

Challenges in optimized structural metamaterials

PRESENTED BY

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3D Printing is advancing sustainability

7 Ways 3D Printing Helps You Go Green

Make Parts Locally

3D printers can fit in your office so you can make parts, prototypes, and products locally, as opposed to shipping them from a far away. The result is less environmental impact from plans, ships, and trucks.



Smaller, Quieter Factories

One 3D printer can replace several pieces of traditional manufacturing equipment because it can print a wide variety of parts in a wide variety of materials. Less equipment makes for smaller, quieter factories and fewer emissions.



Repairability & Spare Parts

3D printers can quickly and cheaply make repair parts for unique or out-of-production equipment, keeping old machines and vehicles off the scrap heap and eliminating the need for more raw materials and energy to manufacture new machines.



More Efficient Design

3D printers can make parts with shapes and features unachievable with other manufacturing methods. You can redesign your part to make it more efficient and use less material. Products that were once made of multiple parts can now be printed as one thus reducing material, time, and labor.



Streamline Manufacturing

3D printers require fewer tools and processes than traditional manufacturing thus eliminating a lot of labor, equipment, and energy. 3D printing is often faster.



Less Raw Material

3D printers make parts with only the material needed and minimal support material instead of carving a part from a block of metal, wood, or plastic, which produces waste.

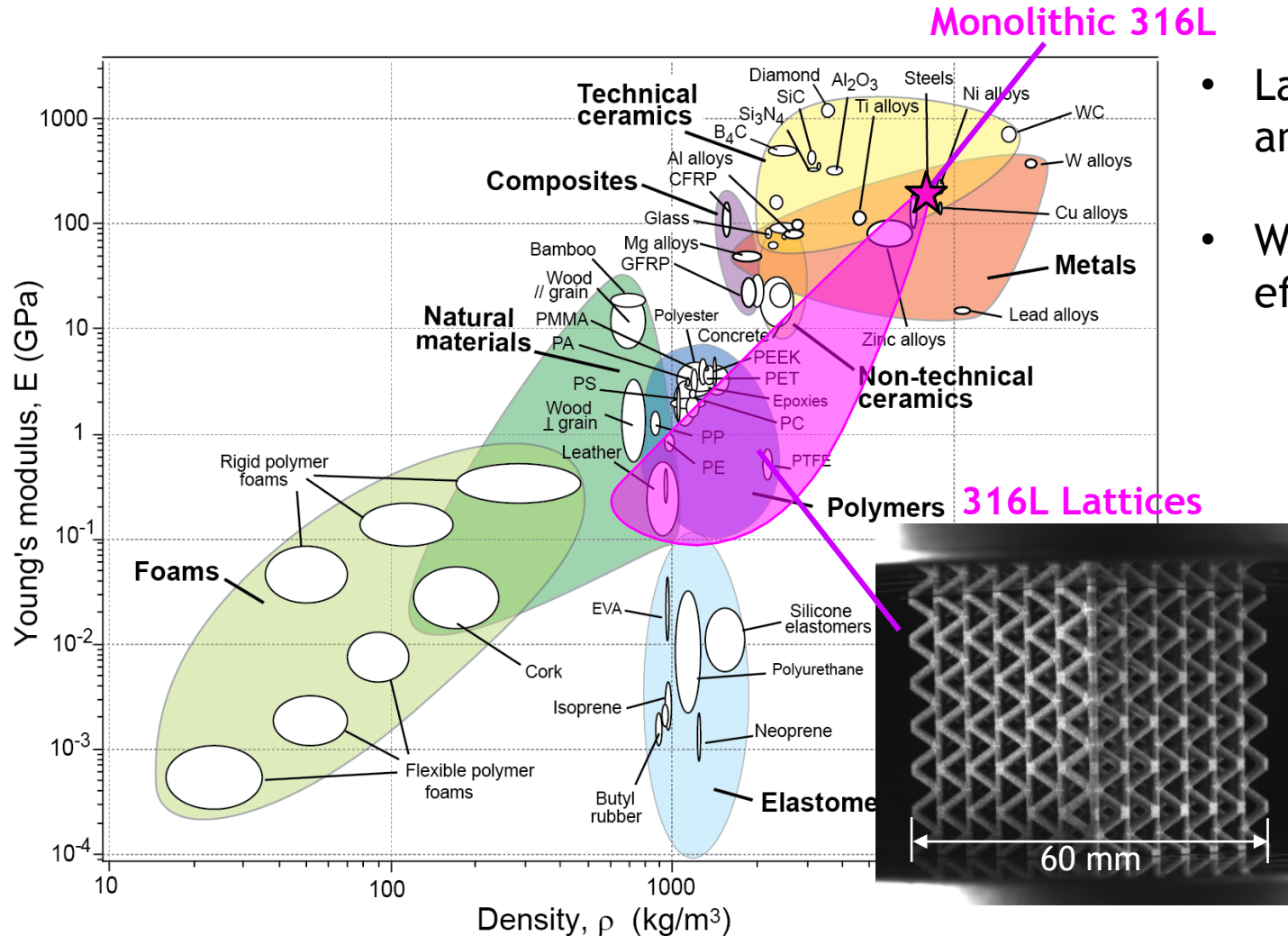


Eliminate Inventory

With 3D printers, you can print on demand or print small batches instead of having a warehouse of spare and overstock parts, many of which may never be needed.



Lattice (structural metamaterials) enhance sustainability

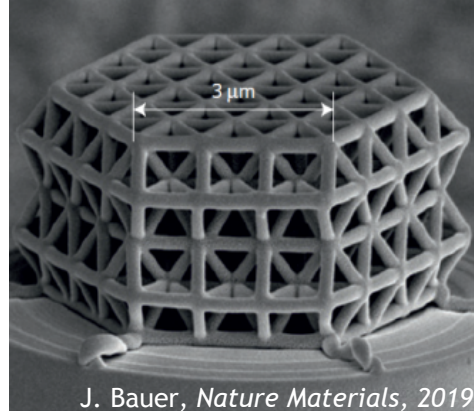


- Lattices can allow optimized strength/weight and stiffness/weight, tailorable across a body.
- With a single source material, a wide range of effective properties can be achieved
 - Less material sourcing
 - Less material compatibility issues

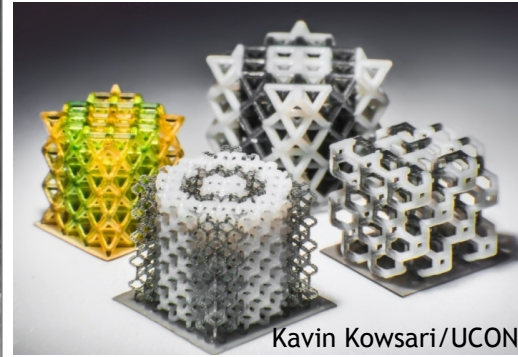
Examples of lattices from the literature



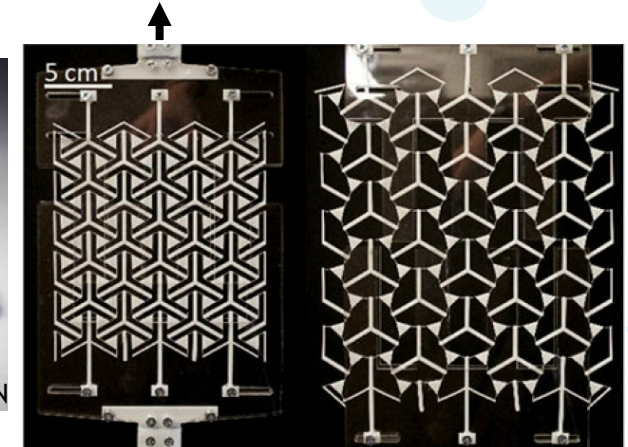
© HRL Laboratories, LLC/Photo by Dan Little



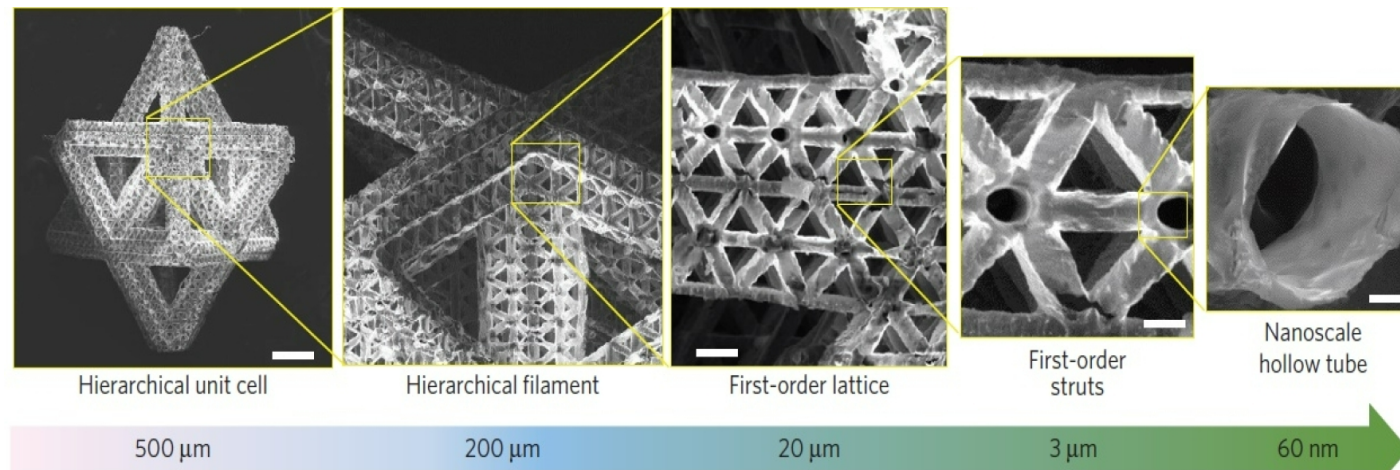
J. Bauer, *Nature Materials*, 2019



Kavin Kowsari/UConn



X. Shang, *J. Materials Research*, 2018



Hierarchical unit cell

Hierarchical filament

First-order lattice

First-order struts

Nanoscale hollow tube

500 μm

200 μm

20 μm

3 μm

60 nm

Zheng, *Nature Materials*, 2016

Two practical challenges with lattices:



