

# Experimental Description of Draping Effects and their Influence on the Structural Behavior of Fiber Reinforced Composites

ICCM 22 2019 – Melbourne, 12-16<sup>th</sup> August 2019

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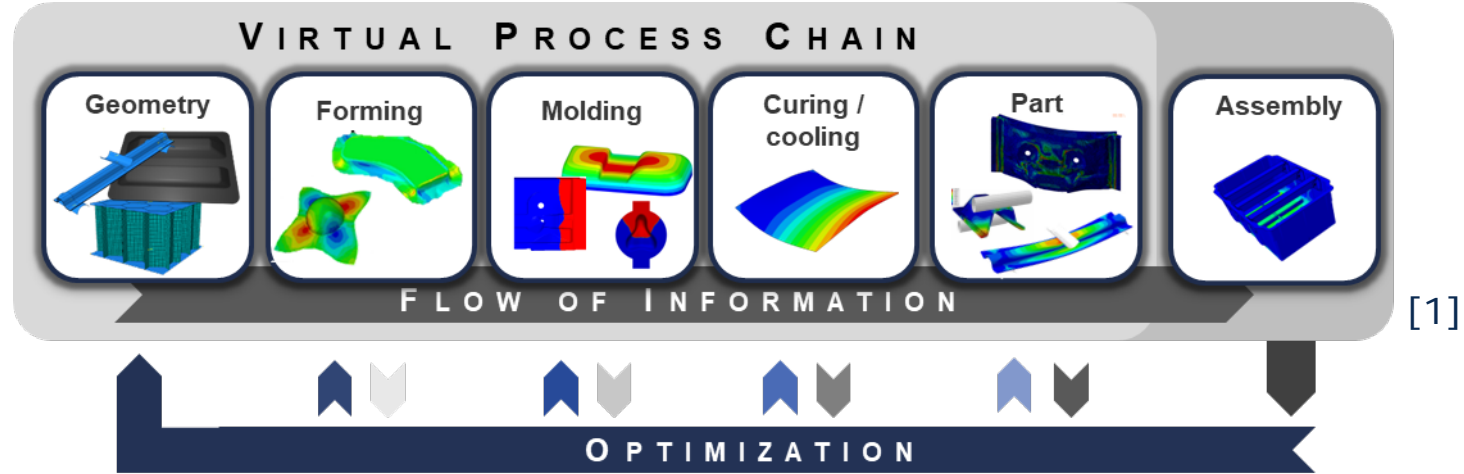
 Institut für  
Leichtbau und  
Kunststofftechnik**FAST**  
Institute of Vehicle System Technology

HIGHTECH  
MADE IN GERMANY  
CREATED IN SAXONY

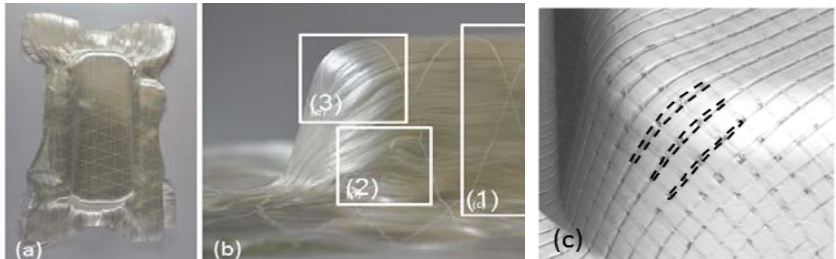


- Motivation
- Draping Effects and Methodology
- Experimental approach
- Simulation approach
- Results

## Inclusion of processing effects into structural simulation



**Draping effects**

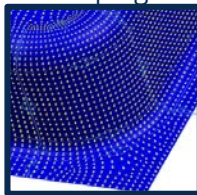
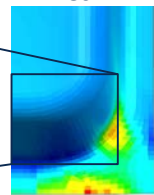


- (a) formed UD-fabric
- (b) fiber waviness (2)
- (c) Fiber gapping

**Description of structural behavior**

e.g. draping effect dependent fiber volume content

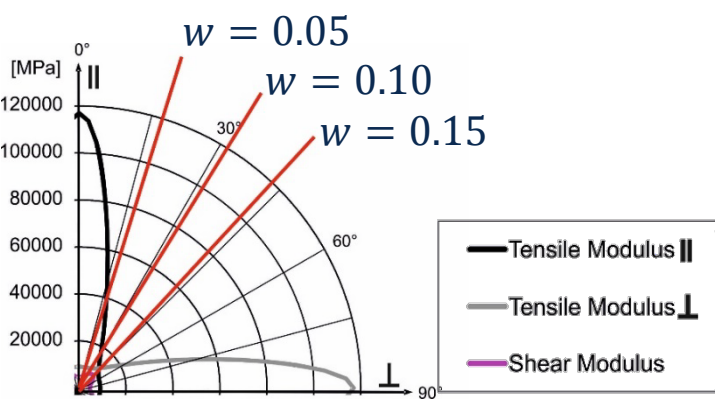
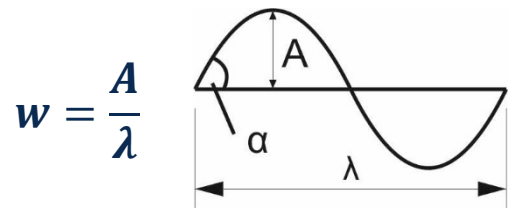
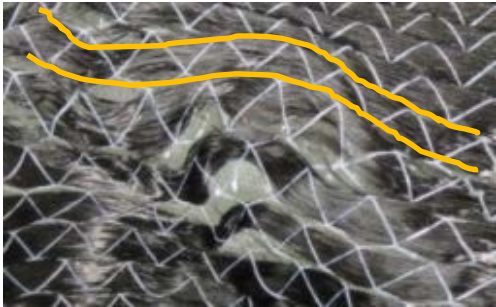
**Numeric process - structure - interaction**

