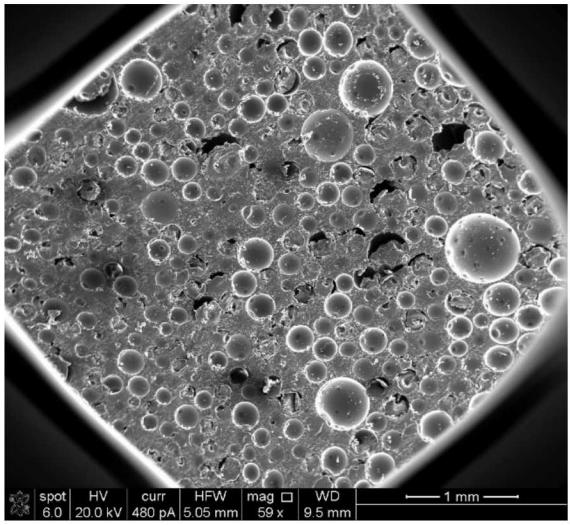
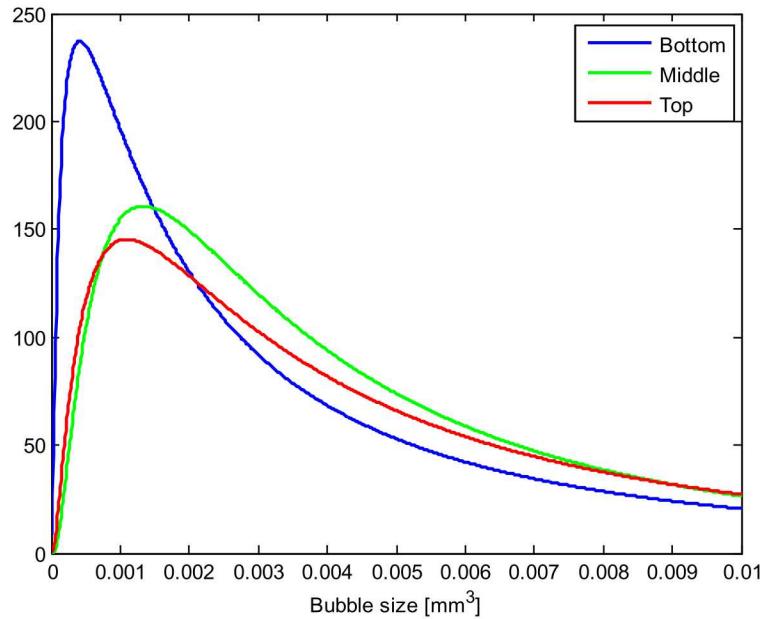
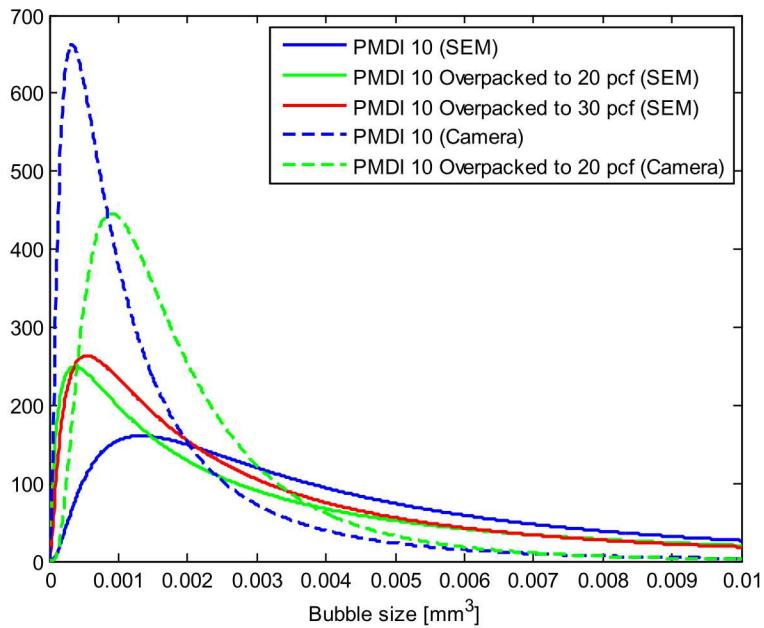
- Polydisperse bubble sizes
- Shear near boundaries cause elongated ellipsoidal bubbles



# Processing Conditions Change Bubble-Size and Final Density



# Bubble Size Data for PMDI-10 and Various Processing Conditions



Log-normal fits to bubble size measurements for (left) overpacked PMDI 10 foam and (right) PMDI 10 free rise foam of various channel height

