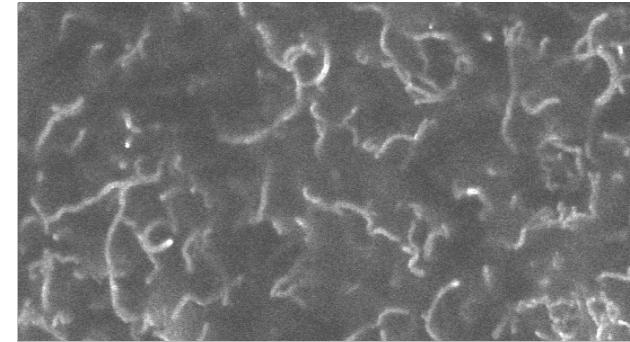
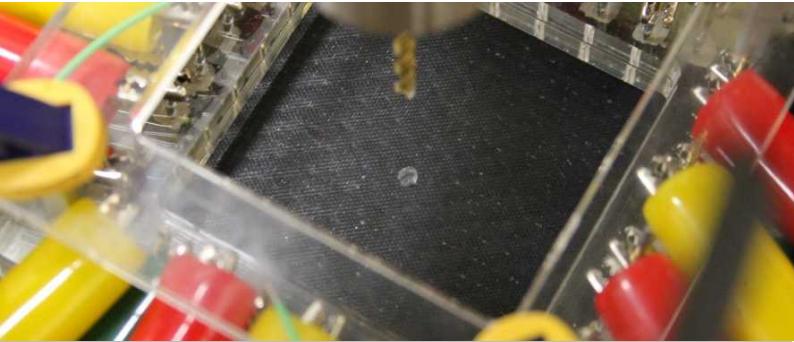


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# Spatially Distributed Structural Health Monitoring using Electrical Impedance Tomography

Bryan R. Loyola, Steven Paradise, and Christopher Hall

<sup>1</sup>Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, CA, USA



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



# Usage of Fiber-Reinforced Composites

- Over the past 50 years, increased usage of composite materials



Commercial aircraft systems



Future and legacy spacecraft



Military aircraft



Naval structures



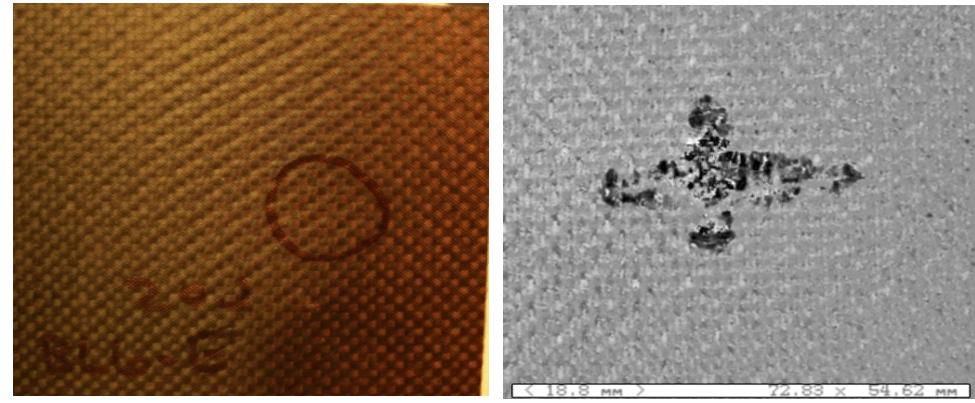
Wind turbine blades



CFRP cable stay bridge

# Composite Damage Modes

- Susceptible to damage due to:
  - Strain, impact, chemical penetrants, multi-axial fatigue
- Damage modes:
  - Matrix cracking
  - Fiber-breakage
  - Delamination
  - Transverse cracking
  - Fiber-matrix debonding
  - Matrix degradation
  - Blistering
- Difficult to detect
  - Internal to laminate structure
  - Nearly invisible to naked eye
  - Current methods are laborious



Visual inspection

C-SCAN ultrasound image

CFRP panel after 20 Joule impact



Aircraft ultrasonic inspection (Composites World)

# Emerging Sensing Technologies

## Wireless Sensors and Sensor Networks



WiMMS

Wang, *et al.* (2008)

UCI DuraNode

Chung, *et al.* (2005)

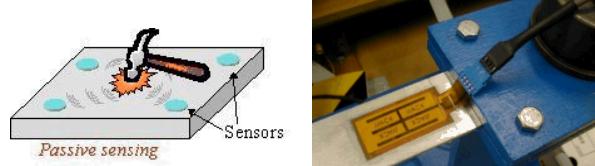
- **Advantages:**

- Low Cost
- Dense instrumentation
- Reconfigurable

- **Disadvantages:**

- Point sensors
- Indirect damage detection
- Physics-based models

## Ultrasonics and Guided-Waves



Array of piezoelectric ceramic sensors and actuators

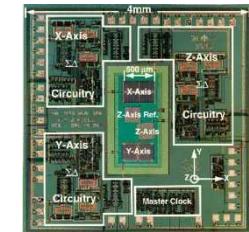
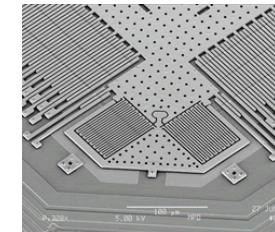
- **Advantages:**

- Sensors and actuators
- Spatial damage detection

- **Disadvantages:**

- Indirect damage detection
- Wave propagation models or pattern recognition
- Thin structures
- Expensive data acquisition

## Micro-electromechanical Systems (MEMS)



AD *i*MEMS

Weinberg (1999)

3-axis accelerometer

Lemkin (1997)

- **Advantages:**

- Miniaturized sensor designs
- Complex sensors/actuators

- **Disadvantages:**

- "Top-down" design
- Expensive fabrication equipment
- High costs
- Sensor sensitivity on par with macro-scale counterpart

# SHM Design Considerations

## Current SHM limitations:

- Indirect sensing approaches
- Point-based sensing
- Tethered sensors
- Lack of system scalability



Boeing 787 (Boeing)

## Successful SHM systems:

1. Directly detect and measure damage
2. Determine the damage location
3. Ascertain the size of the damage
4. Quantify the severity of the damage
5. Achieve multi-modal sensing capabilities (i.e., delamination, cracking, and chemical penetration)



Golden Gate Bridge (Wikipedia)

# Spatially Distributed SHM Paradigm

- Current state-of-art in structural health monitoring:
  - Passive SHM using acoustic emissions
  - Active SHM using piezoelectric sensor/actuator pairs
- “Sensing skins” for spatial damage detection:
  - Objective is to identify the location and severity of damage
  - Monitor and detect damage over two- (or even three) dimensions
  - Direct damage detection



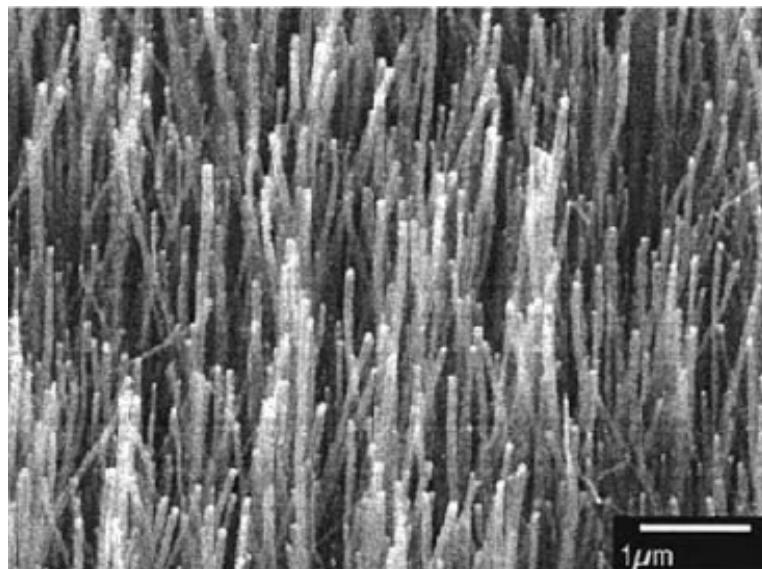
(Boeing)