PROCESS	STRUCTURE
draping	Ideal      Real
	

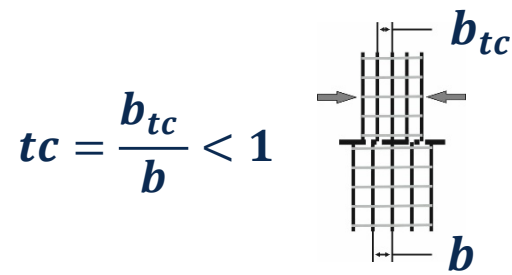
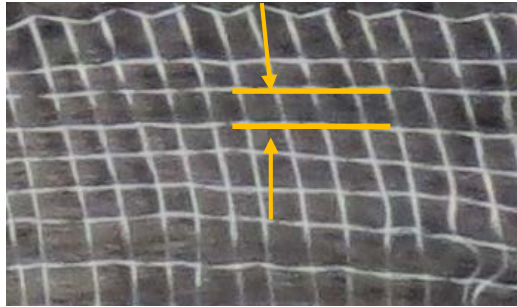
# Draping effects - definition



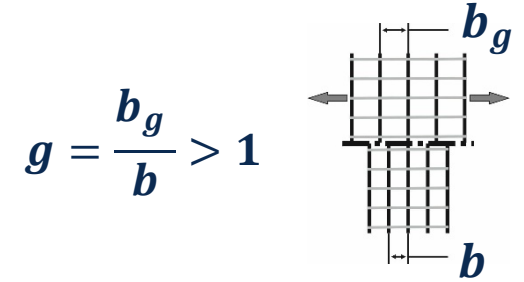
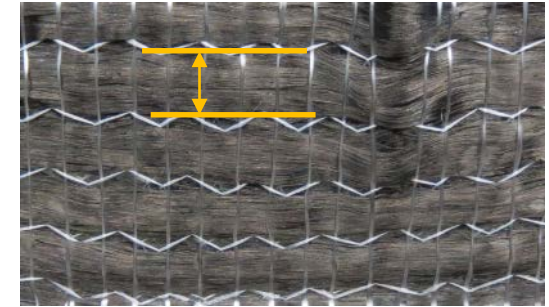
## 1. Fiber waviness (due to compression)



## 2. Transverse compression (due to compression or shear)



## 3. Gapping (due to transverse tension)



$$\varphi = \frac{n m_A * \frac{b_g/tc}{b}}{\rho t} = \varphi_{initial} * \frac{b_g/tc}{b}$$

$m_A$  – areal weight  
 $n$  – number of layers  
 $\rho$  – density of fiber  
 $t$  – thickness  
 $\varphi$  – fiber volume content

# Methodical approach



UD non-crimp fabric



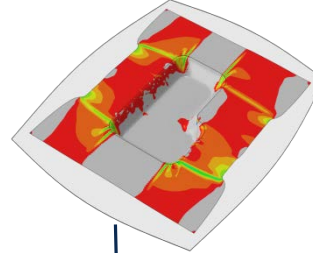
Zoltek PX 35 (50K)

- 338 g/m<sup>2</sup>
- 5 mm roving width
- Pre-applied non-reactive powder binder