## Population Balance Equation (PBE)

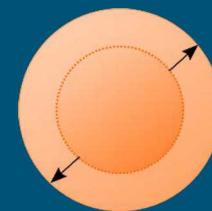
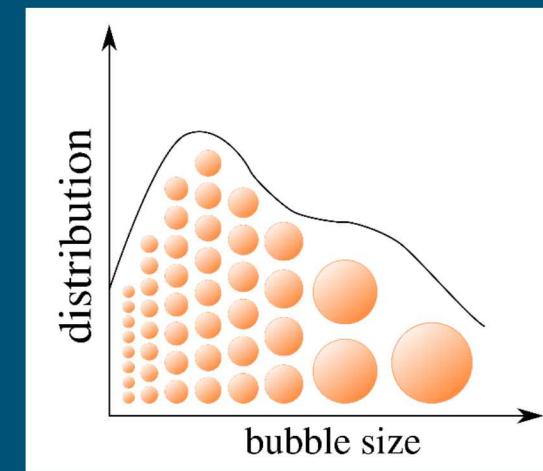
Bubble size distribution (BSD) is described by a number density function,  $n(v)$ , representing the number of bubbles per unit volume of liquid in volume between the range  $v$  and  $v + dv$

Evolution of the BSD is governed by the following Population Balance Equation

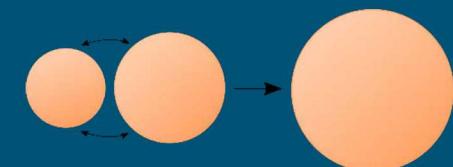
$$\frac{\partial n(v)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (n(v)\mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial v} [n(v)G(v)]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^v \beta(v', v - v') n(v') n(v - v') dv' - \int_0^\infty \beta(v, v') n(v) n(v') dv'$$

Where  $\beta(v', v)$  represents the coalescence kernel, and  $G(v)$  represents the growth rate of bubbles.



Growth Rate Kernel,  $G(v)$



Coalescence Kernel,  
 $\beta(v, v')$

### References

- Karimi et al. 2017, Computer Physics Communications
- Karimi et al. 2016 Macromolecular Symposia
- Karimi et al. 2017 Computer Physics Communications

# Transformation to Moment-Based Transport Equations

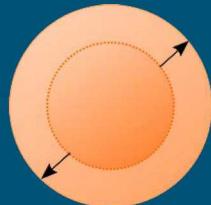
41



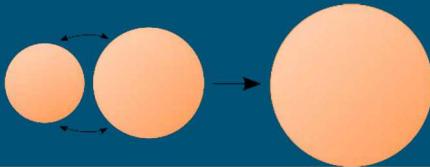
$$m_k(t, x) = \int_0^\infty n(v)v^k dv$$

Transformed PBE:

$$\frac{\partial m_k}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla m_k = G_k + S_k, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, 3$$



$$\bar{G}_k \cong \sum_{i=1}^N w_i G(v_i) v_i^{k-1}$$



$$\bar{S}_k \cong \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{b=1}^N w_a w_b [(v_a + v_b)^k - v_a^k - v_b^k] \beta(v_a, v_b)$$

$G_k$  is a source term relating to the growth rate, and  $S_k$  relates to coalescence

Quadrature method of moments (QMOM) is used to compute the source terms

Use the first 4 moments to represent our PBE

Moments offer useful information:

$m_0$ , total number of bubbles per unit liquid volume

$m_1$ , total bubble volume per unit liquid volume

$m_2$  and  $m_3$  related to the variance and skewness of the BSD

Volume fraction of gas

$$\frac{m_1}{1 + m_1}$$

Mean bubble diameter

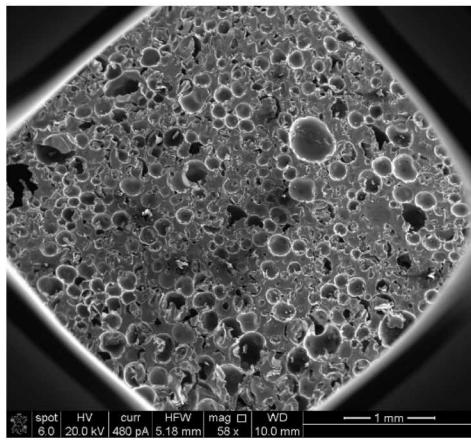
$$\left( \frac{m_1}{m_0} \frac{6}{\pi} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

References: Marchisio, Fox 2005 *Journal of Aerosol Science*, Karimi et al. 2016 *Macromolecular Symposia*, & Karimi et al. 2017 *Computer Physics Communications*

# Improvements to PBE-QMOM Foam Model



- Initial model based on linking our kinetics with Karimi PBE-QMOM model could not simultaneously fit density and bubble size distribution
- New bubble growth kernel to account for decreased growth with increasing viscosity
- New coalescence kernels was added to account for bubble size and polymerizing viscosity
- Adaptive Wheeler integration model to eliminate negative moments
- With these changes, we were able to fit experimental data well.