1. Optimal lattice design

Example 1: Crush energy absorption via Micromorphic continuum approach

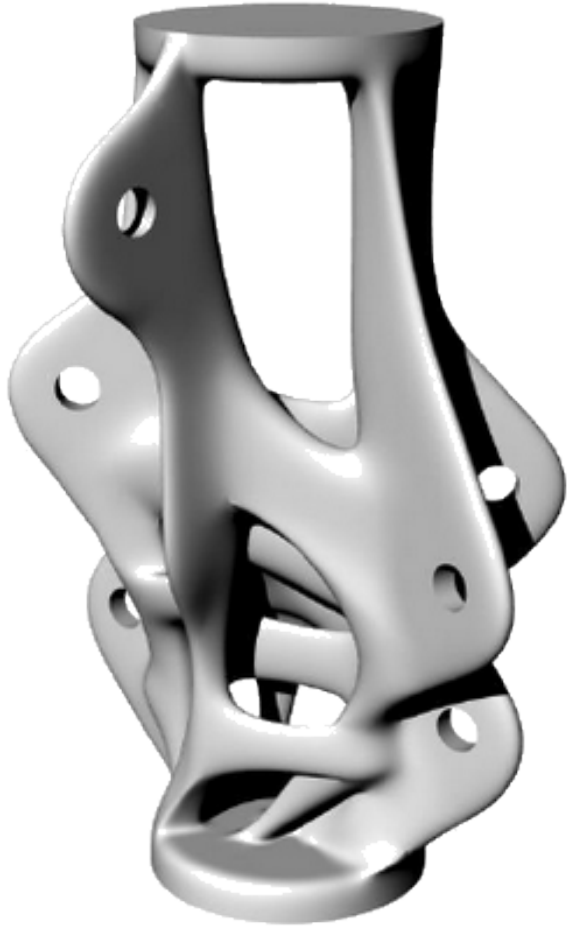
Example 2: Manufacturing-constrained Two-objective optimization via neural networks

2. Material imperfections in lattices

a. Effective properties are size dependent

b. Surface roughness effects

Topology optimization has been the cornerstone of AM design



- Geometry is not drawn by the engineer
- Engineer sets objectives / constraints
- Gradient-based iterative optimization defines geometry

Galjaard, Hofman and Ren,
Biomimetic Lightweight..., 2015

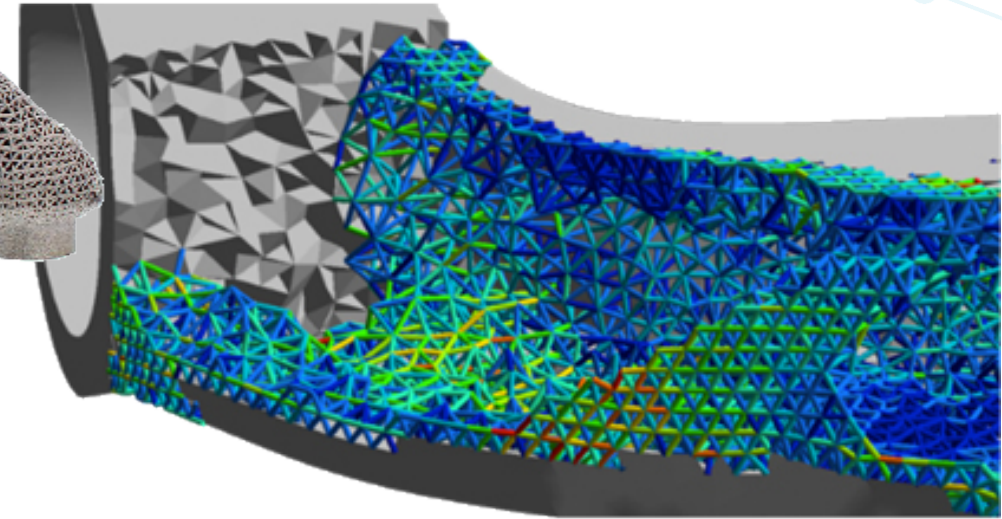
Lattices are computationally expensive for FEA

Even a CAD “STL” file of a simple lattice
Can require many gigabytes.

10,000 struts x 100 elements = 1 million elements



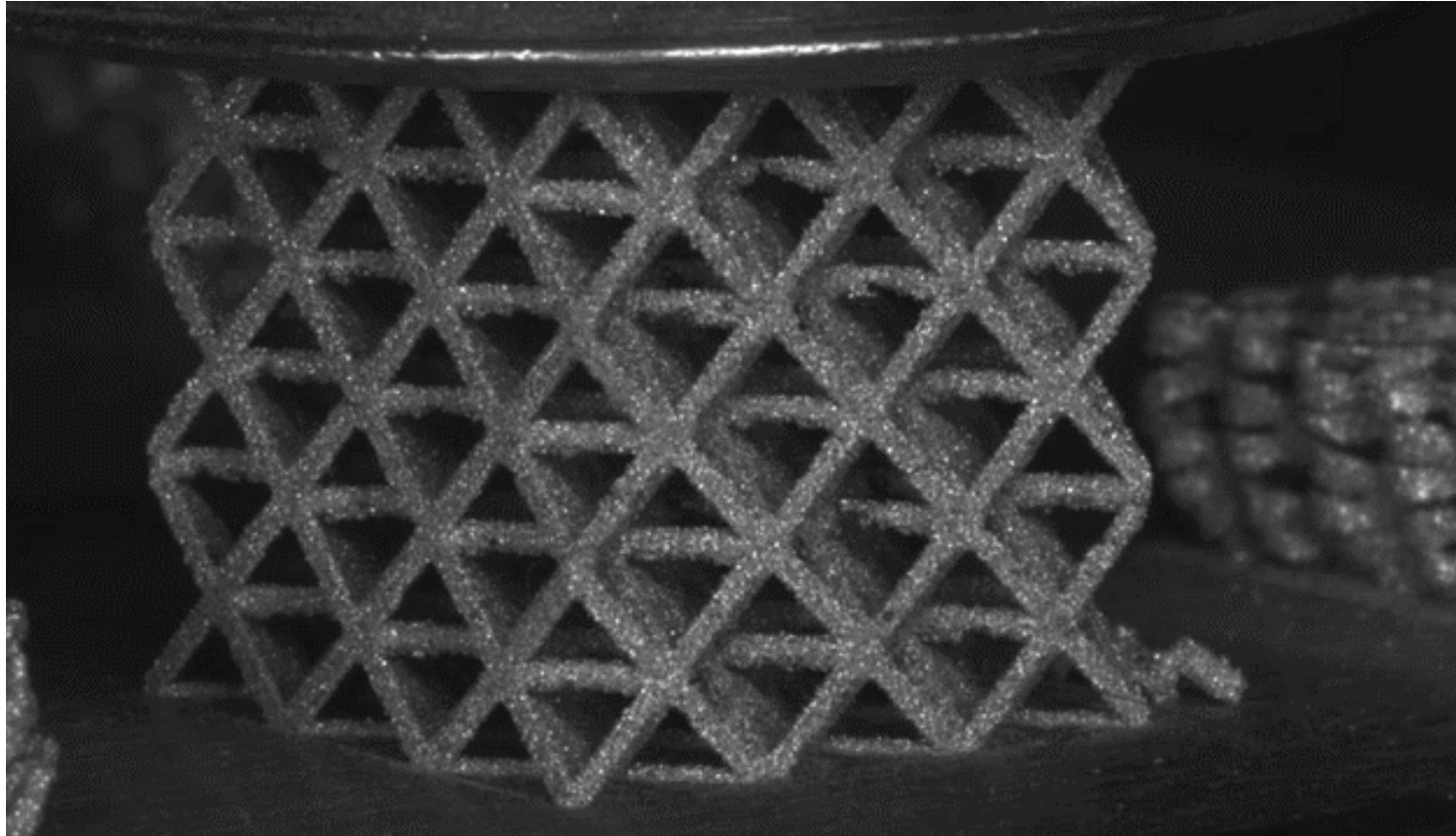
Renishaw's titanium optimized spider support



Examples: nTopology; Altair hyperworks; Materialise Magics

Design objective: crush energy absorption

Nonlocality: Shear localization limits crush energy absorption



Can FCC and BCC unit cells be intelligently combined to improve compressive energy absorption?