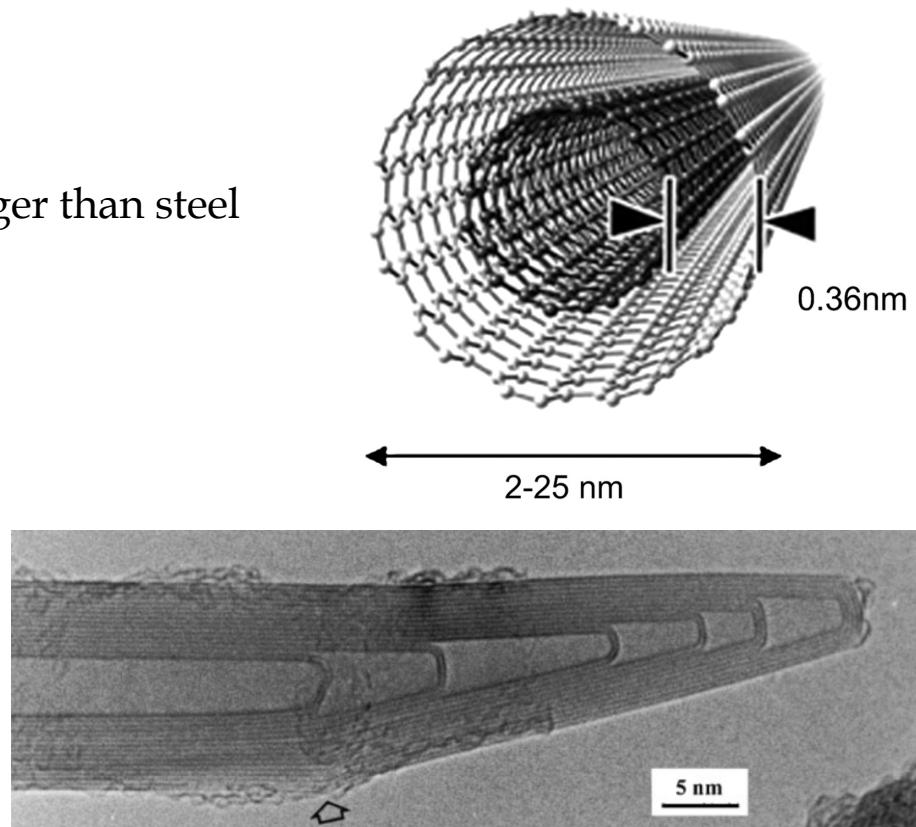
(Boeing)

# Carbon Nanotubes

- Multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWNT):
  - Rolled concentric cylindrical structures constructed of graphene sheets
  - Diameter:  $6 \sim 100$  nm
  - High-aspect ratios:  $\sim 10^3$  to  $10^7$
  - Metallic conductivity
  - Five times stiffer and ten times stronger than steel



Aligned carbon nanotube forest  
*Thostenson, et al. (2001)*

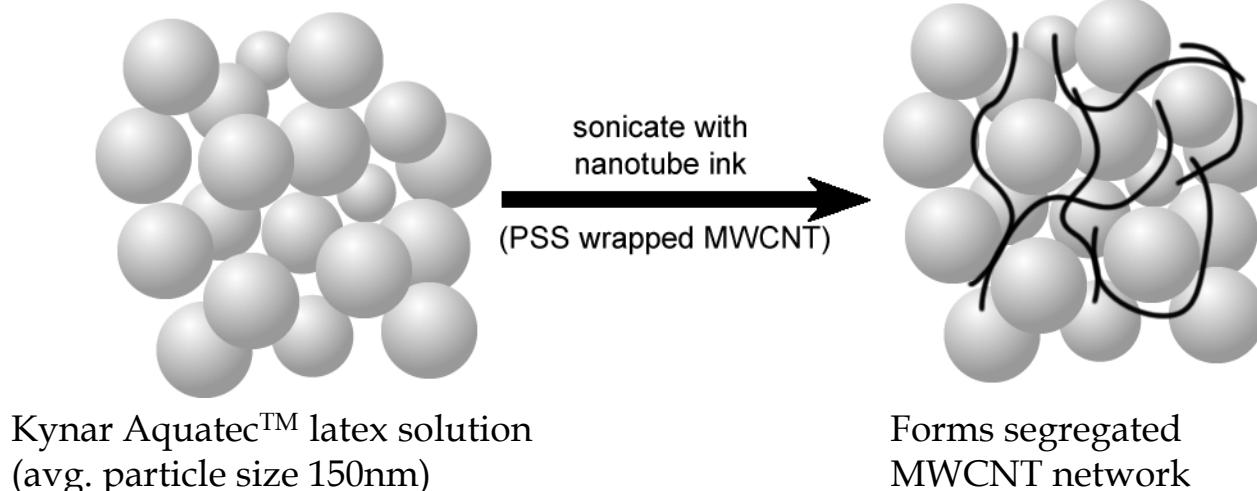


TEM imagery of an end cap of a MWNT  
*Harris (2004)*

# Sprayable MWNT-Latex Thin Film

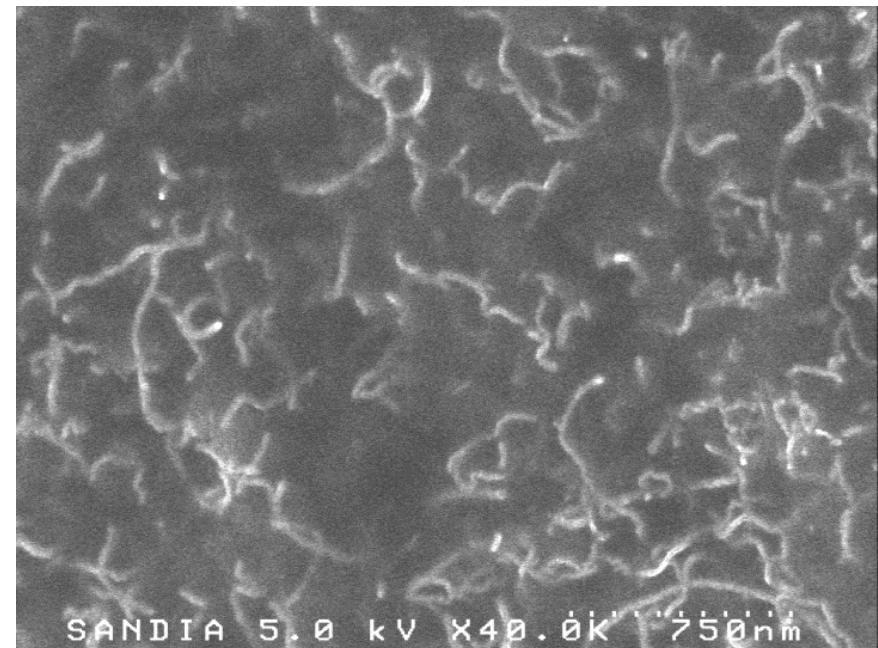
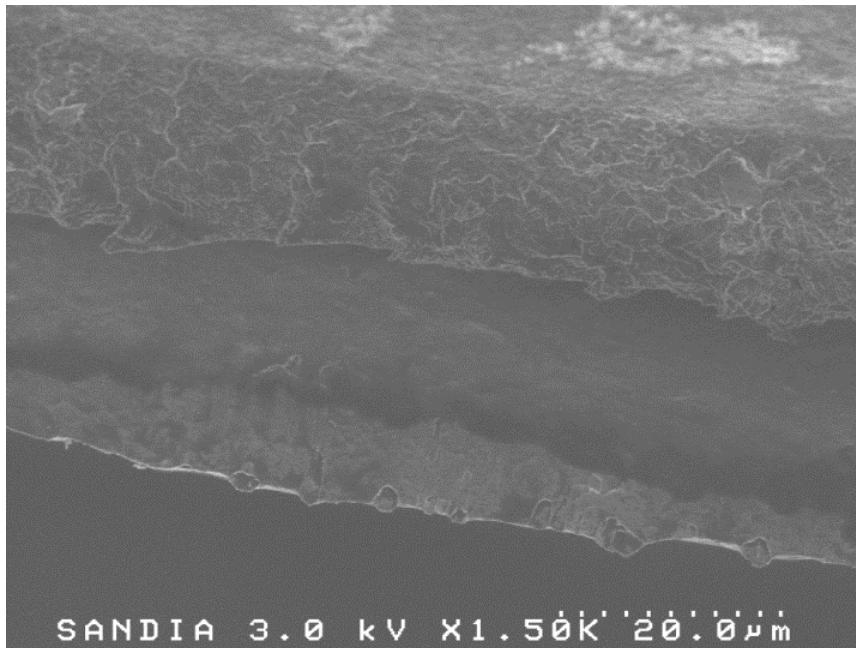