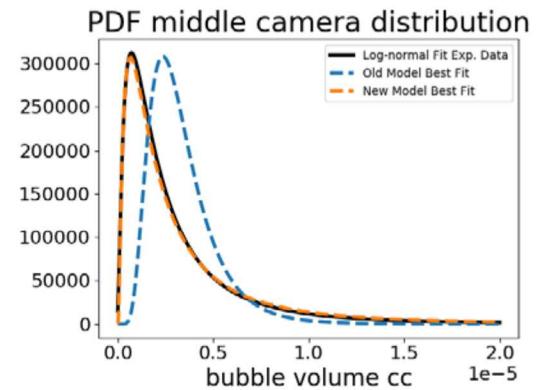
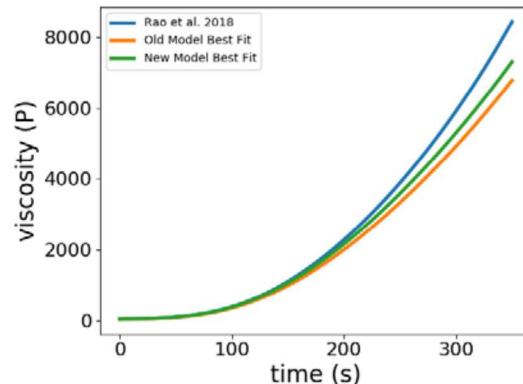
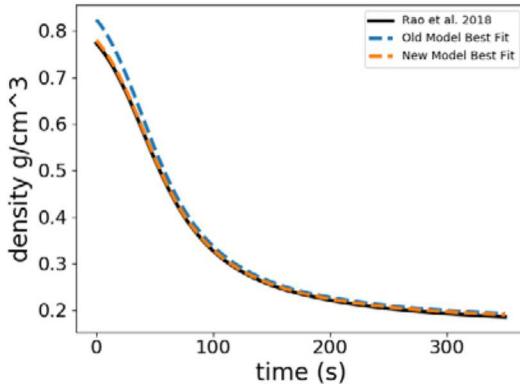
SEM near middle of bar

Population balance equation, which is solved using QMOM:

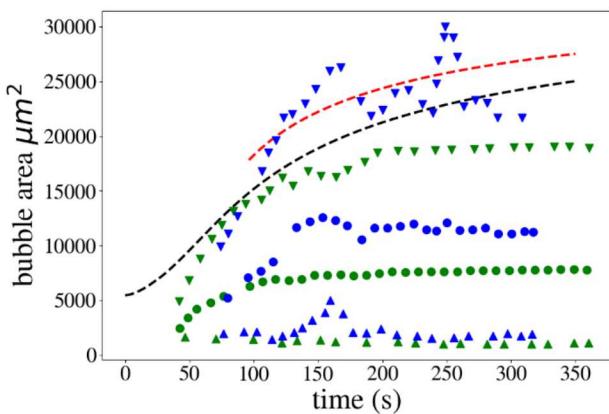
$$\frac{\partial n(v)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (n(v)\mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial v} [n(v)G(v)] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^v \beta(v', v - v') n(v') n(v - v') dv' - \int_0^\infty \beta(v, v') n(v) n(v') dv'$$

$\beta(v', v)$  is the coalescence kernel, and  $G(v)$  represents the growth rate

	Old Model	New Model
$G(v)$	$G_0 \left( \max \left( 0, \frac{w - w_{max}}{w_{max}} \right) \right)$	$G_0 \frac{\mu_{ref}}{\mu} \left( \max \left( 0, \frac{w - w_{max}}{w_{max}} \right) \right)$
$\beta(v', v)$	$\beta_0(v + v')$	$\beta_0 \frac{\mu_{ref}}{\mu} (v + v') \max \left( \frac{v}{v'}, \frac{v'}{v} \right)$

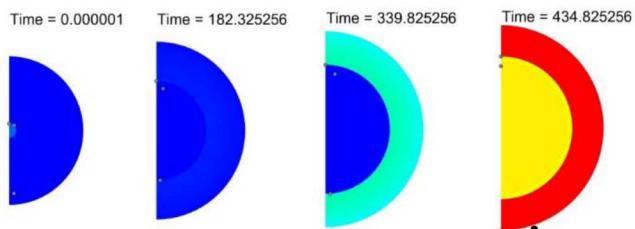


# 3D ALE Bar Modeling Results: New Pressure-Dependent Growth Term Mimics Local Bubble-Scale Effects



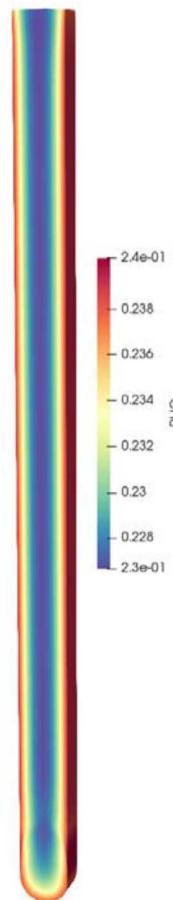
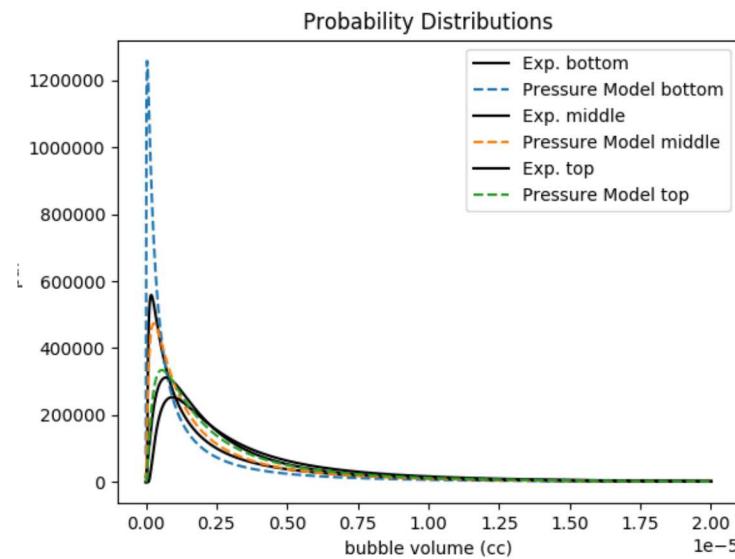
$$G(v) = G_0 \frac{\mu_{ref}}{\mu} \frac{(p_{CO_2} - 2 \frac{\sigma}{R} - p_{ref})^2}{(p - p_{ref})^2} \left( \max \left( 0, \frac{w_{CO_2} - w_{max}}{w_{max}} \right) \right)$$