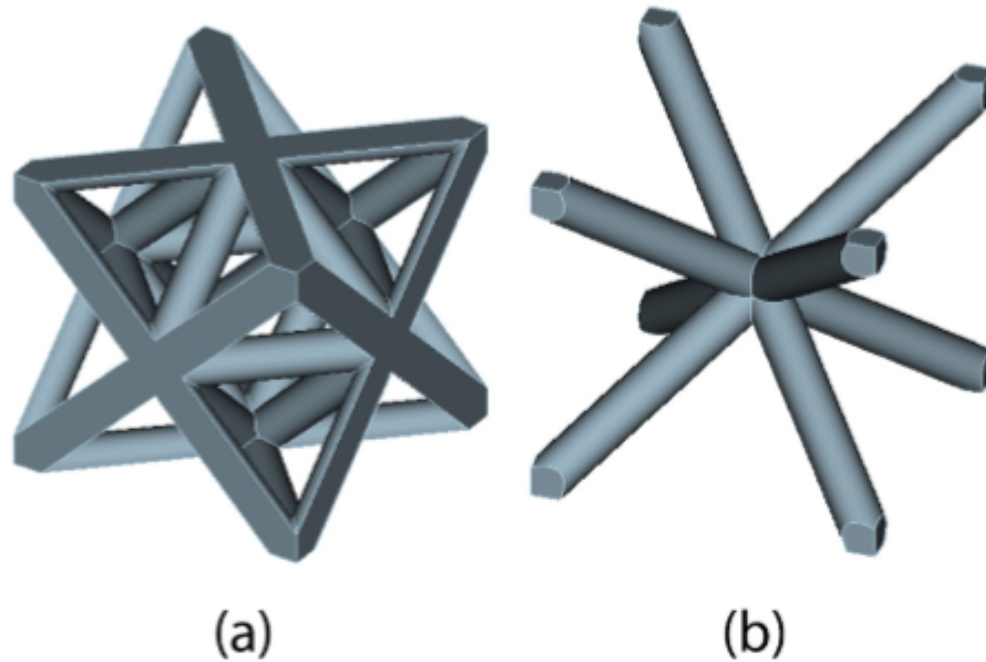


Fig. 1. Unit cell architectures used as constituents of multi-morphology lattices: (a) Stretch-dominated FCC, and (b) bending-dominated BCC.

Homogenization techniques for periodic structures

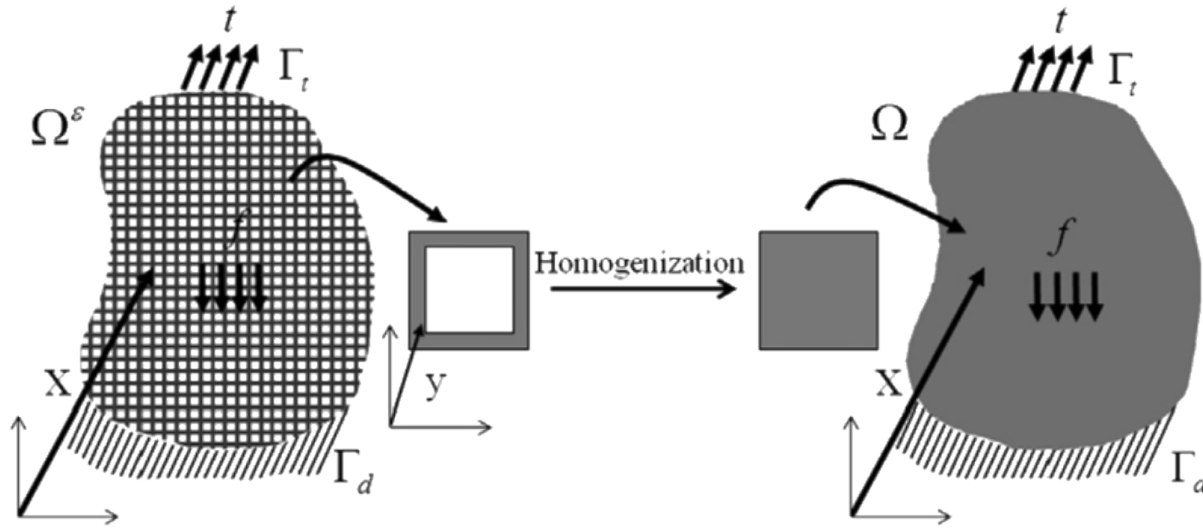


Fig. 2. Homogenization concept of a cellular structure.

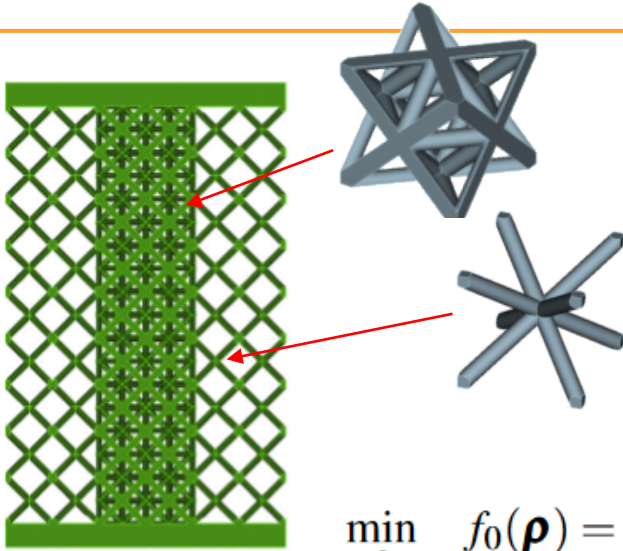
Arabnejad and Pasini, *Int. J. Mech. Sci.*, 2013

Review: Hassani and Hinton, *Computers & Structures*, 1998

Micromorphic continuum:

- Developed by Eringen and Mindlin in 1960's
- Used for size-effects (e.g. strain-gradient theory)
- Captures localization phenomena
- Requires a regularization length scale
- See review by Forest and Sievert (2006)

Two-unit cell Nonlinear optimization problem



$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \quad f_0(\boldsymbol{\rho}) = -W^P,$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad f_1(\boldsymbol{\rho}) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{e=1}^{n_{ele}} \rho_e v_e - V_f \leq 0,$$

$$f_2(\boldsymbol{\rho}) = \frac{\hat{F}^{max}}{F^{end}} - c_0 \leq 0,$$

$$\mathbf{R}^k(\hat{\mathbf{u}}^k, \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{k-1}, \mathbf{c}^k, \mathbf{c}^{k-1}, \boldsymbol{\rho}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

$$\mathbf{H}^k(\hat{\mathbf{u}}^k, \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{k-1}, \mathbf{c}^k, \mathbf{c}^{k-1}, \boldsymbol{\rho}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