- Rapid large-scale deposition
  - Required for mass deployment of methodology
- MWNT-PSS/Latex paint formulation
  - Collaborated to improve initial Sandia formulation
  - Sub-micron PVDF creates mold for MWNT organization
  - Off-the-shelf deposition method



# MWNT-Latex Morphology

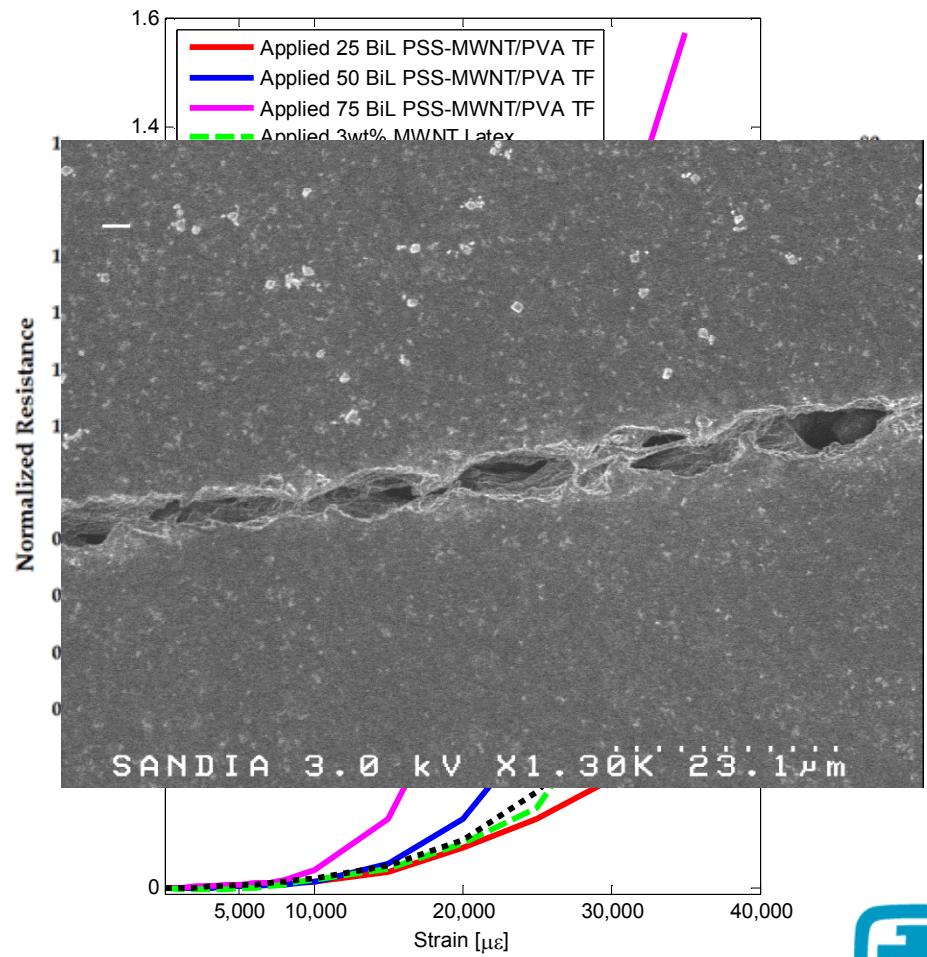
- Creation of MWNT networks:
  - Electrical percolation above 1 wt% MWNTs
- Fiber-reinforced polymer deployment:
  - Surface applied to post-cured composites
  - Applied to fiber weaves for embedded sensing



Cross-section and MWNT network SEM images of 3wt% MWNT-Latex film

# MWNT-Latex Characterization

- Electromechanical characteristics:
  - Quasi-static testing
    - Nearly same sensitivity as LbL
  - Bi-functional strain response
    - Linear
    - Quadratic
      - Cracking of film
- Thermo-resistance coupling:
  - -50°C to 80°C over 2 hours
  - 2 hour holds
  - Inversely linear relationship
  - Non-linear response @ -30°C
    - $\sim T_g$  of PVDF
    - Restructuring of MWNTs



# Spatially Distributed SHM Paradigm

- Current state-of-art in structural health monitoring:
  - Passive SHM using acoustic emissions
  - Active SHM using piezoelectric sensor/actuator pairs
- “Sensing skins” for spatial damage detection:
  - Objective is to identify the location and severity of damage
  - Monitor and detect damage over two- (or even three) dimensions
  - Direct damage detection



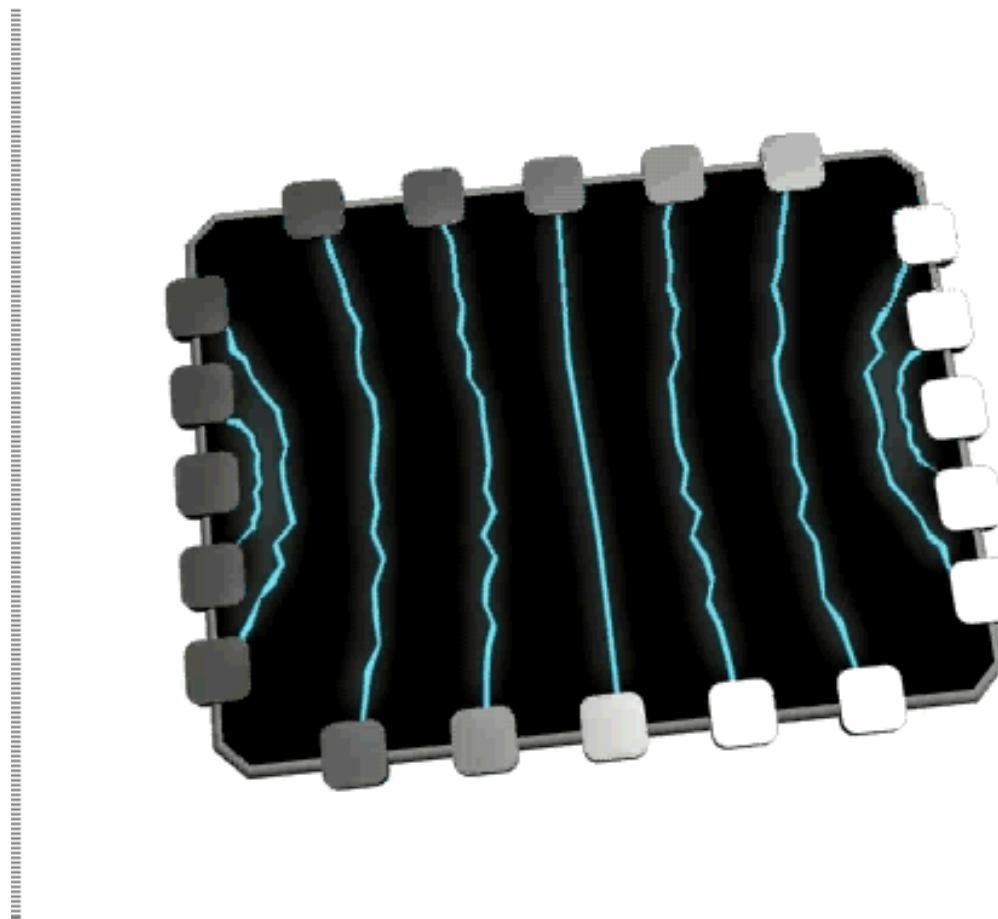
(Boeing)