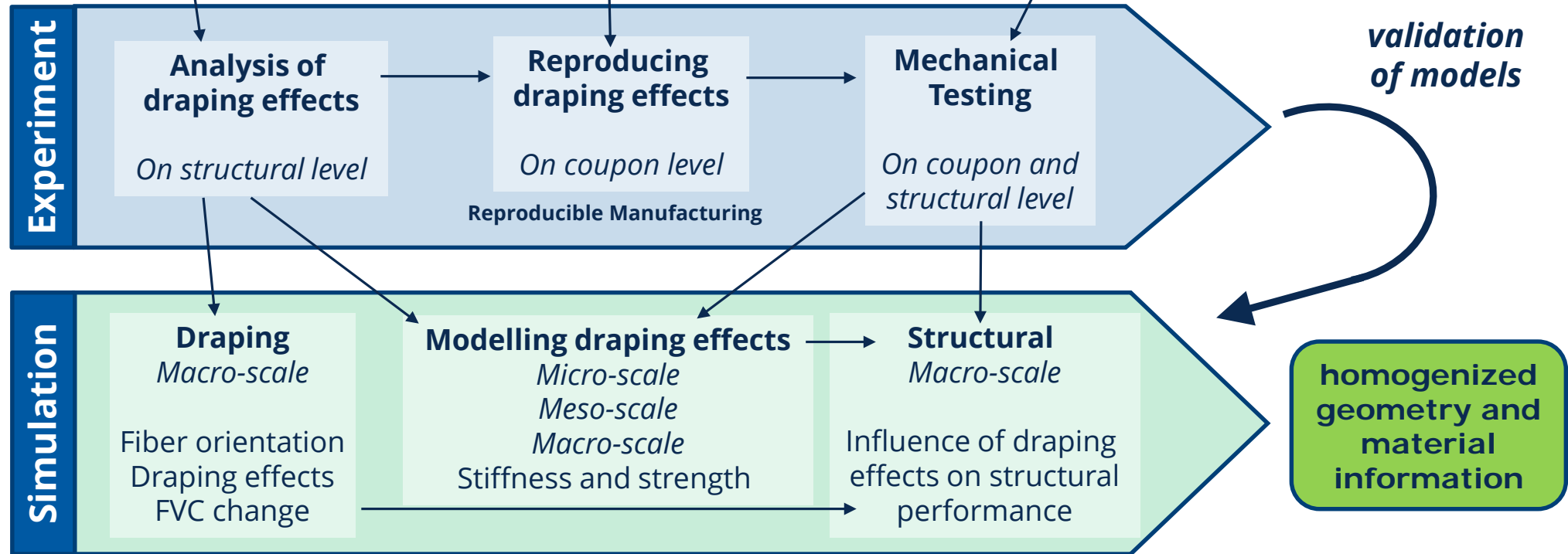
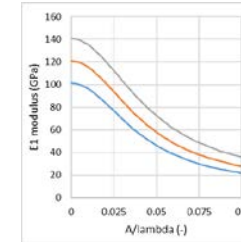
Draping effects



Change in fiber volume content (FVC) and orientation



Influence on mechanical properties





# Experimental approach

Material forming on structural level and reproducing effects on coupon level

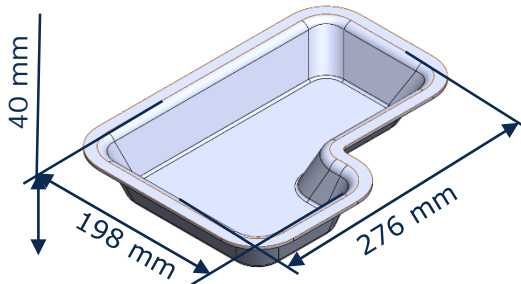


## Analysis of draping effects

- Gapping
- Waviness
- Transverse compression

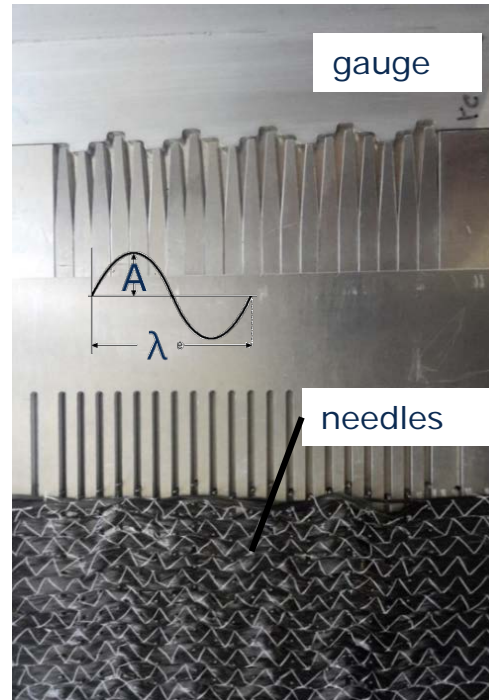


- Practice-oriented L-shaped geometry



## Reproducing identified effects

- Dedicated to tools with sliding mechanism
- Realigning fibers
- Changing FVC



Reproducing waviness

## Consolidation

- High-pressure resin transfer molding
- Epoxy resin Sika CR 170/CH150-3



395 x 414 mm plate with waviness  $W=0.10$



L-shaped part

## Mechanical Testing

- Reference/without and with draping effects
- Tensile, compression, shear and bending tests
- In and perpendicular to fiber direction
- Properties and failure behavior (GOM ARAMIS)