$$0 \leq \boldsymbol{\rho} \leq 1.$$

Objective: Maximize the plastic work for a given density

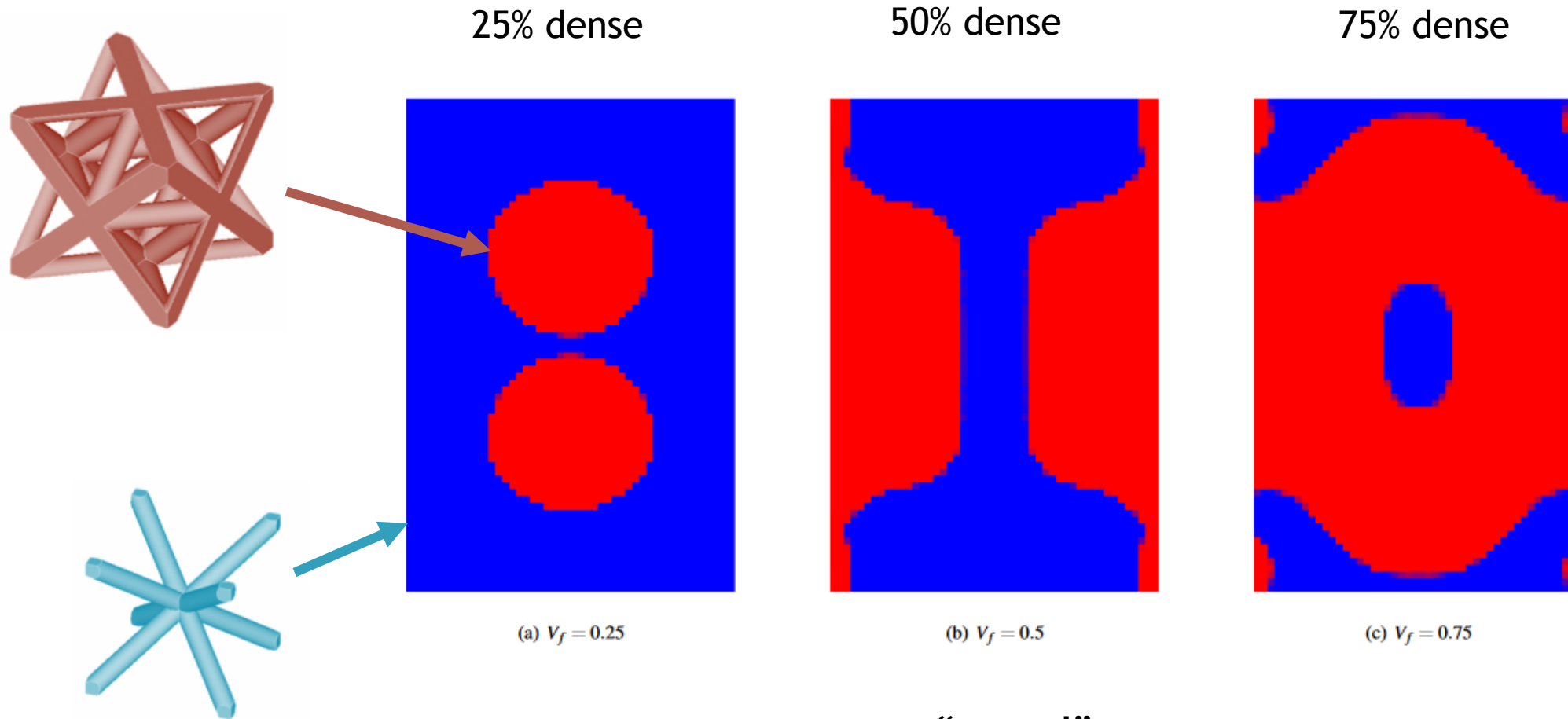
Constrain the volume fraction

Prevent softening

Implicit global and local PDE constraints from enforcing equilibrium

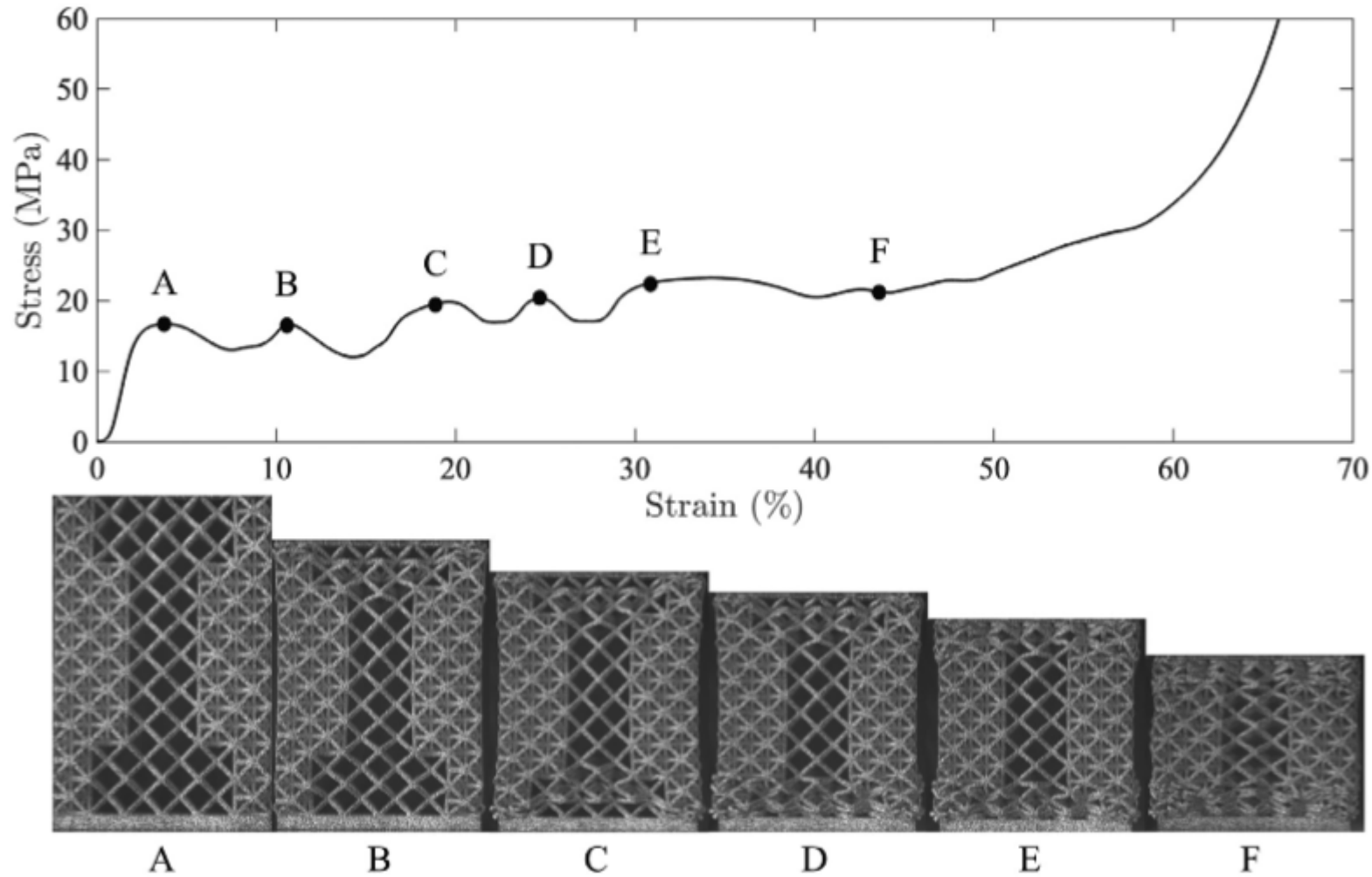
Constrain density

Result: optimal tiling for different volume fractions

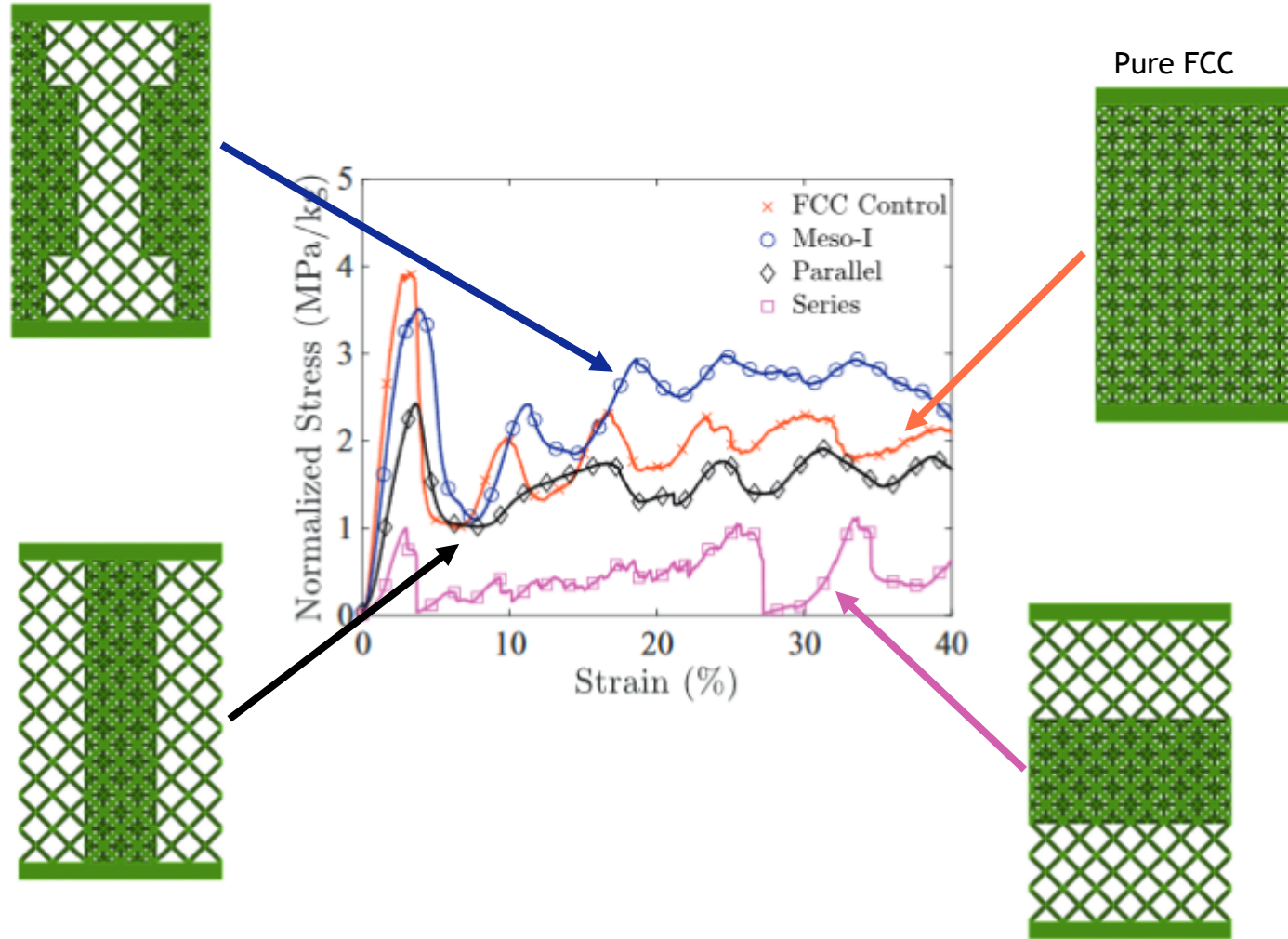


“meso-I”

Experimental validation of the “meso-I” structure



The “meso-I” improves over simpler architectures



Second example: two objectives & manufacturing constraints

Two mechanical objectives:

Objective 1: Maximize stiffness

Objective 2: Minimize the effective elastic wave speed (maximize transmission time of a shock)

Five design/manufacturing constraints:

Constraint 1: all features must be contiguous (no floaters)

Constraint 2: a minimum feature size is set

Constraint 3: unsupported overhangs are forbidden

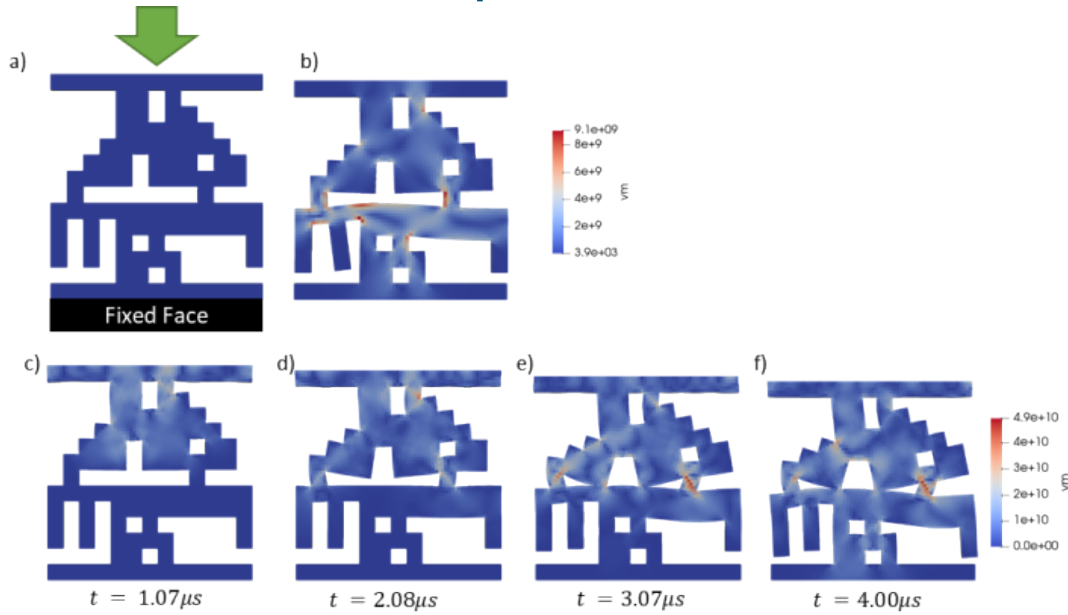
Constraint 4: unit cells must tile by connecting on their sides