(Boeing)

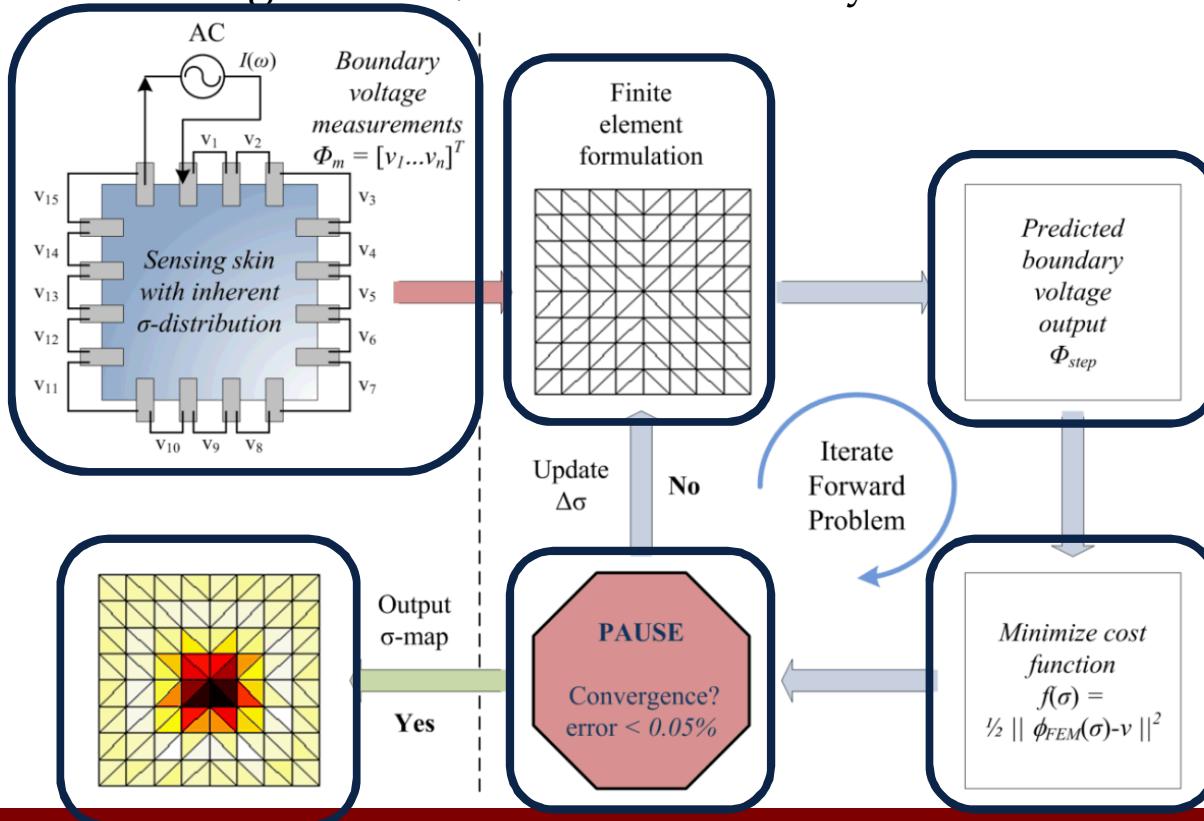
# Electrical Impedance Tomography

- Overview of spatial conductivity mapping
  - Since film impedance calibrated to strain, conductivity maps can correspond to 2-D strain distribution maps



# Typical EIT Reconstruction

- Laplace's equation:
  - $\nabla \cdot (\sigma \nabla \phi) = 0$ , where  $\sigma$  can vary by orders of magnitude
  - Governs potential and conductivity relationship
- Forward problem: conductivity known, solve voltage
- Inverse problem: voltage known, solve conductivity

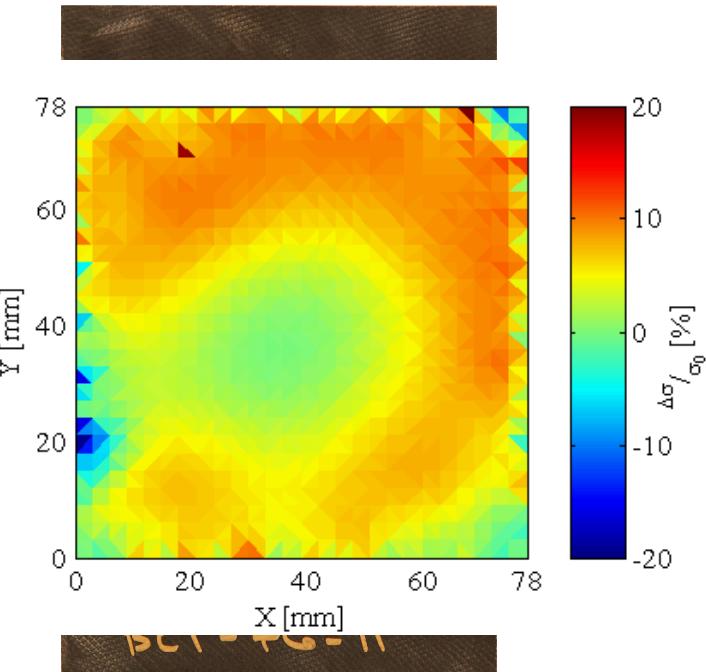


# Linear EIT Reconstruction

- Reconstructs small  $\sigma$  changes:
  - Typically difference imaging
    - $\sigma_1 - \sigma_2 \ll \sigma_2$
- Maximum a posteriori (MAP):
  - $H$ : sensitivity matrix
  - Regularization hyperparameter:  $\lambda$ 
    - Noise figure
    - Use representative  $\sigma$  distribution
  - $W$ : Noise model
  - $R$ : Regularization matrix
- Advantages:
  - Can pre-calculate  $H$
  - Many damage modes lead to small changes in  $\sigma$

$$\frac{\Delta\sigma}{\sigma_0} = \left( \underline{H}^T \underline{W} \underline{H} + \underline{\lambda} \underline{R} \right)^{-1} \left( \underline{H}^T \underline{W} \right) \frac{\Delta V}{V_0}$$

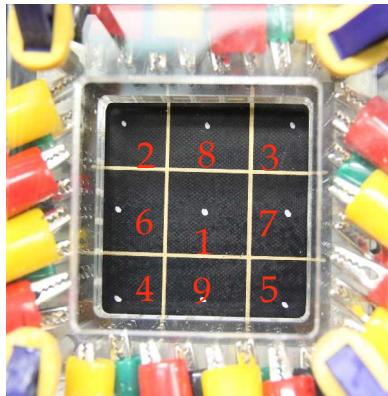
$$\frac{\Delta\sigma}{\sigma_0} = B\Delta \frac{\Delta V}{V_0}$$