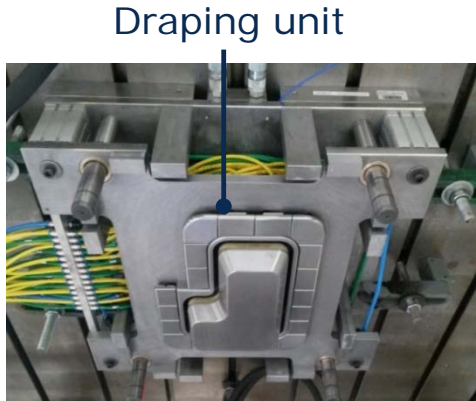
Specimen with waviness

# Analysis of draping effects on structural level

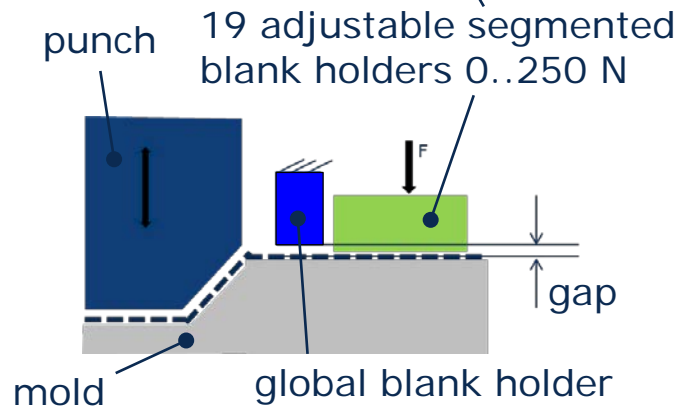
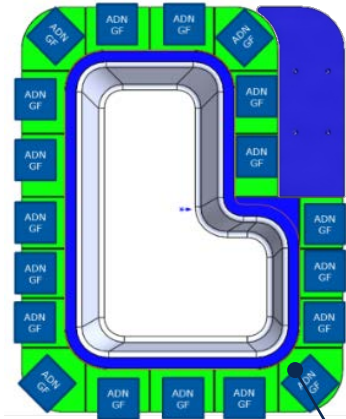
Quantification and investigation of the effect limits



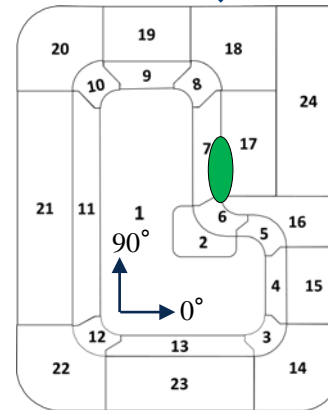
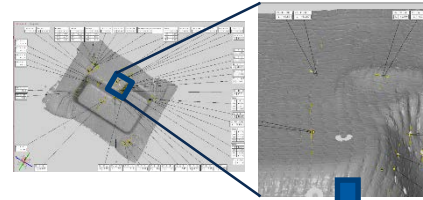
## Forming tool



## Forming principle [2]



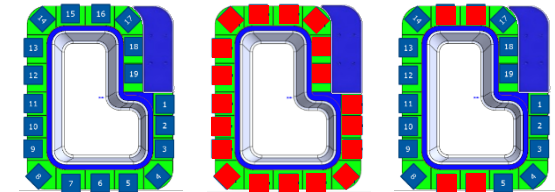
## Quantification and representation on map with areas of interest



- optical 3D-measurement with ATOS (GOM)
- Measurement of distances on the polygonised virtual image
- Visualization through colored regions (Shape  $\triangleq$  spatial extension, Color  $\triangleq$  Maximum measured)

## Tested configurations

- 3 blank holder configurations

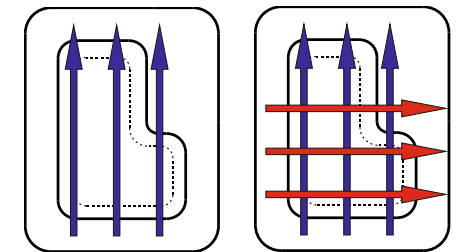


BH 1      BH 2      BH 3

(red  $\triangleq$  active, blue  $\triangleq$  inactive)

- 2 ply lay ups

- Unidirectional 90° (2 plies)
- Bidirectional 0°/90° (2 plies)



a)      b)

# Forming on coupon level

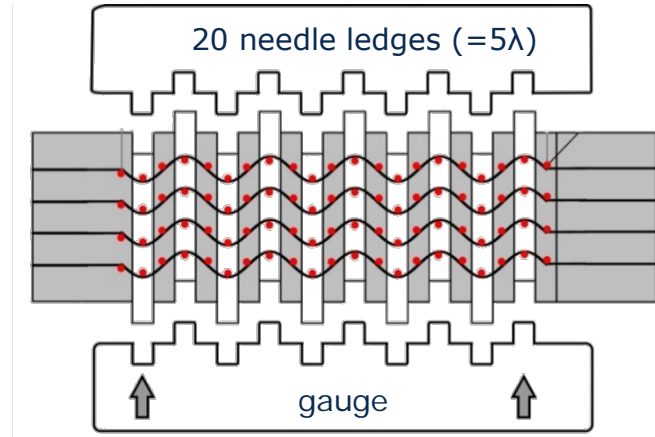
## Reproducing draping effects for mechanical testing