Constraint 5: Supported overhangs must be below a threshold dimension

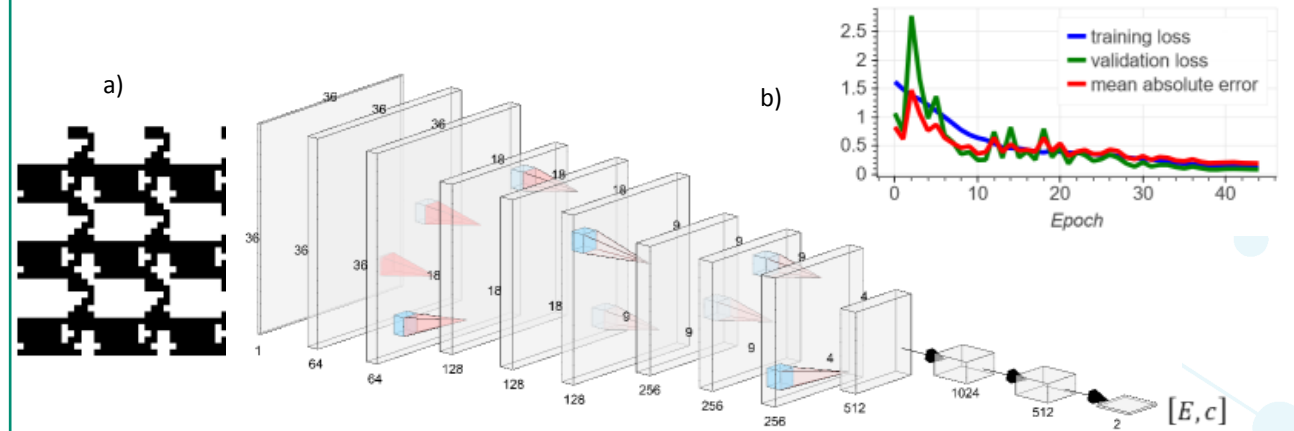
Constraint 6: density is between 40% and 60%

Replace costly explicit FEA with a CNN

Explicit FEA



Convolutional Neural Network



For more details...

AI/Data informatics: Design of Structural Materials — AI/ML for Design of Structural Alloys & Additively Manufactured Materials

Sponsored by: TMS Materials Processing and Manufacturing Division, TMS Structural Materials Division, TMS: Mechanical Behavior of Materials Committee, TMS: Computational Materials Science and Engineering Committee, TMS: Integrated Computational Materials Engineering Committee

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Tuesday PM

March 16, 2021

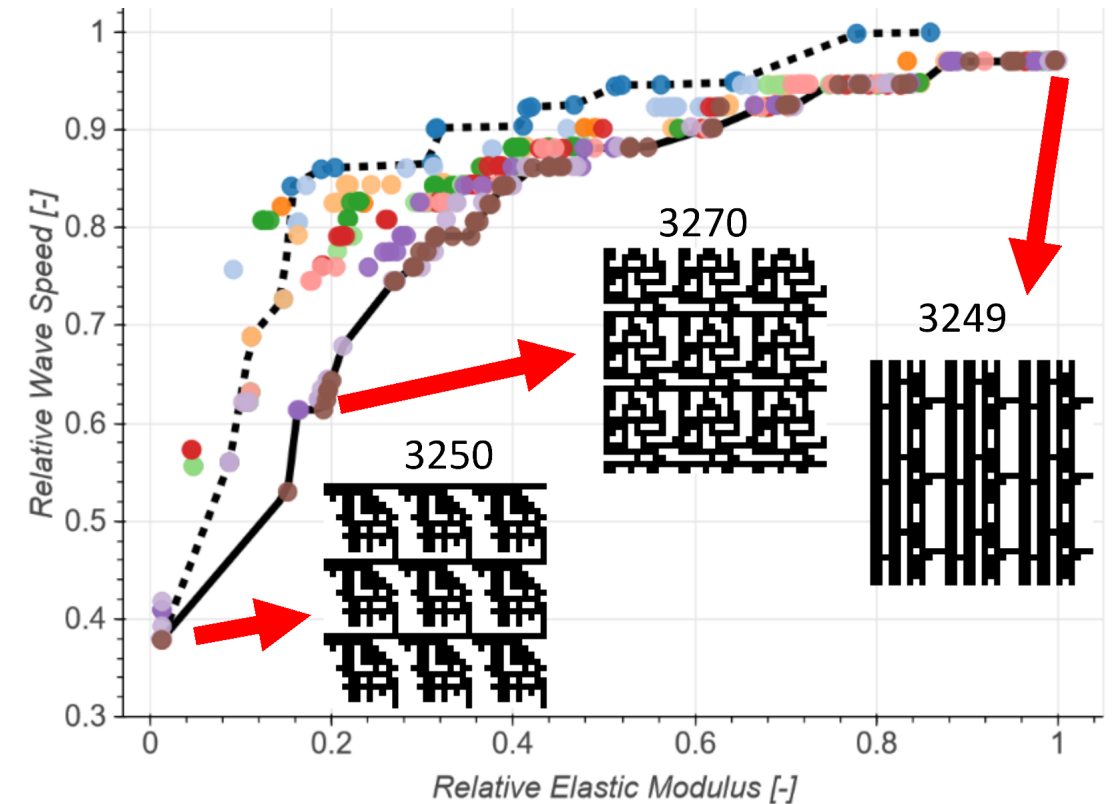
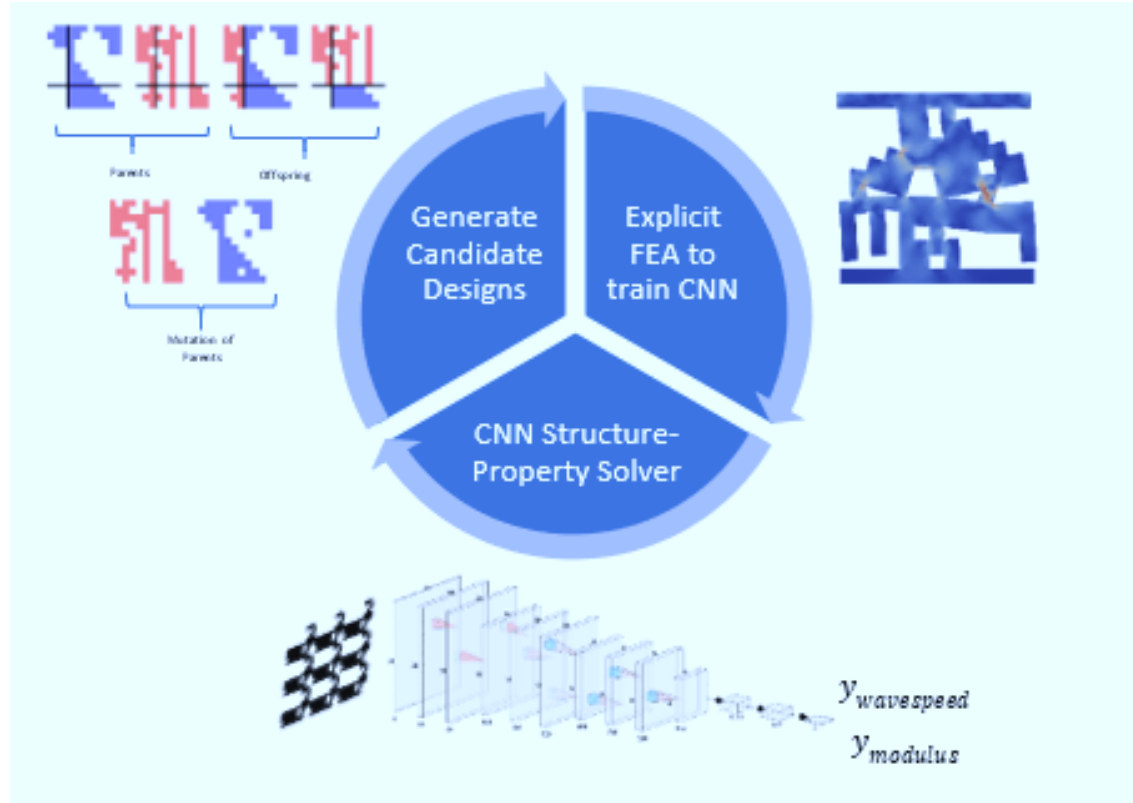
3:10 PM Invited

Multi-objective Lattice Optimization Using an Efficient Neural Network Approach: A. Garland¹; B. White¹; B. Boyce¹; R. Alberdi¹;