# Applied Spatial Sensing

## Spatially Distributed Sensitivity

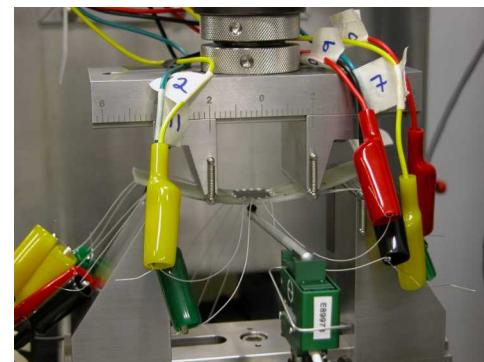
- Understand sensitivity to prescribed damage w.r.t. spatial position in sensing area
- 9 holes distributed across specimen
- 6.35 mm diameter



Spatially Distributed Sensitivity Specimen

## Spatially Distributed Strain Sensitivity

- 4-pt bending specimens
  - Homogeneous strain between inner supports
- Tensile and compressive strain values
- Small changes in conductivity



Spatially Distributed Strain Sensitivity Specimen

## Damage Size Sensitivity

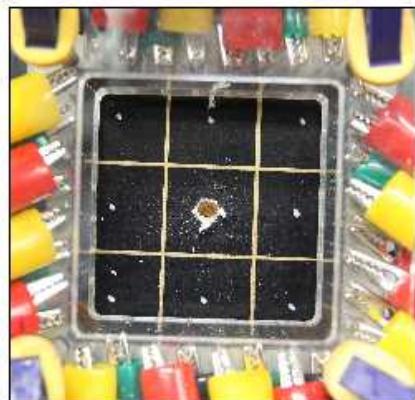
- Understand sensitivity to increasing damage at center of specimen
- Least sensitivity point in sensing region
- 6 progressively larger holes
  - $1/16''$ ,  $1/8''$ ,  $3/16''$ ,  $1/4''$ ,  $5/16''$ ,  $3/8''$



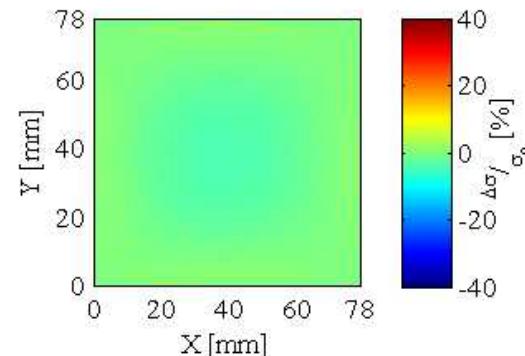
Damage Size Sensitivity Specimen

# Spatially Distributed Sensitivity

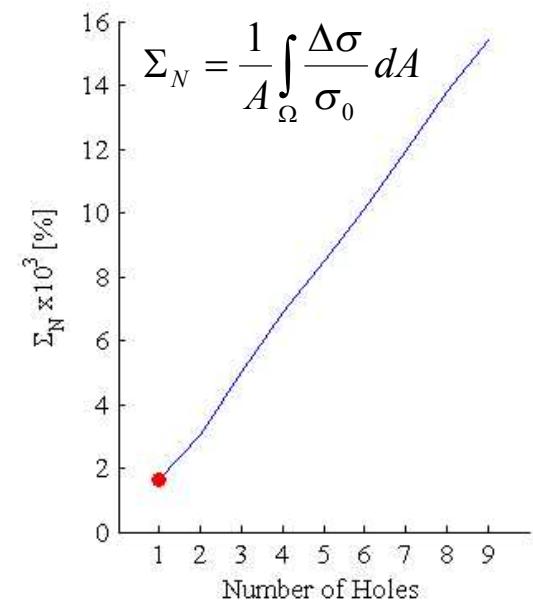
- EIT Response
  - Consistent cumulative amplitude response
    - Linear response to increasing sustained damage
  - Further from center, response more disperse
    - Mean response at correct damage location



Specimen



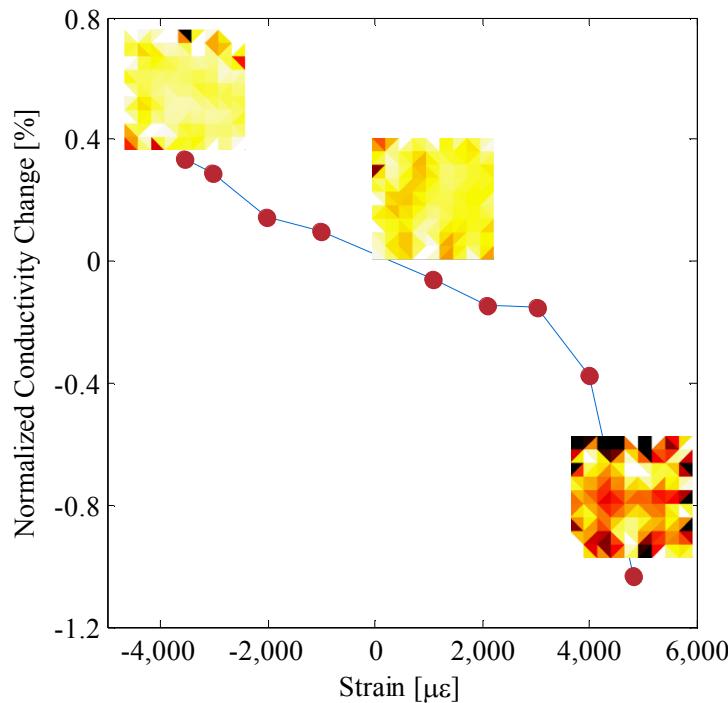
EIT Response



Damage Metric

# Spatial Strain Sensing

- 4-pt bending
  - ASTM D7264
  - MWNT-Latex on GFRP
  - Stepped displacement profile
  - Tensile/compressive strain
- Strain sensitivity
  - Nearly linear

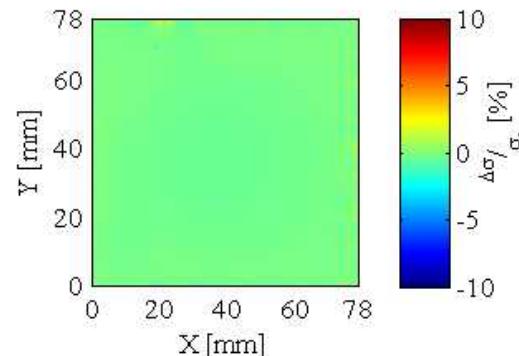


# Damage Size Sensitivity

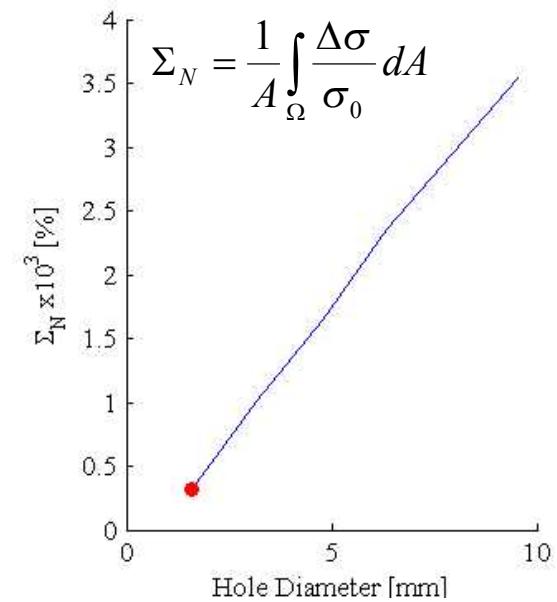
- EIT Response
  - Increasing EIT response to increasing damage size
    - Nearly linear response to size
  - EIT response at corresponding location to damage but response size is exaggerated