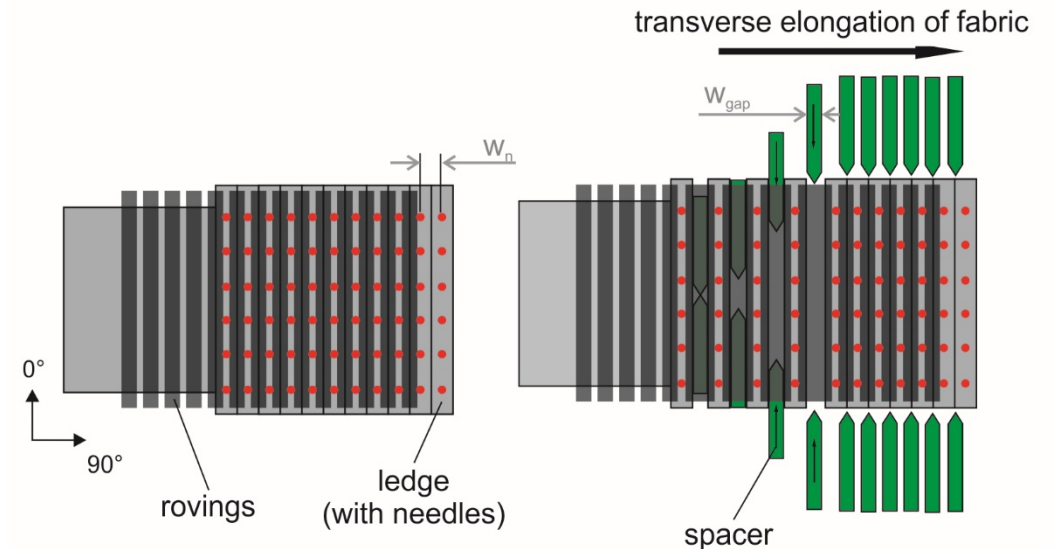
- Fabric samples with predefined deformation states
- One tool for each draping effect
  - **Sliding mechanism for waviness and gaps**
  - **Shear frame for transverse compression**
- Single fabric layers with draping effects
  - Local fixation of draping effects with binder
- Stacking of single layers
- Optical analysis of single layers and Computer tomography of the final stack
- Inferences on the fiber volume content  $\varphi$  are made from measured areal weight of fabric [3]

$$\varphi = \frac{n}{\rho \cdot t} \frac{m_{f,i}}{A_0}$$

$\varphi$  – fiber volume content  
 $m_{f,i}$ : fabric weight per area  $A_0$   
 $m_{f,0}$ : undeformed  
 $m_{f,w}$ : with waviness  
 $m_{f,g}$ : with gapping  
 $m_{f,tc}$ : with transverse compression



Schematic: sliding mechanism for waviness [3]



Schematic: sliding mechanism for gaps [3]



# Simulation approach

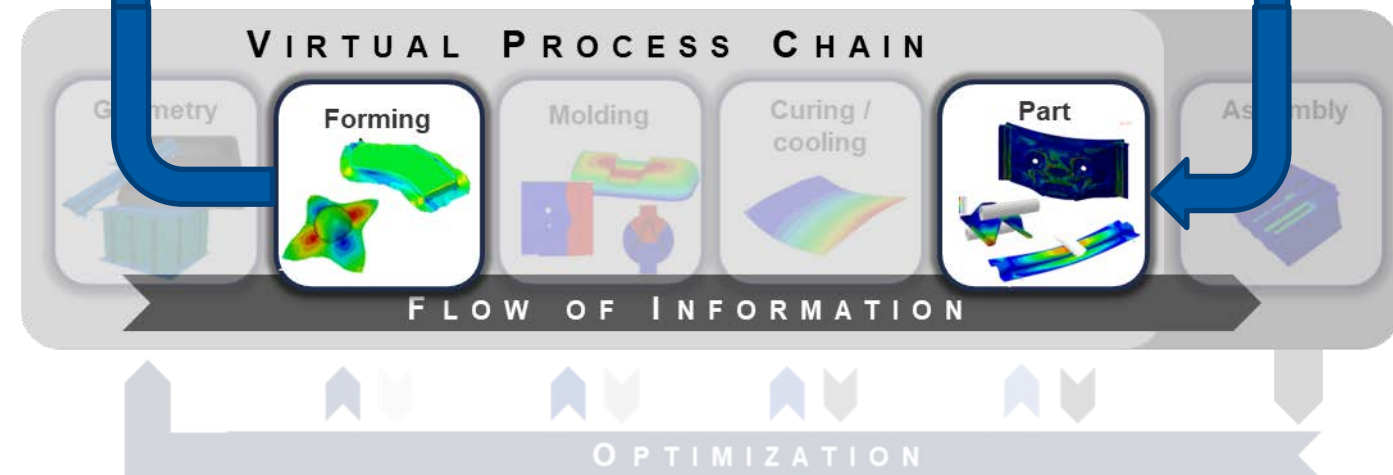
## A continuous virtual process chain

- Continuous virtual process chain: information from each simulation step is transferred to the next simulation step
- Macroscopic draping simulation model: prediction of material behavior and non-linear deformation of the UD non-crimp fabric [4]
- Based on the deformation of each mesh element, draping effects like local fiber orientation and varying fiber volume content are processed and exported to a neutral file format for the mapping step [5]
- After mapping the draping information is available to a macroscopic damage model for UD composites