New growth term decreases with viscosity and pressure

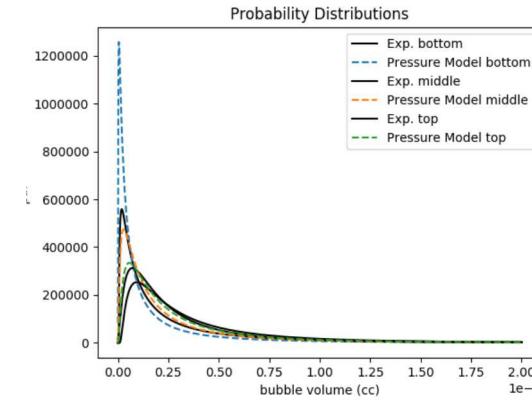
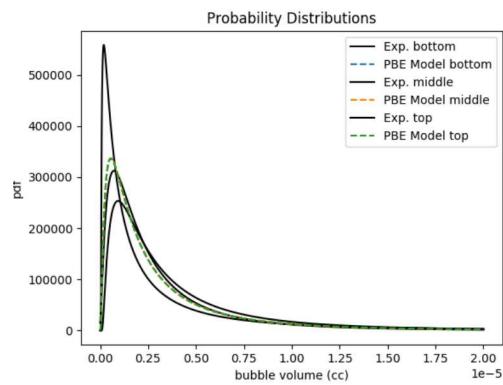
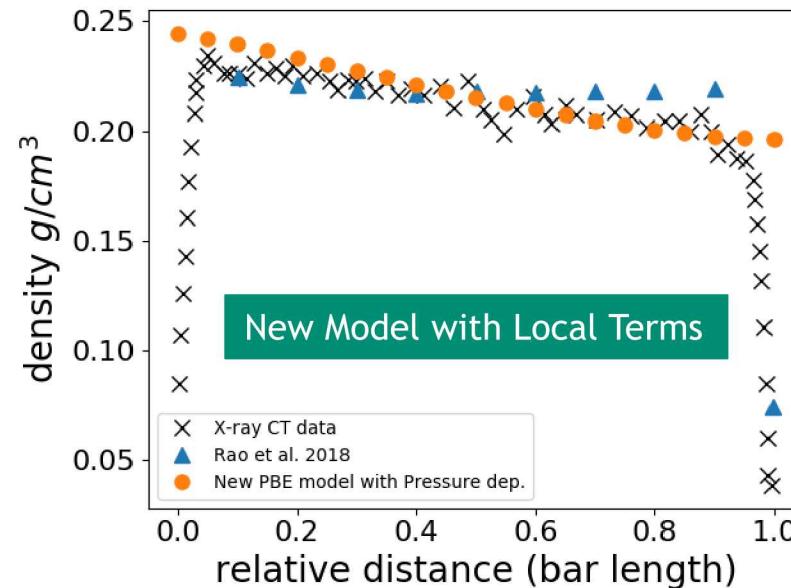
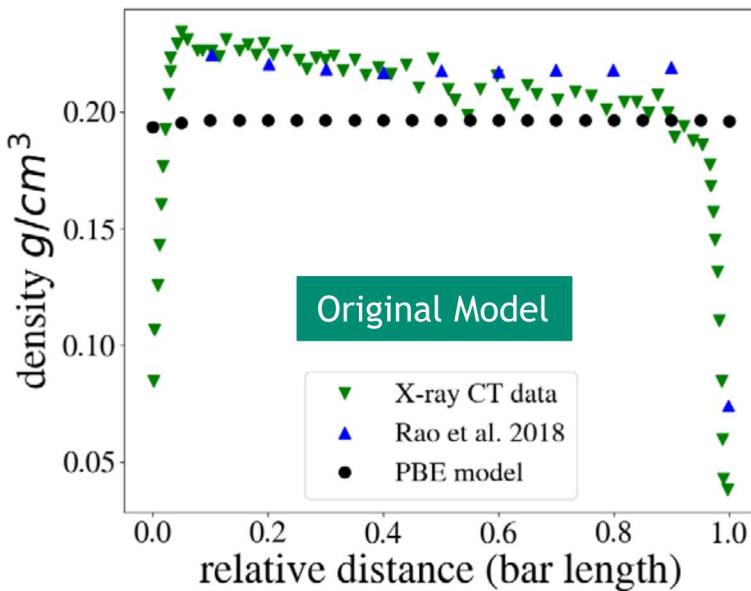


$$p_{gas} - p_{liq} - 2 \frac{\sigma}{R} \approx 4 \eta_{polymer} \frac{R}{R}$$

$$\frac{\dot{R}}{R} \approx \frac{\Delta p_{ref}}{4(\Delta p)^2 \eta_{polymer}}$$