Specimen



EIT Response



Damage Metric

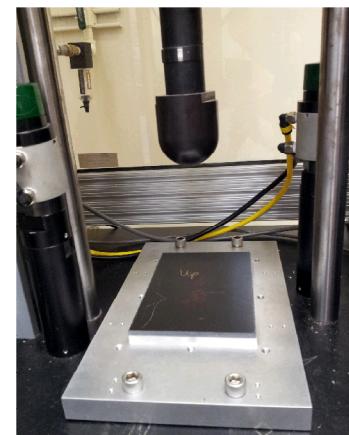
# Impact Damage Detection

- Drop-weight impact tests
  - **ASTM D7146**
  - 78 mm by 78 mm sensing region
  - MWNT-latex on glass fiber weave
  - Impact energy: 20, 60, 100, 140 J
  - Before/after EIT measurements

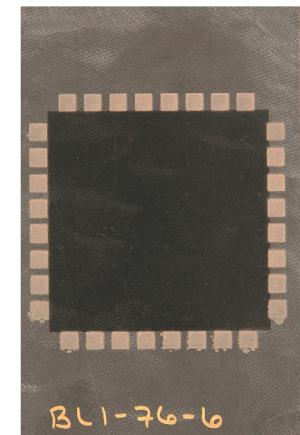


Drop-weight impact tester

- Verification:
  - Photographic Imaging
    - Surface damage



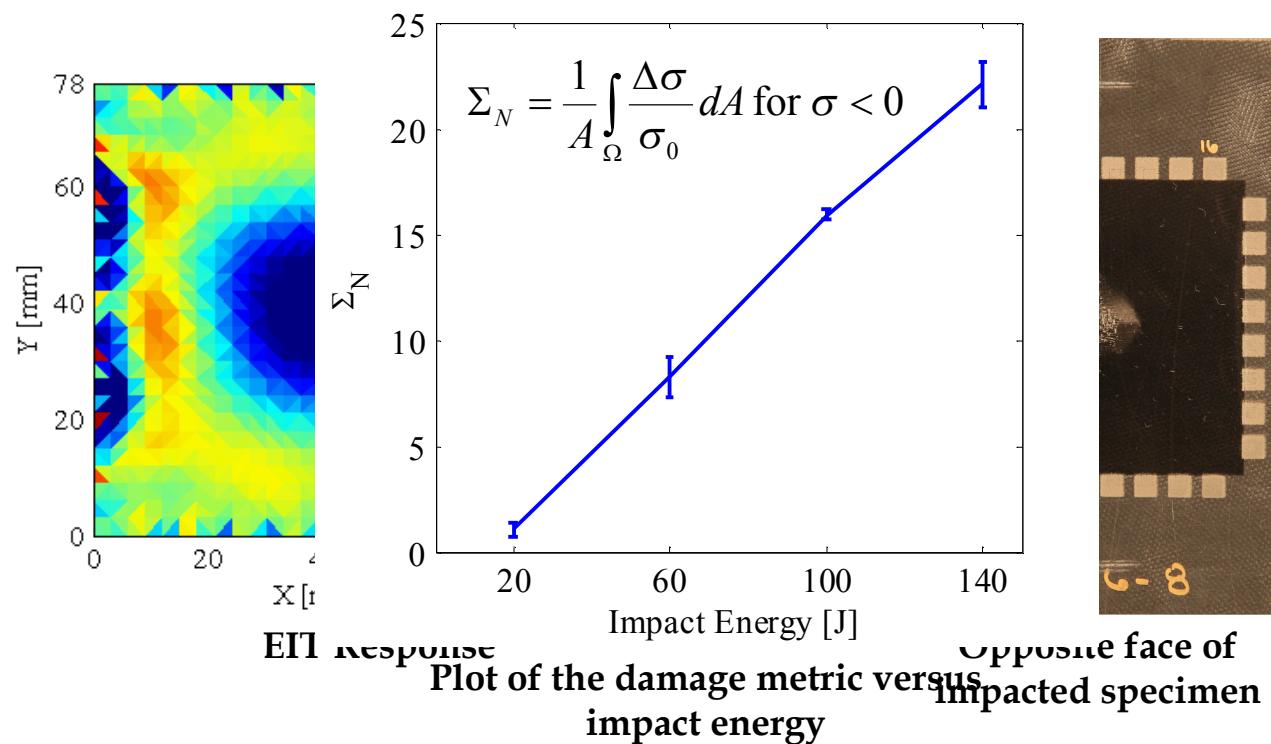
Impact setup



Impact specimen

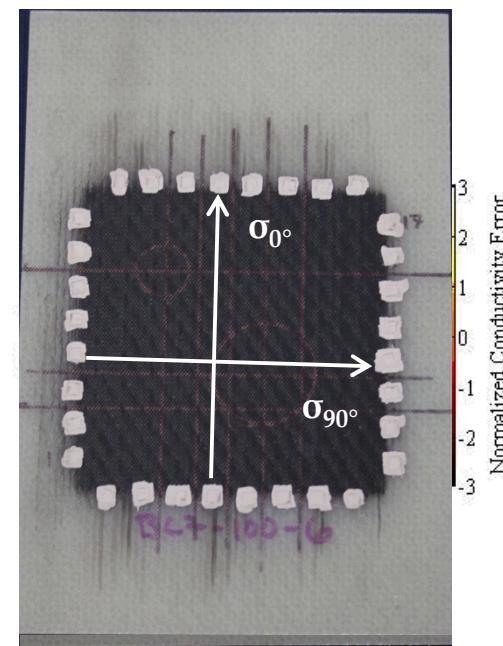
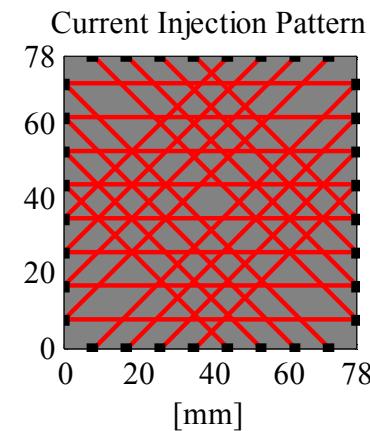
# Impact Damage Detection

- EIT reconstruction captures conductivity decrease in damaged region
  - Decreasing amplitude and increasing response region with increase in impact energy
- Linear response w.r.t. damage metric with good repeatability



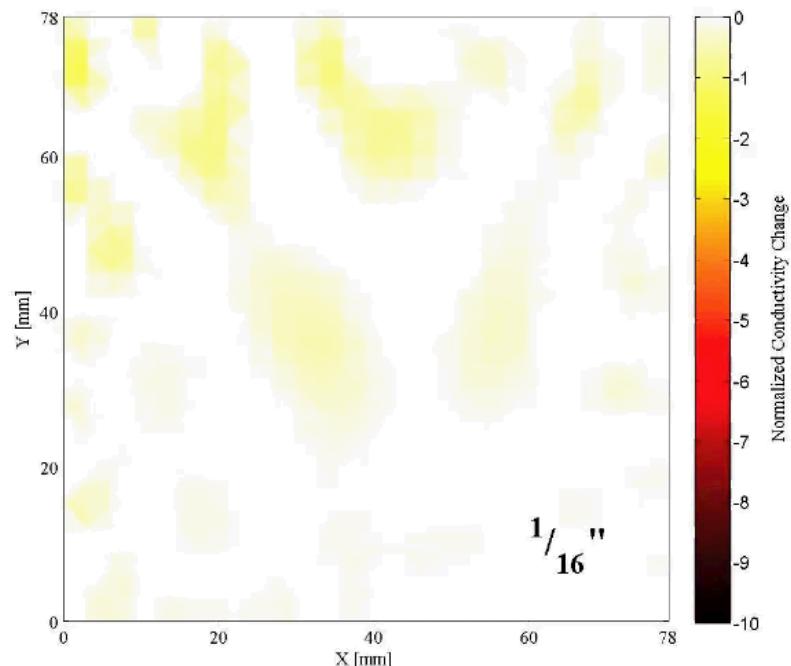
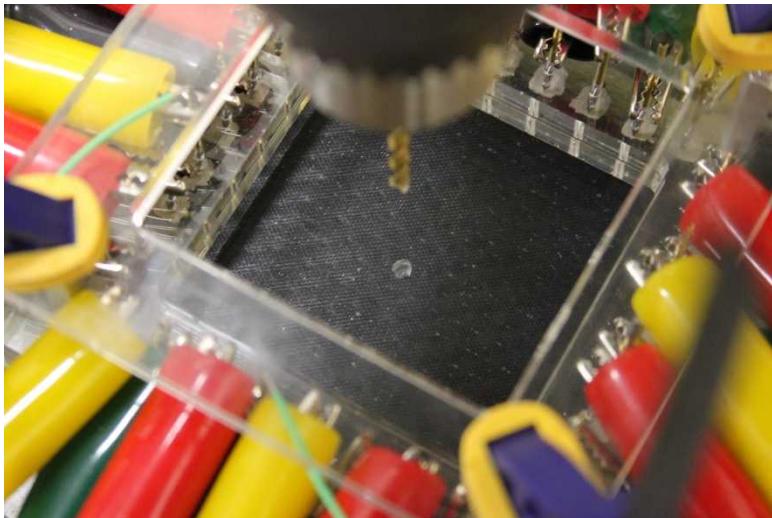
# Embedded Spatial Sensing