- Local fiber orientation
- Local fiber volume content
- Local waviness

Mapping from draping simulation mesh to structural simulation mesh

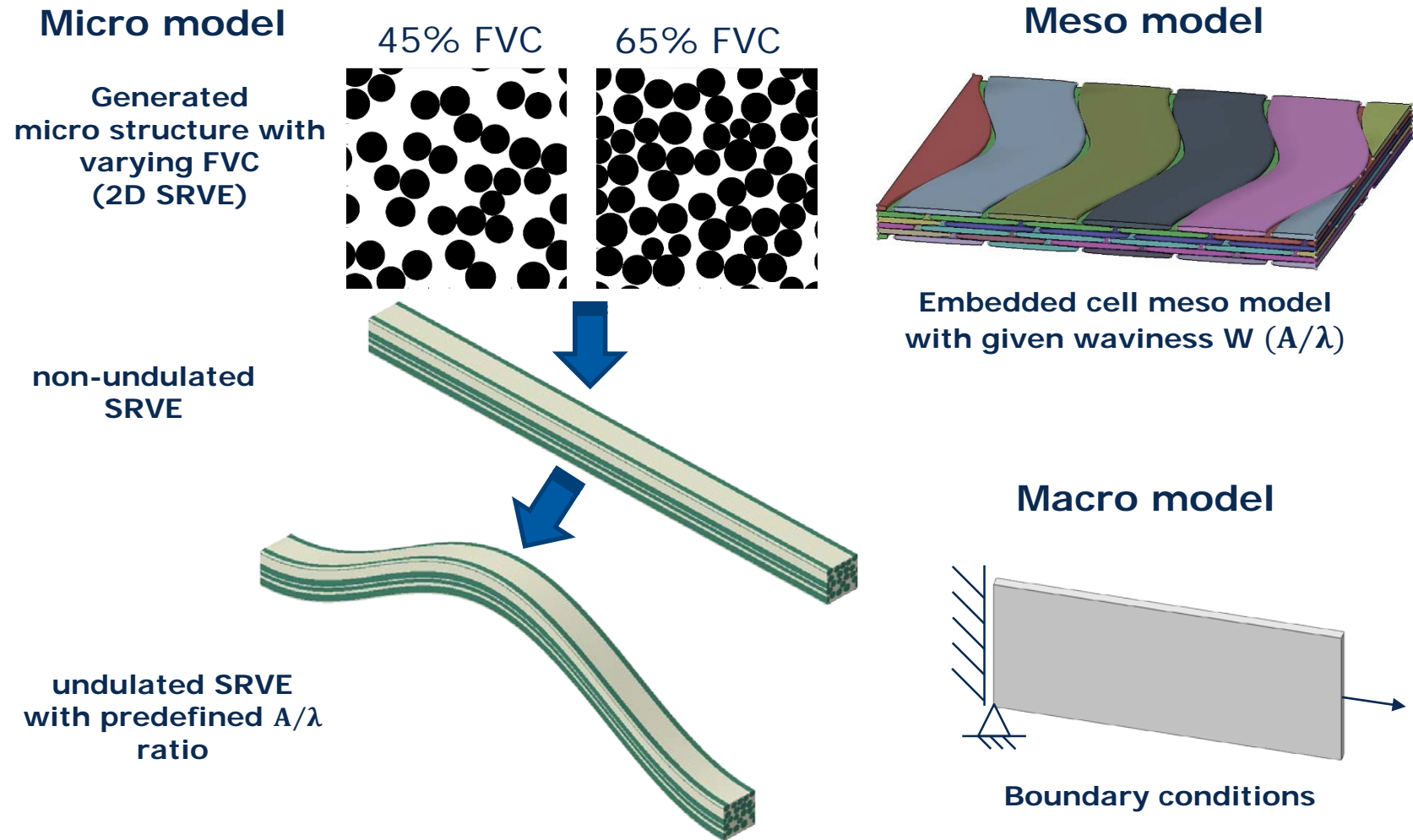
Processing information at each integration point of the structural simulation



# Modelling on micro, meso and macro scale

## Multiscale evaluation of draping effect

- Multiscale approach for evaluation of draping effects on the structural performance
- Variation of fiber volume content (FVC) and amplitude to wavelength ratio  $A/\lambda$  on different length scales
- Analysis of failure initiation and damage progression for varying fiber volume content at undulated and non-undulated areas
- Comparison of simulation results at different length scales with experimental results



# Material model

## Constitutive law - Fiber

- Fibers under shear load undergo large rigid body rotations  
→ hypo-elastic damage material model is implemented as UMAT
- Rotation tensor  $l_{ij}$  is computed via deformation gradient  $F_{ij}$ :

$$l_{ij} = (\hat{e}_i)_m \cdot (\hat{e}_j)_p \quad \text{with} \quad (\hat{e}_i)_m = \frac{F_{ij}(\hat{e}_j)_p}{\|F_{ij}(\hat{e}_j)_p\|}$$

with  $p \hat{=}$  co-rotational Abaqus CSYS and  $m \hat{=}$  Material CSYS

- Strains are rotated to the material coordinate system

$$\left(\varepsilon_{ij}^{(t+\Delta t)}\right)_m = \left(\varepsilon_{ij}^{(t)}\right)_m + l_{ik}l_{jl}(\Delta\varepsilon_{kl})_p$$