# 3D ALE Bar Modeling Results

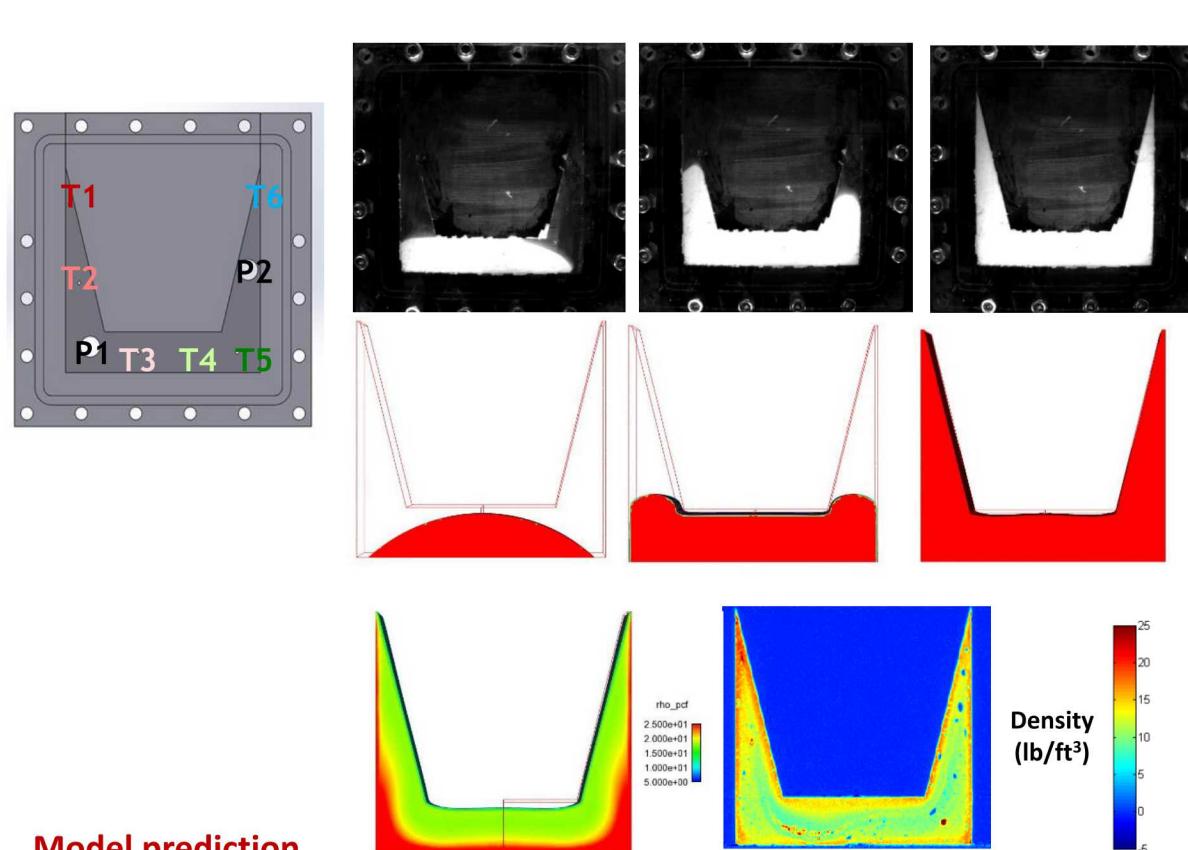
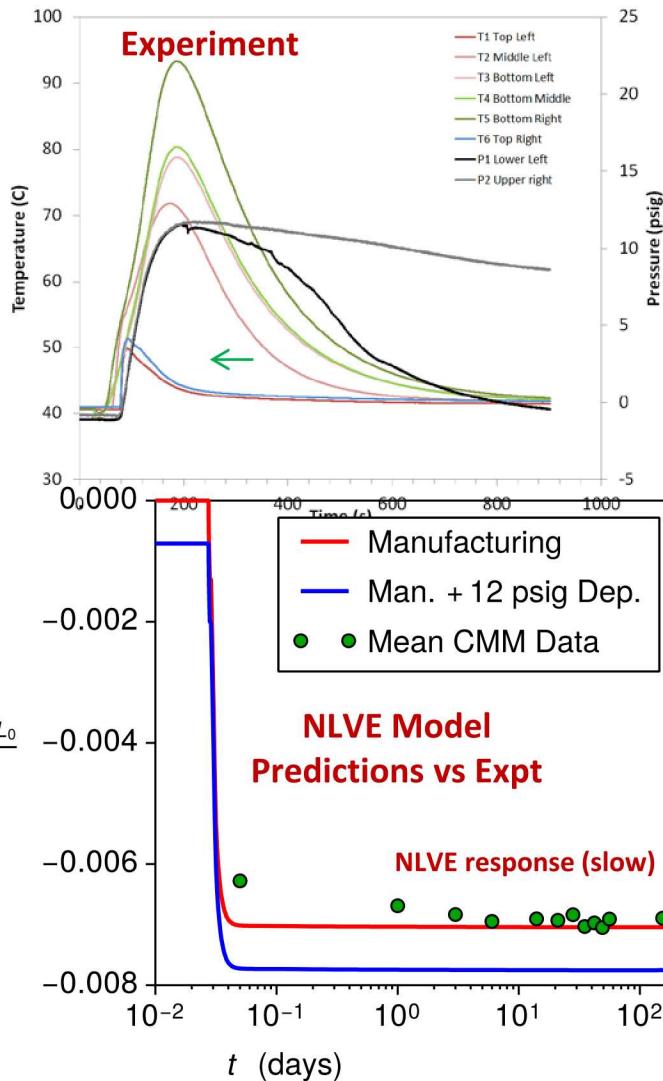