- Embedded sensing architecture
  - MWNT-Latex on GF fiber weave
  - Embedded within epoxy matrix
- Specimens
  - $[0^\circ/ +45^\circ/ 90^\circ/ -45^\circ]_{2s}$
  - Unidirectional GF
  - 150 mm x 100 mm
    - ASTM D7146 Standard
- Anisotropic EIT
  - Isotropic ▶ Anisotropic
  - Scalar ▶ Matrix:  $\sigma$
  - $\sigma_{0^\circ} > \sigma_{90^\circ}$  by  $\sim 2:1$
  - $\nabla \cdot (\sigma \nabla \phi) = 0$



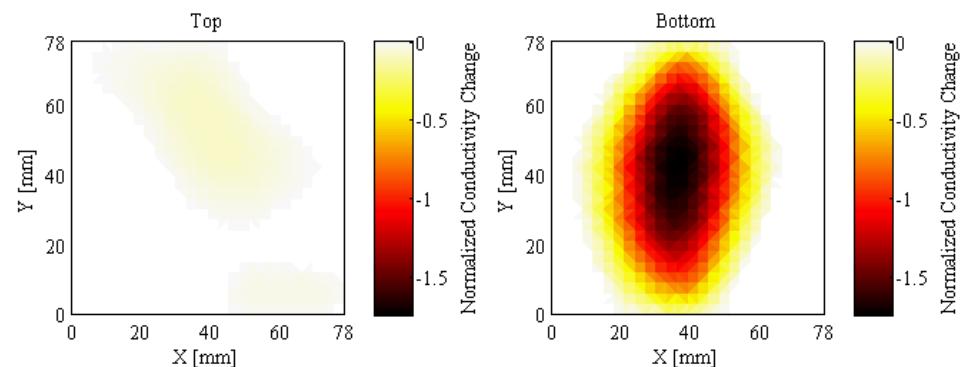
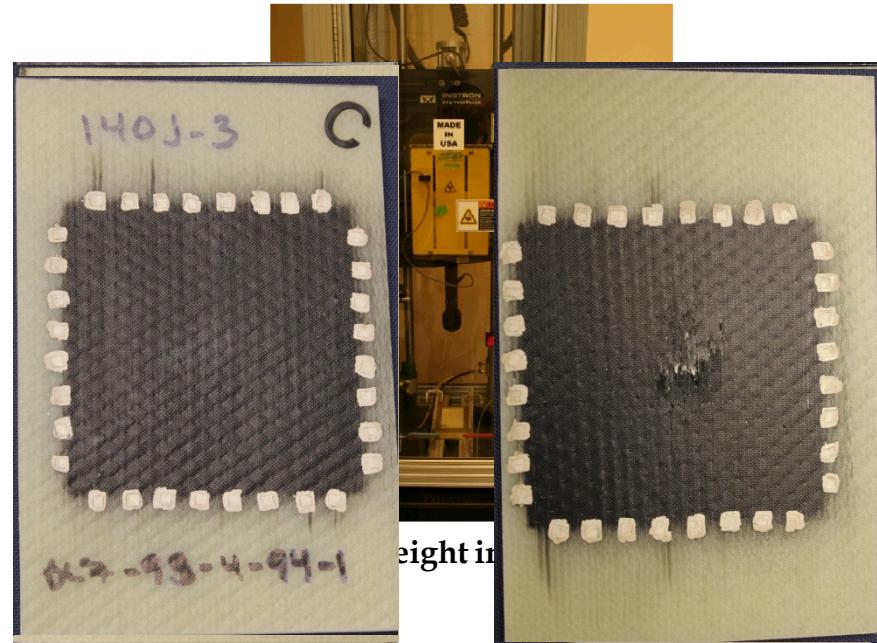
# Embedded Spatial Sensitivity

- Embedded sensing validation:
  - Determine conductivity change sensitivity
  - Process:
    - Progressively larger drilled holes:
    - $1/16''$ ,  $1/8''$ ,  $3/16''$ ,  $1/4''$ ,  $5/16''$ ,  $3/8''$ ,  $1/2''$
  - Anisotropic EIT performed
    - Conductivity change from pristine sample



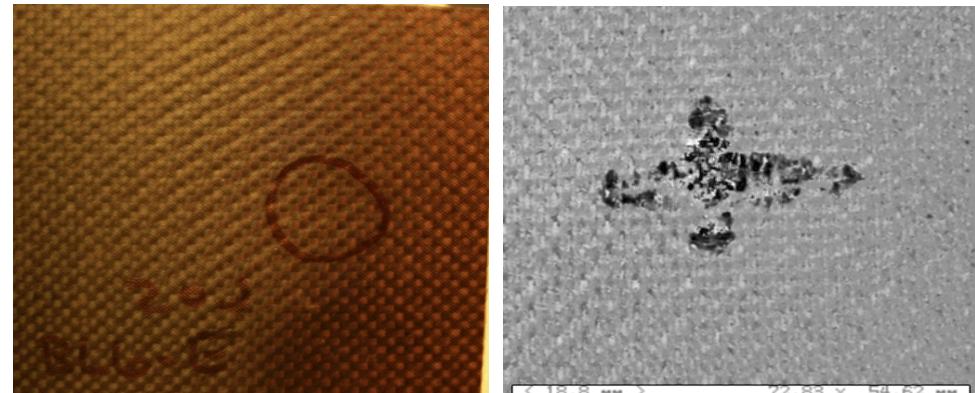
# Impact Damage Detection

- Drop-weight impact tests
  - **ASTM D7146**
  - 78 mm by 78 mm sensing region
  - MWNT-latex on glass fiber weave
  - Impact energy: 20, 60, 100, 140 J
  - Before/after EIT measurements
- Verification:
  - Thermography
    - Matrix Cracking
    - Delamination
  - Photographic Imaging
    - Surface damage