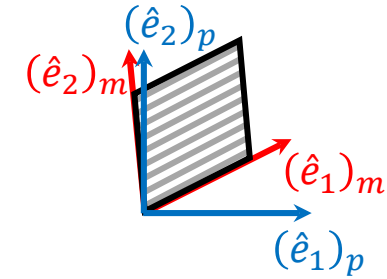
- The calculated material stresses are rotated back to the co-rotational frame

$$(\sigma_{kl})_p = l_{ki}l_{lj}(\sigma_{ij})_m$$

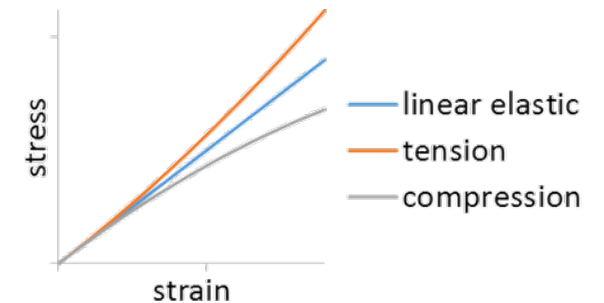
- Fibers are considered non-Hookean linear elastic and transverse-isotropic, with the stiffness tensor defined in the local material coordinate system  $m$ :

$$C_{ijkl} = \lambda \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + 2\mu_T I_{ijkl}^{(s)} + \alpha (\delta_{ij} n_k n_l + n_i n_j \delta_{kl}) + 2(\mu_L - \mu_T) I_{ijkl}^A + \beta n_i n_j n_k n_l$$

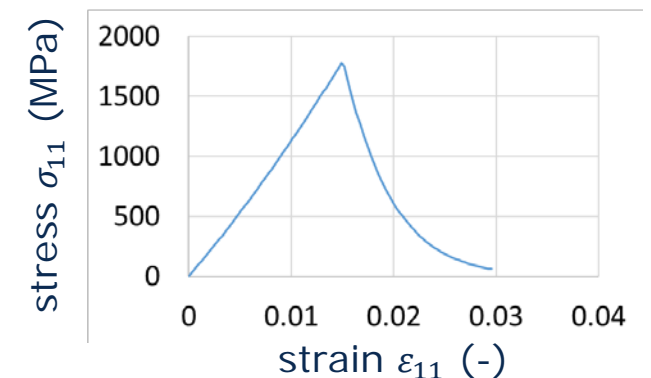
$$\text{where } n = (1, 0, 0)^T \quad \text{and} \quad I_{ijkl}^A = \frac{1}{2} (\delta_{ik} n_j n_l + \delta_{il} n_j n_k + \delta_{jl} n_i n_k + \delta_{jk} n_i n_l)$$



Material axis rotation



non-Hookean linear elastic material behavior



# Material model

## Constitutive law - Matrix

- Matrix material modelled with hypo-viscoplastic approach with isotropic damage

### Viscoplasticity

- Yield surface proposed by [Tschoegel 1971] or [Raghava et al. 1973]

$$\Phi_{pl} = 6J_2 + 2(\sigma_c - \sigma_t)I_1 - 2\sigma_c\sigma_t = 0$$

- Plastic flow rule (in incremental form)

$$\Delta\epsilon^{pl} = \Delta\gamma \frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma}$$

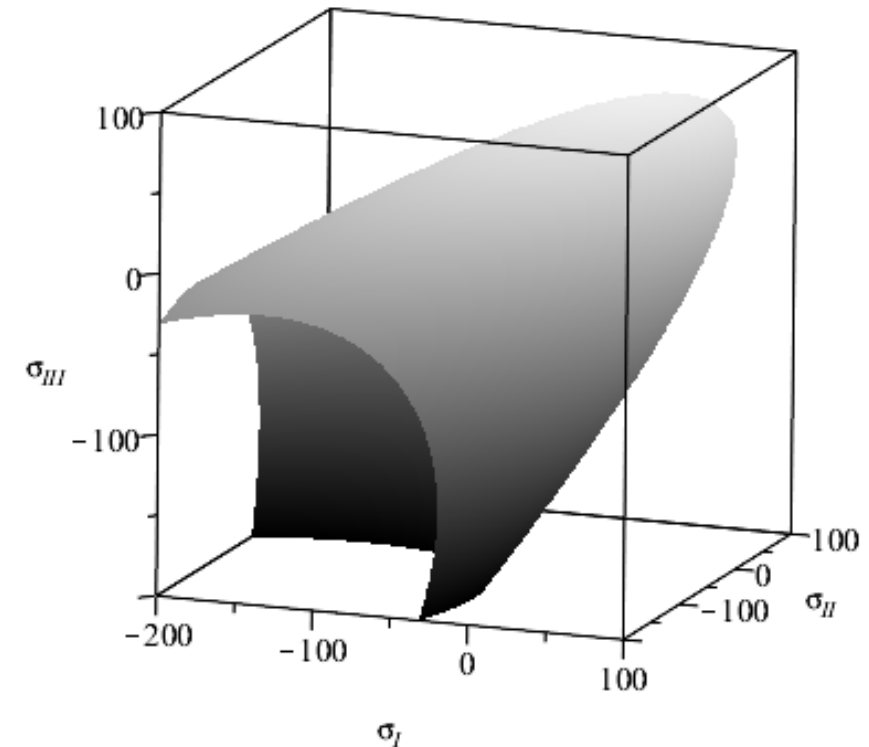
- Plastic multiplier  $\Delta\gamma$  according to [Perzyna 1966]