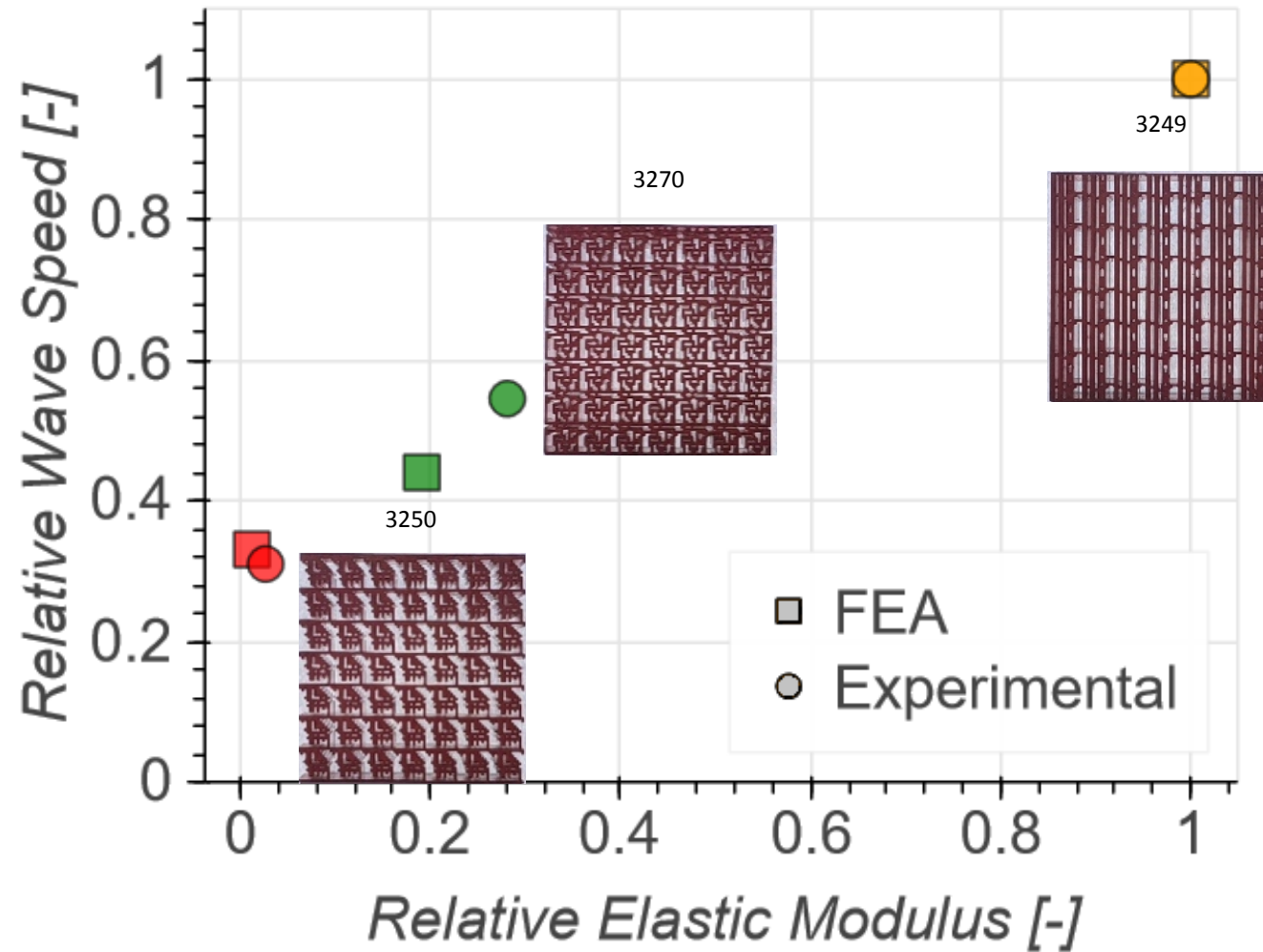
¹Sandia National Labs

Active-learning based lattice design: two objectives: stiffness and elastic wave delay

- Initial seed designs are randomly generated
- The initial designs are predicted by FEA (stiffness and effective wavespeed)
- The FEA results train a CNN, which is 6 orders faster than FEA
- The best solutions are hybridized by splicing two parents into offspring
- Offspring are screened based on the CNN

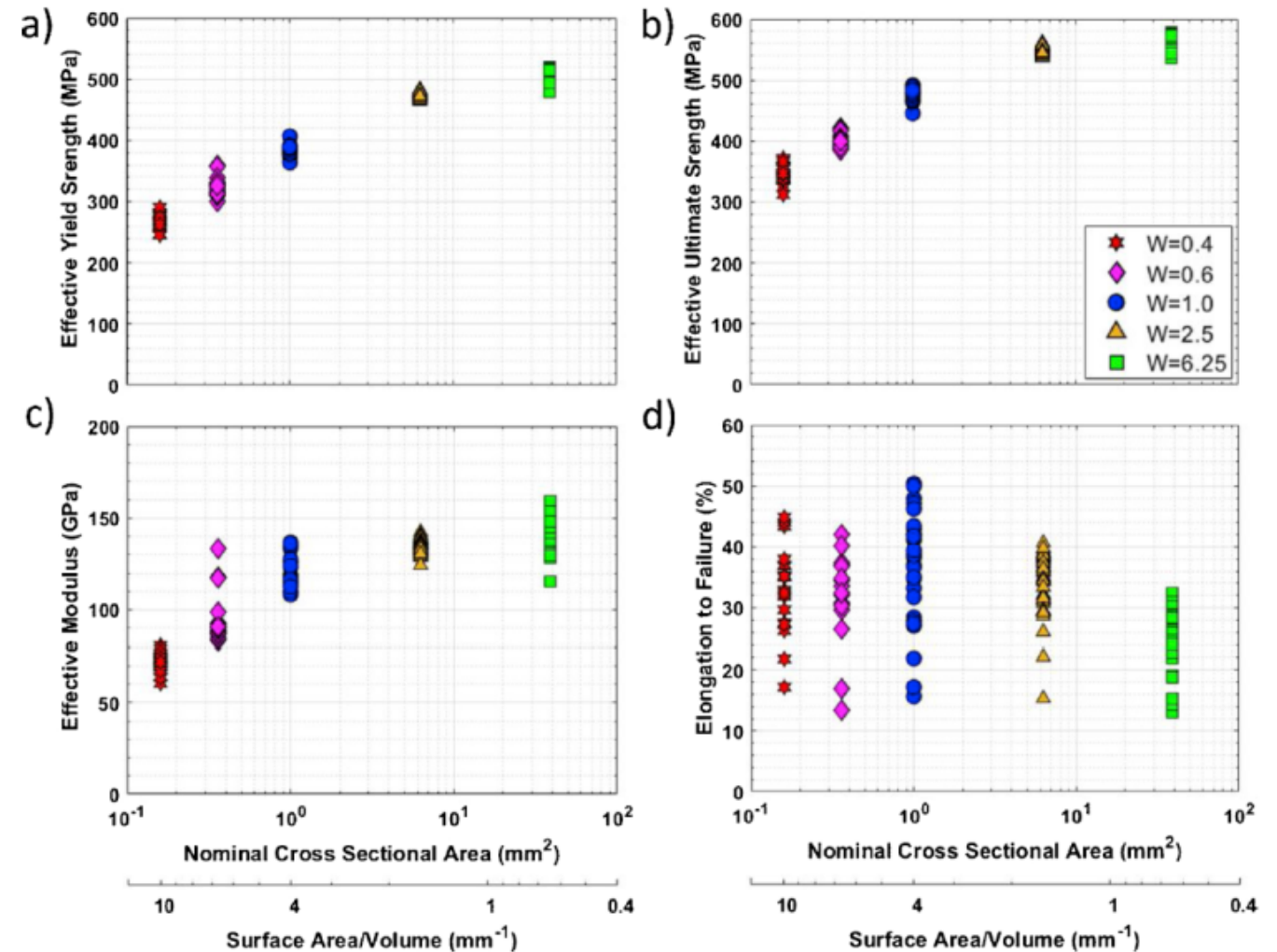
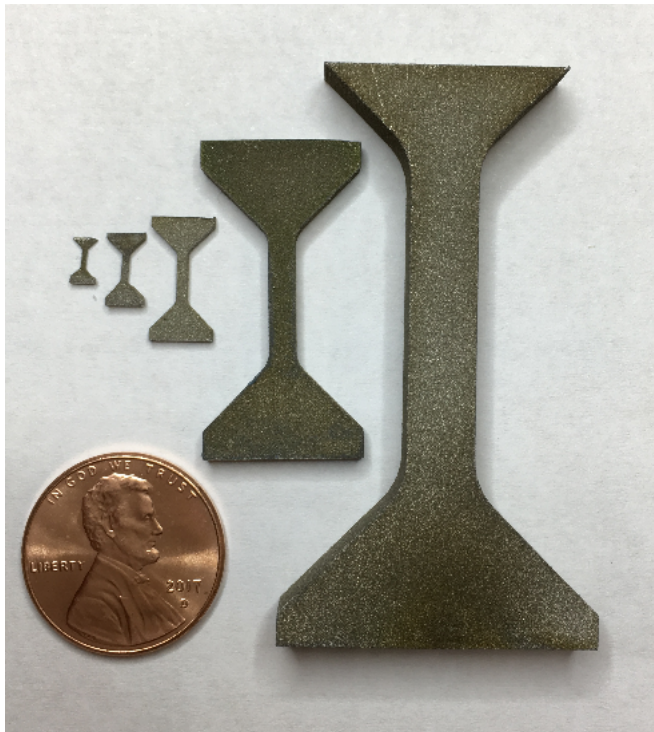