# CFRP Damage Detection

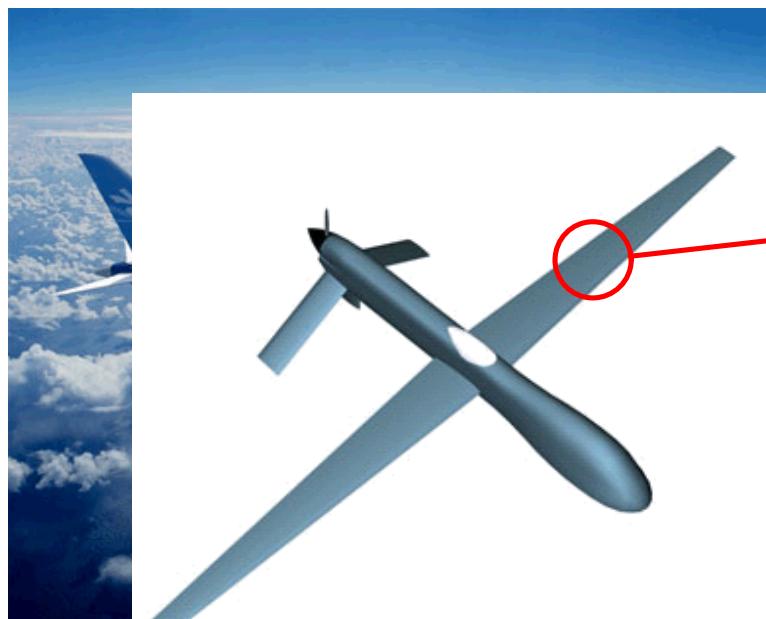
- Carbon Fiber-Reinforced Polymers
  - High-strength-to-weight ratio applications
  - ~50% weight of Boeing 787
  - Primary structural material in SpaceShipTwo



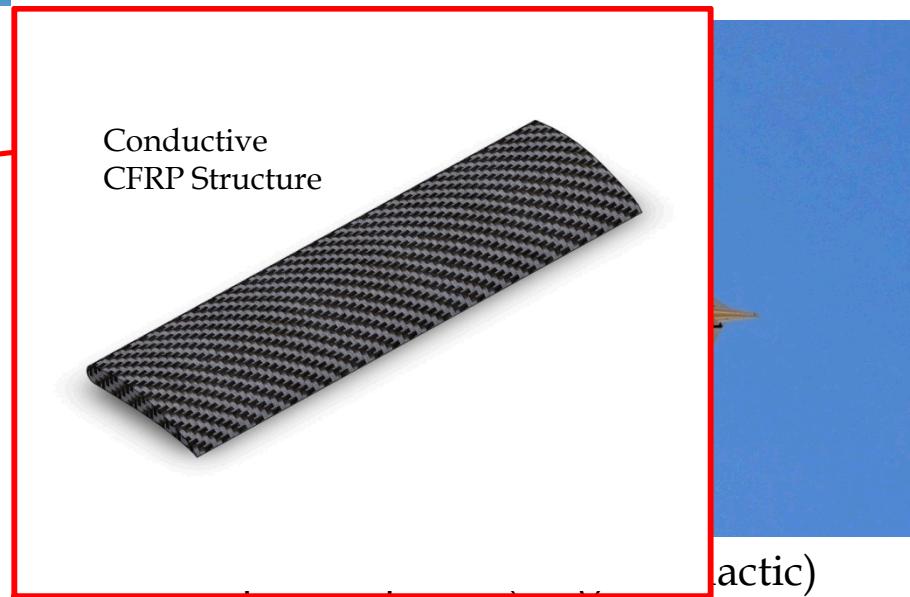
Visual inspection

CFRP panel after 20 Joule impact

C-SCAN ultrasound image



Boeing 787 (Boeing)

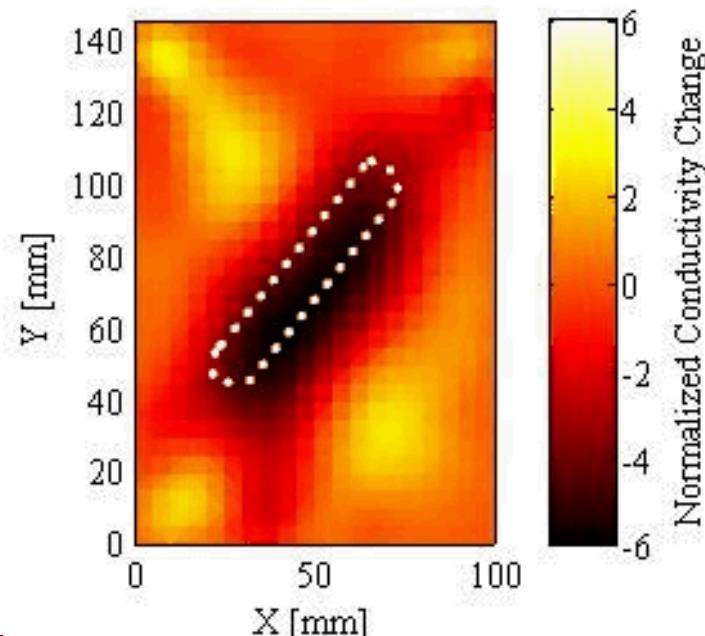
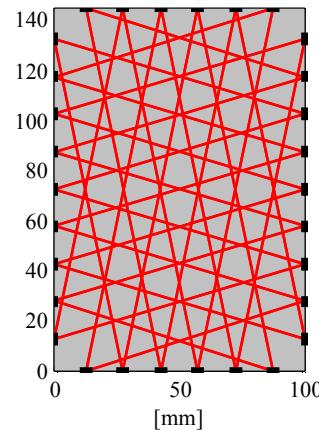


Conductive  
CFRP Structure  
(Boeing)

# CFRP EIT Validation

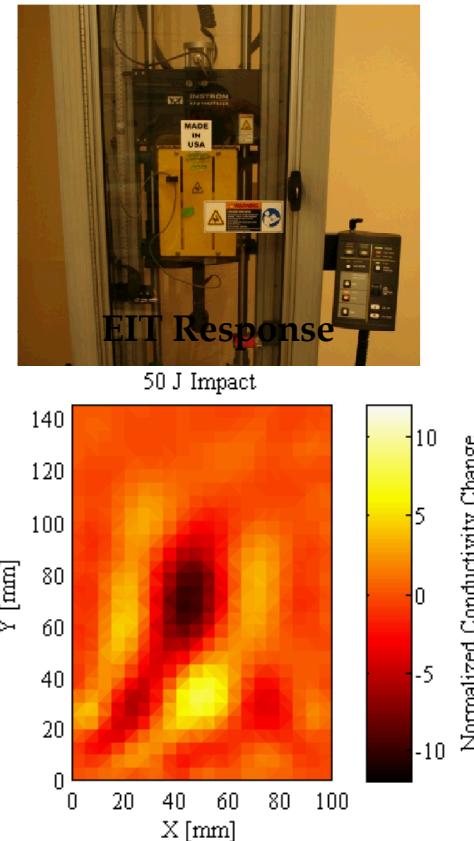
- Applied sensing measurements
  - $[\pm 45, 0/90]_{8s}$  CFRP composite
  - 100 mm x 145 mm sensing region
  - $6 \times 9$  electrodes scheme = 30 electrodes
    - 5 mm electrodes
    - 10 mm spacing
  - Anisotropic material injection scheme
- Investigate stability and efficiency:
  - Computational demand
    - $\sim 1$  s reconstruction time
- Accuracy characterization:
  - Conductivity:
    - Known removal of material
  - Spatial feature ID sensing resolution
    - 6.3 mm diagonal line

Current Injection Pattern



# CFRP Impact Damage Detection

- Drop-weight impact tests
  - ASTM D7146
  - $[\pm 45, 0/90]_{8s}$  CFRP composite
  - 100 mm  $\times$  145 mm specimens
  - Impact energy: 20, 35, 50 J
  - Before/after EIT measurements



# Summary

- Propose a next-generation SHM system
  - Direct in situ damage detection
  - Monitor location and severity of damage
- Embedding multi-modal sensing capabilities
  - Development of MWNT-nanocomposites for SHM
  - Characterized electromechanical response to monotonic
  - Response to temperature swings
- Outline validation of EIT for damage detection
  - Applied GFRP, embedded GFRP, and CFRP specimens
  - Strain sensitivity
  - Damage sensitivity
  - Impact damage

# Thank You!



## Questions?

## Acknowledgements:



*Exceptional  
service  
in the  
national  
interest*