- Changes in bubble-size distribution from top to bottom can be seen if we use a pressure-dependent bubble growth kernel.
- The pressure-effect allows us to successfully predict the density gradient for the bar experiment for the first time!

# Lower Density Gradients from New Model



- Over many repeats, temperature, pressure, and flow profile are remarkably repeatable
- Imperfectly symmetric fill common
- Pressure rises as foam expands, relaxes at lower corner and stays positive at P2.



**Model prediction captures thermal contraction**  
**Relaxation of residual stress is extremely slow (eons)**

# Cradle-to-Grave Simulation Process



## Inputs

Initial Mold Design

Manufacturing Conditions

Foaming Filling

$\rho, T, x$

Gelation  
Demolding

Solid Cure, Residual Stress, Viscoelastic Relaxation (Physical Aging)

Blowing Gas Depressurization

Moisture Uptake / Swelling

Chemical Aging / Shrinkage

## Outputs

$u_{\text{visco}}$

$u_{\text{dep}}$

$u_{\text{H2O}}$

$u_{\text{chem}}$

$$u = u_{\text{visco}} + u_{\text{dep}} + u_{\text{H2O}} + u_{\text{chem}}$$

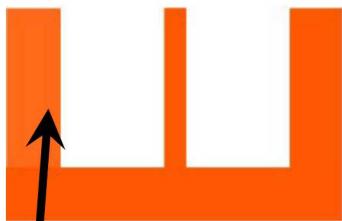
# Inverse Mold Design Process



## Inputs

Manufacturing  
Conditions

Initial Mold  
Design



$X_0$



Cradle-to-Grave  
Simulation



## Output

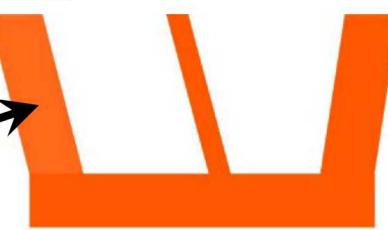
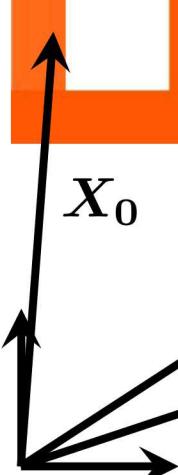
Final Mold  
Shape



$$X [t] = X_0 + u_{\text{visco}} + u_{\text{dep}} + u_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} + u_{\text{chem}}$$