Experimental validation

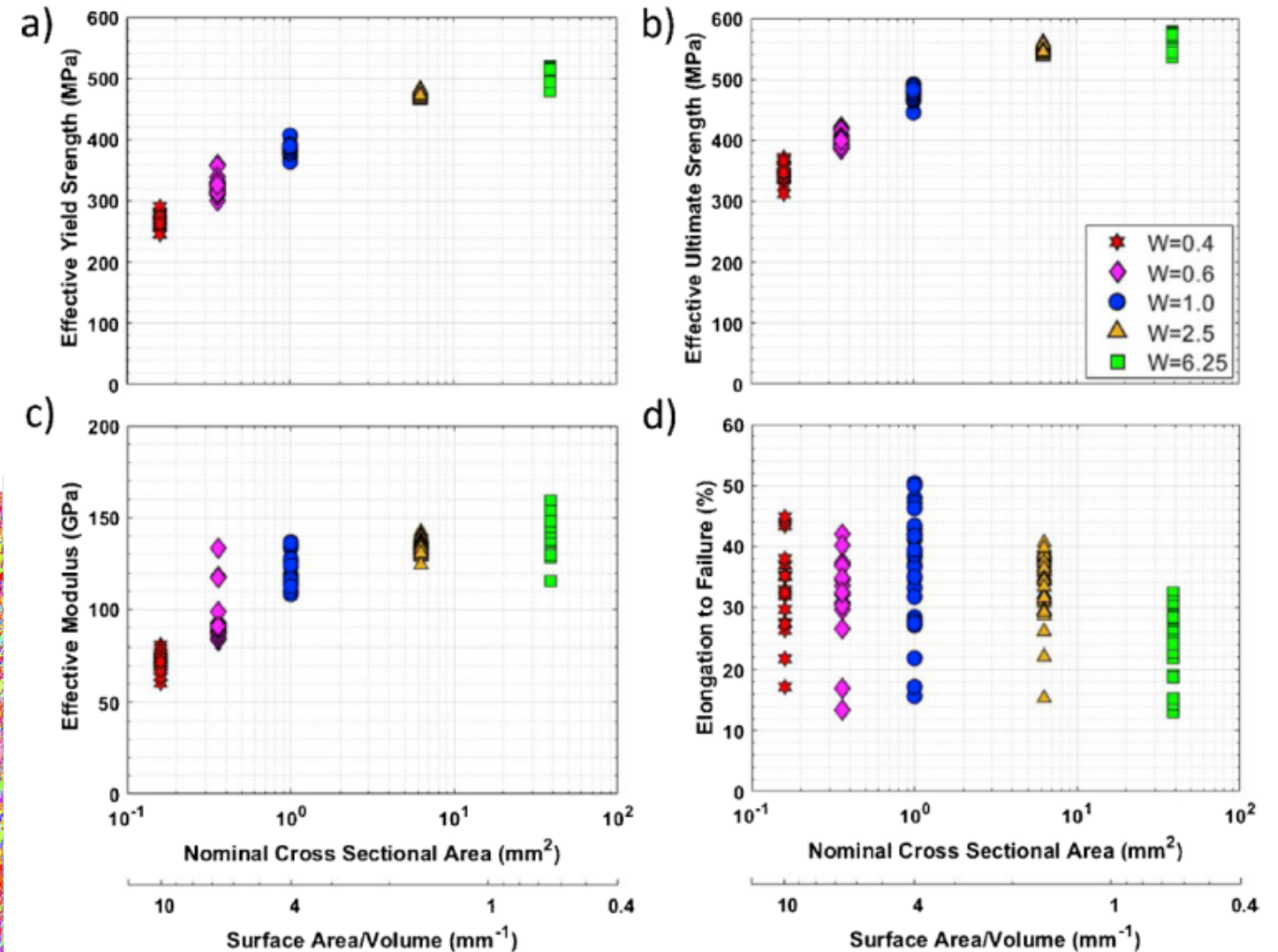
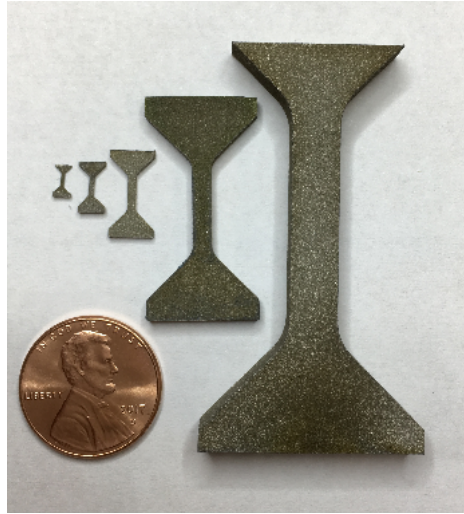


These models assume the struts behave like bulk, isotropic material

Effective mechanical properties of AM are strongly size-depe

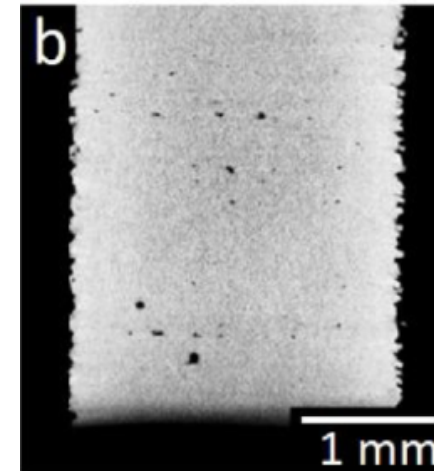
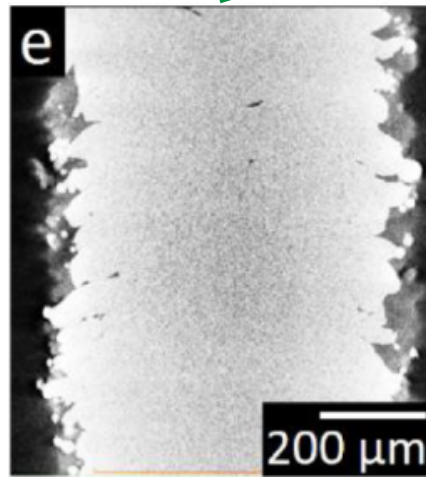
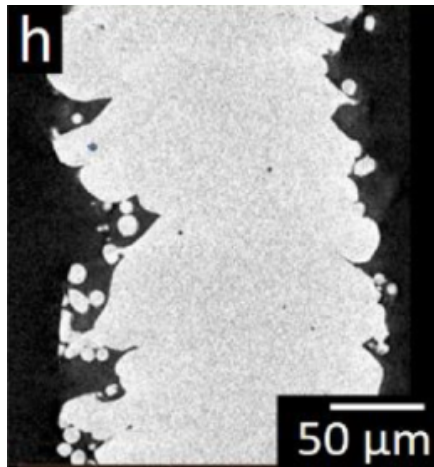
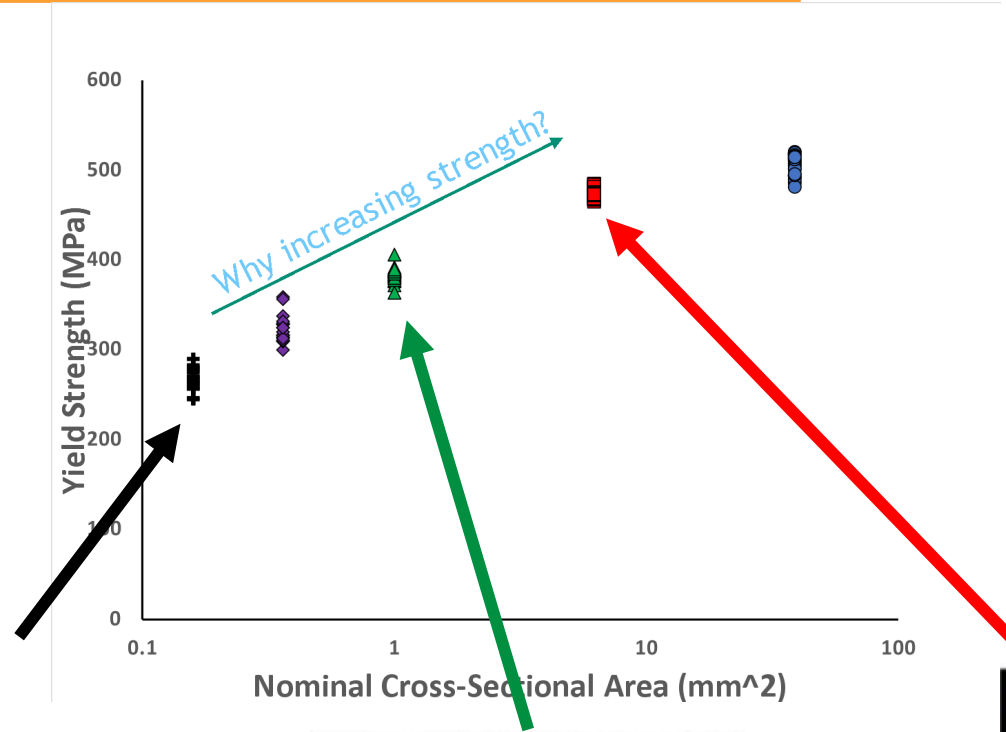


Its not the microstructure that causes size dependence!



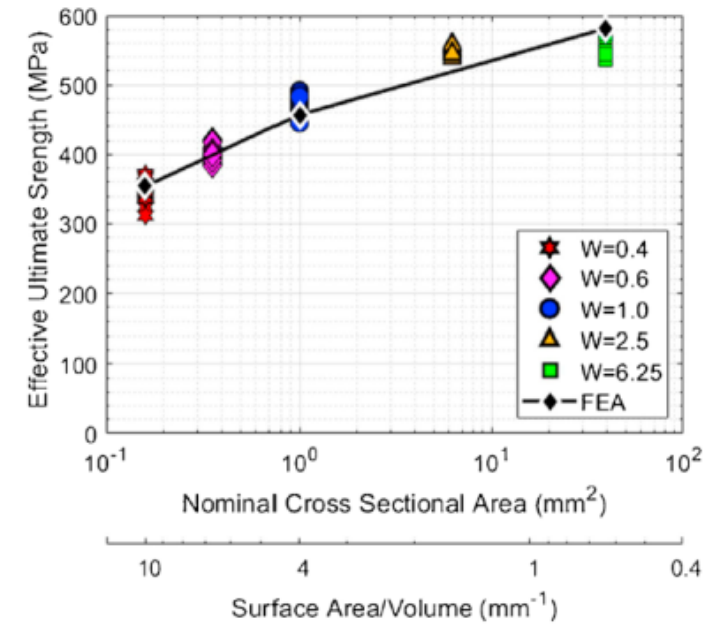
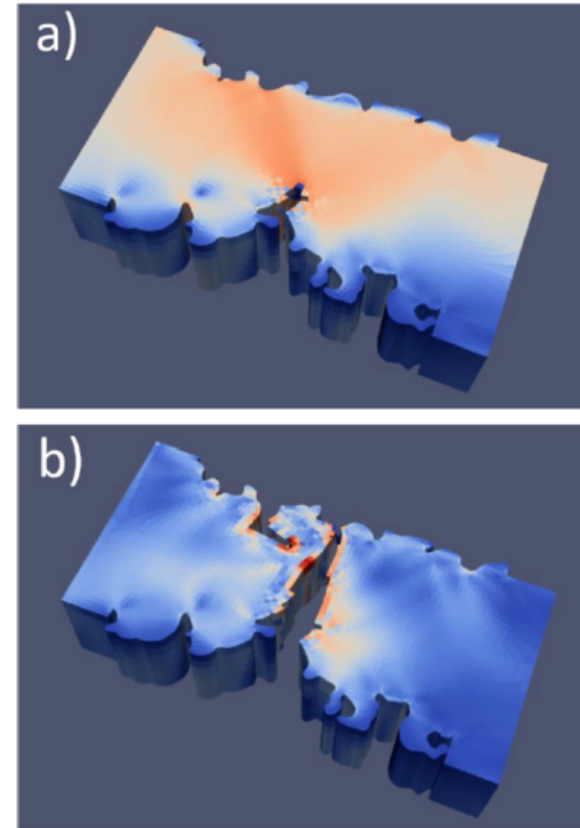
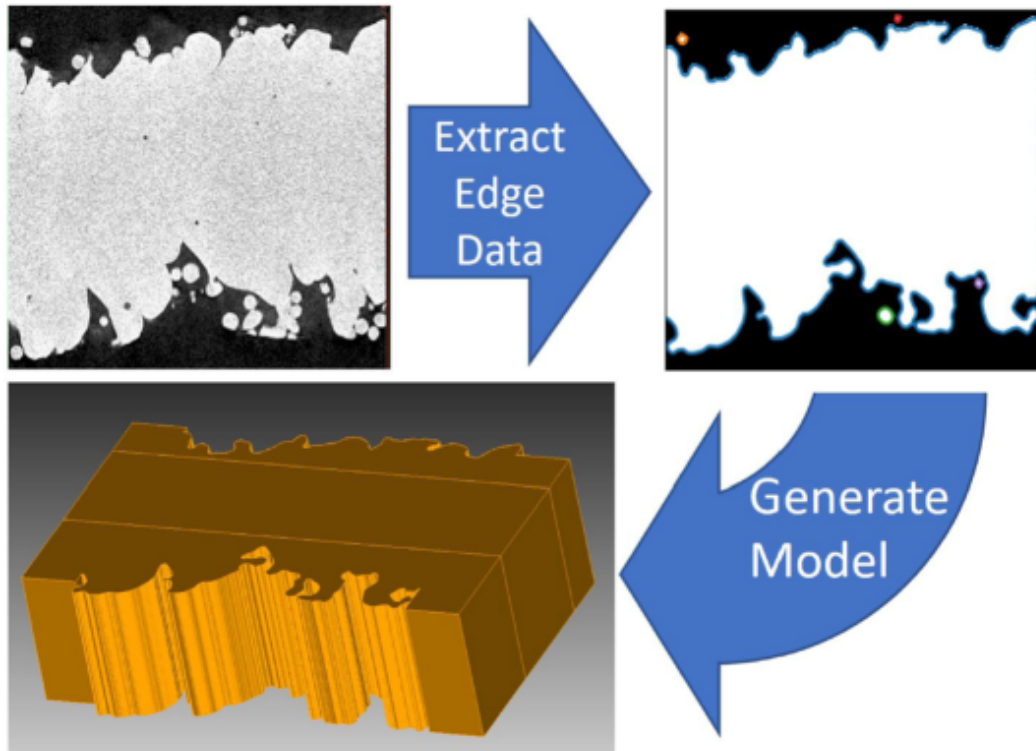
It's the surface roughness

- Reduces the effective cross-sectional area
- Adds a stress concentrating effect

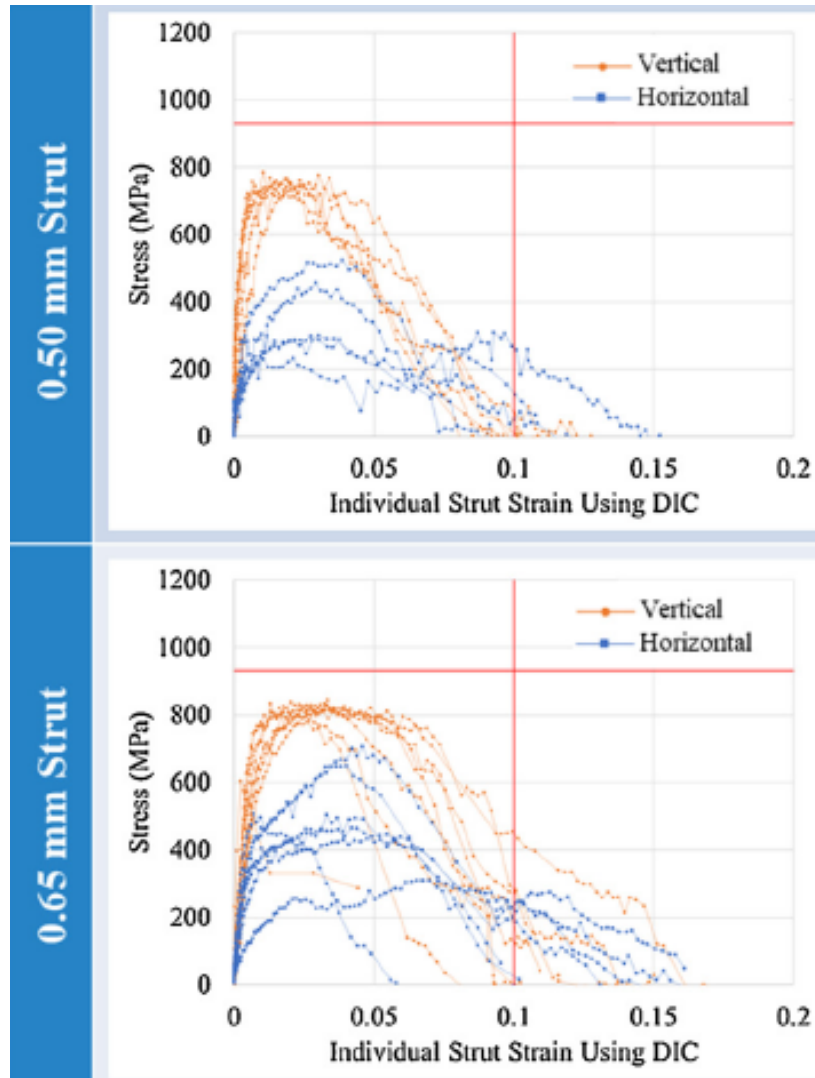


A. Roach, et al., Additive Manufacturing, 2020

FEA validates roughness effect



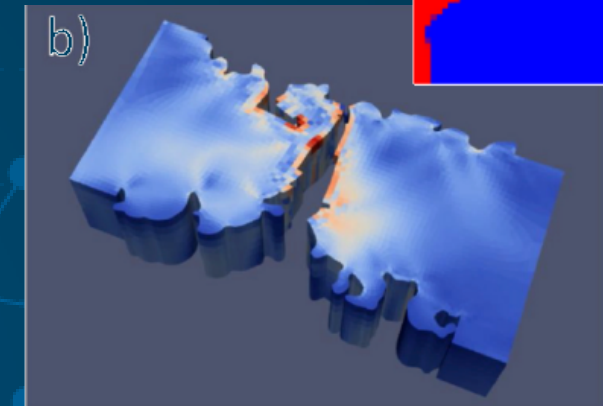
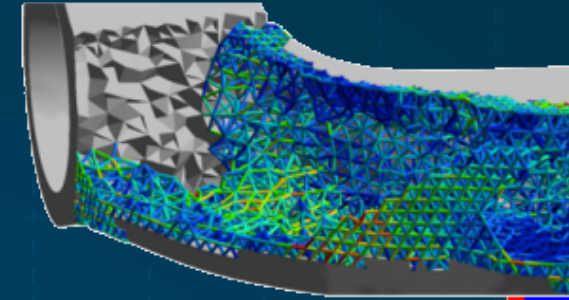
Struts do not behave like bulk material



- Orientation dependence comes from building on top of loose powder
- Not only size-dependent but highly stochastic

Take-home messages

1. Additively manufactured lattices can help enable sustainable metals usage
2. Optimized lattices maximize performance and minimize material usage / weight
3. Reduced order models, such as the micromorphic continuum method and neural networks can be employed to efficiently optimize lattices
4. In the future, it will be beneficial to incorporate more material realism in these models, such as representation of stochastic surface roughness.





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