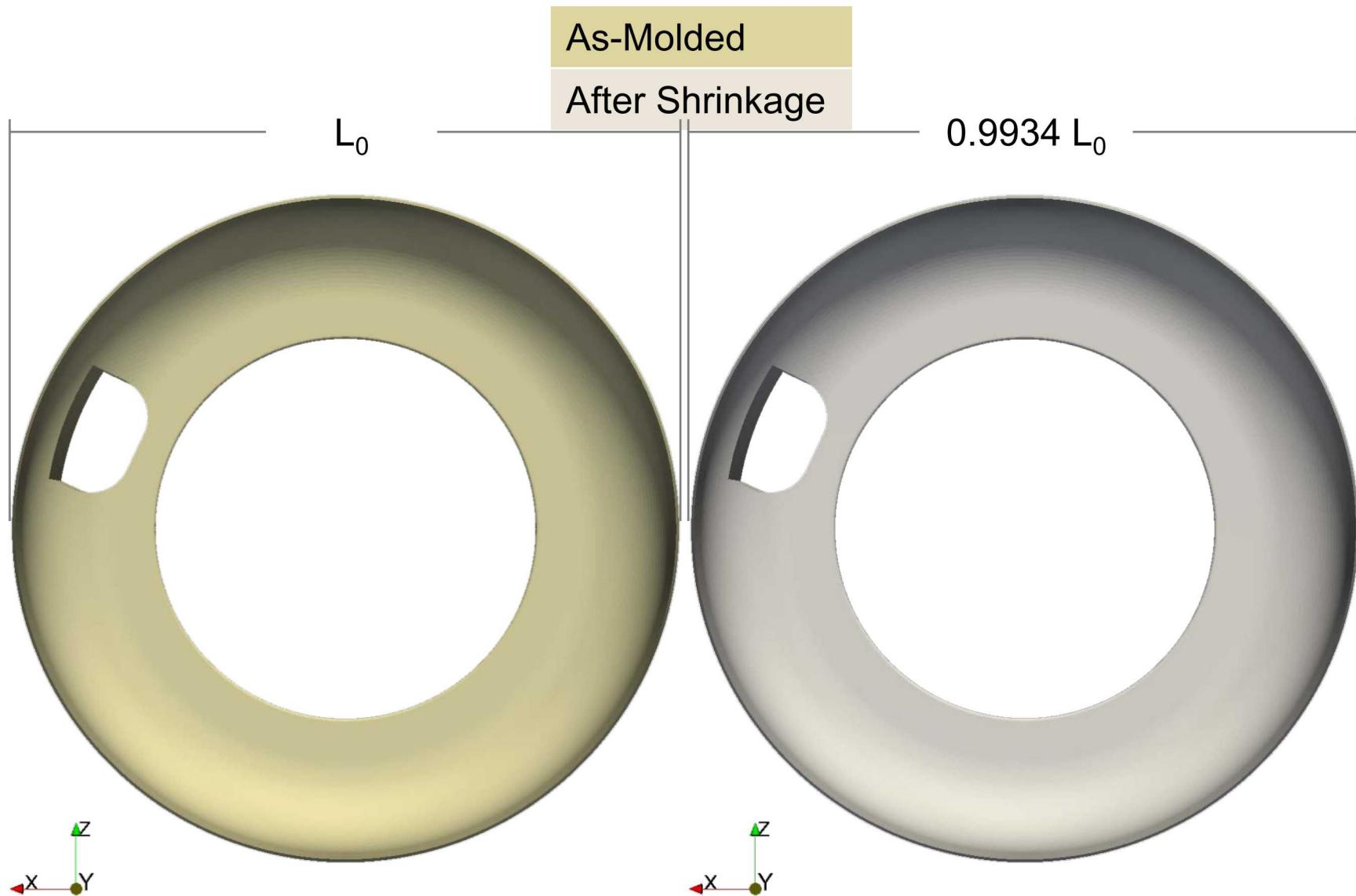


$$X_{\text{new}} = X_0 - u_{\text{visco}} - u_{\text{dep}} - u_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - u_{\text{chem}}$$

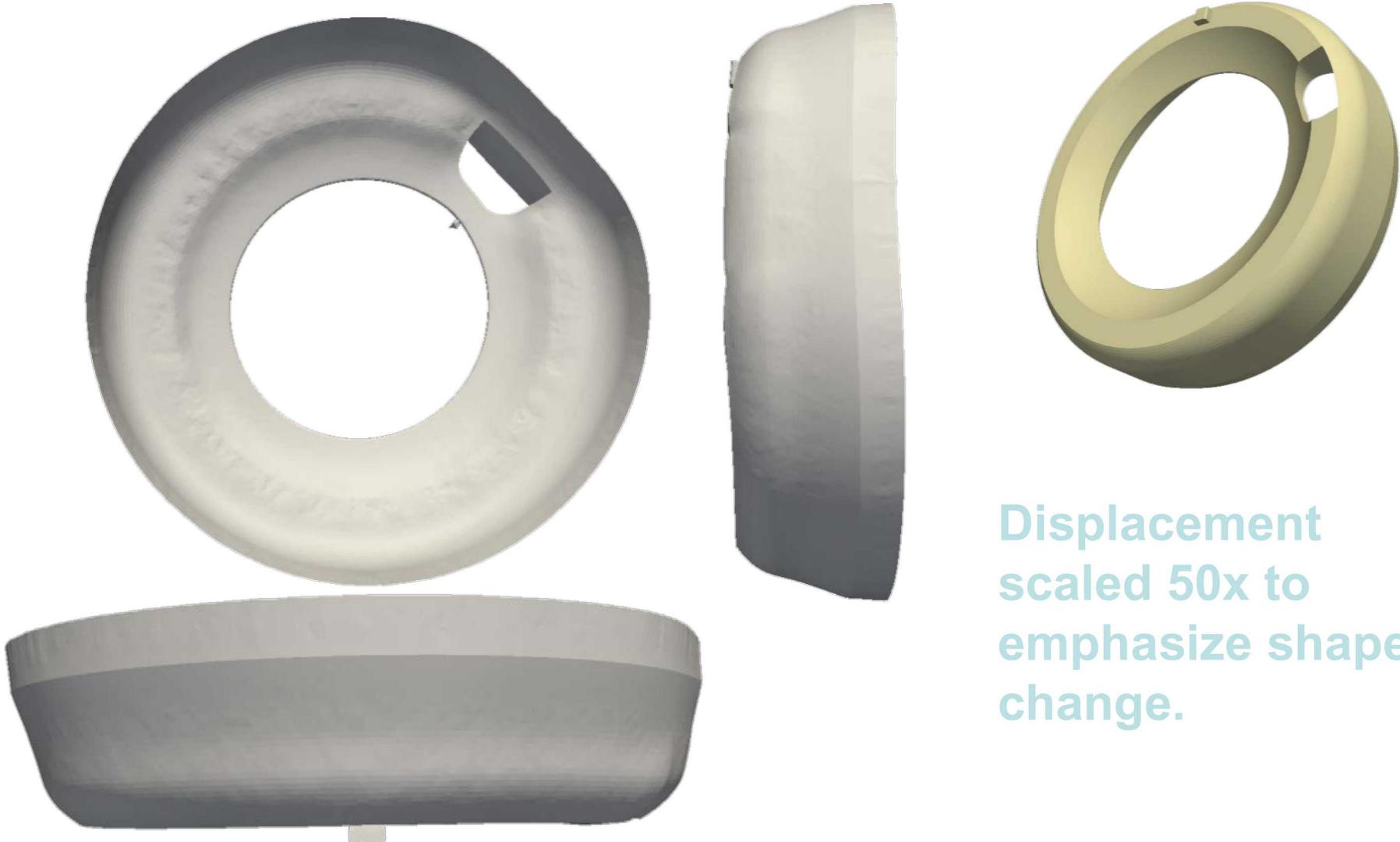


Superposition is employed to combine displacements from different mechanisms and then to “inverse warp” the initial mold design

# Exemplar Part With Featured Regions



# Warpage accentuated near holes and slender regions



Displacement scaled 50x to emphasize shape change.

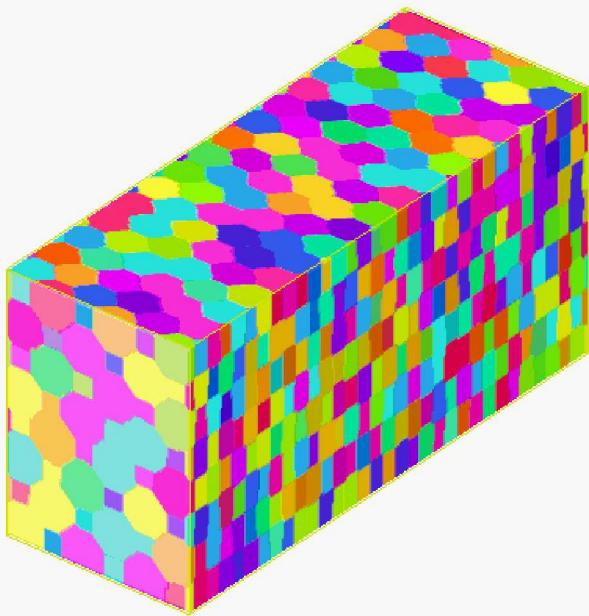
# Conclusions and Future Work



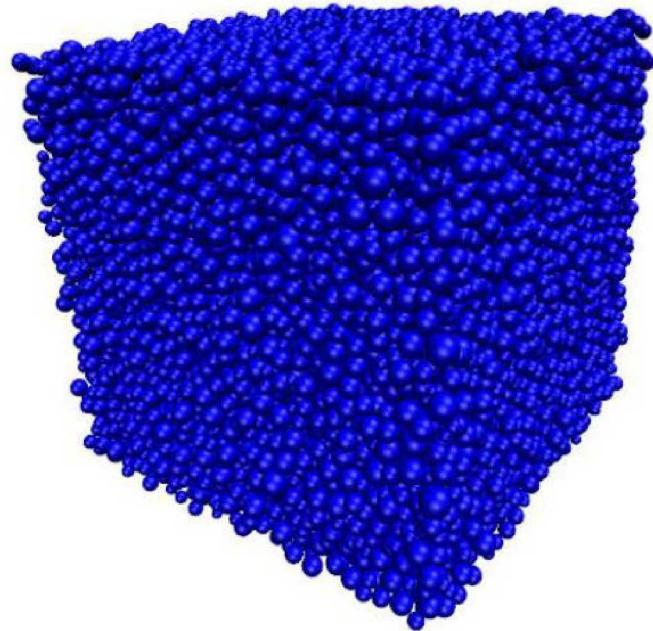
- **Current model is adequate for production calculation**
  - Determining metering, initial placement, voids, gate, and vent location, manufacturing stresses and initial foam shape
  - Current model is “first order.” We are working to make the model more predictive
  - Model follows free surface of foam fairly well
  - Combination of experimental and computational work led to synergistic breakthroughs creating confidence in mold redesign
  - Density and density gradients are still not quantitative and give direction for future work -> bubble-scale modeling
- **Next generation model needs to include**
  - Equation of state for density approach for gas phase
  - Two-phase CO<sub>2</sub> generation model: solubilized CO<sub>2</sub> in the polymer and CO<sub>2</sub> gas in the bubbles
  - Population balance for bubble size evolution linked to single bubble model

Future work includes more multiphysics modeling to understand foam parts from manufacturing to 30 year.

# Questions?



Pott's model of foam  
bubbles in shear flow  
(Veena Tikare, SNL)



Polydisperse bubble  
microstructure generated with  
LAMMPS and Aria/CDFEM  
(Dan Bolintineanu , SNL)