$$\Delta\gamma = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\mu} [F(\Phi_{pl})]^{1/h}, & \Phi_{pl} = 0 \\ 0, & \Phi_{pl} < 0 \end{cases}$$

- Plastic potential of a non-associative flow rule

$$g = \sqrt{\sigma_{vm}^2 + \alpha p^2}$$

where  $\alpha$  controls the volumetric component of the flow  
[Melro et al. 2013]



Yield surface proposed by  
Tschoegel or Raghava



# Material model

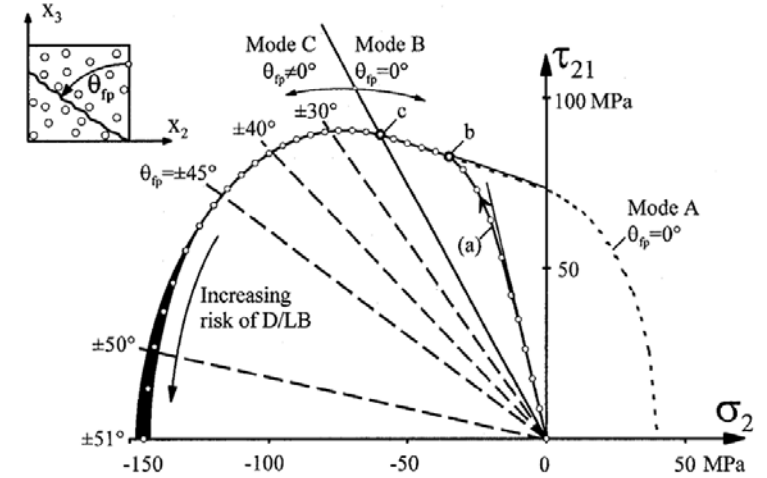
## Constitutive law – macroscopic UD composite

- Hypo-elastic anisotropic damage material model is implemented as UMAT
- Similar to the fiber model the stress in fiber direction is non-Hookean linear elastic until fiber failure (FF)
- Non-linear stresses  $\sigma$  pre inter fiber failure (IFF) are determined from effective stresses  $\bar{\sigma}$ :  $\sigma = f(\bar{\sigma})$
- Failure initiation is modeled using Puck's failure theory [6] where the IFF is divided into three distinct modes (Mode A, B and C)

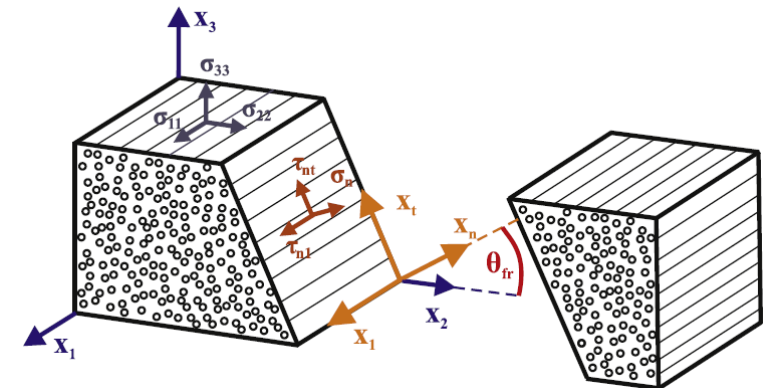
$$\sigma_n \geq 0 : f_E = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{R_{\perp}^{(+)}} - \frac{p_{\perp\psi}^{(+)}}{R_{\perp\psi}^A}\right)^2 \cdot \sigma_n^2(\theta) + \left(\frac{\tau_{nt}(\theta)}{R_{\perp\perp}^A}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\tau_{n1}(\theta)}{R_{\perp\parallel}}\right)^2} + \frac{p_{\perp\psi}^{(+)}}{R_{\perp\psi}^A} \cdot \sigma_n(\theta)$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\tau_{nt}(\theta)}{R_{\perp\perp}^A}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\tau_{n1}(\theta)}{R_{\perp\parallel}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{p_{\perp\psi}^{(-)}}{R_{\perp\psi}^A} \cdot \sigma_n(\theta)\right)^2} + \frac{p_{\perp\psi}^{(-)}}{R_{\perp\psi}^A} \cdot \sigma_n(\theta)$$

- The fracture angle according to Puck's failure theory is computed using selective range golden section search algorithm [7]
- Using the fracture angle the damage in different axes directions is predicted



Failure envelope according to Puck in the  $\tau_{12}$  vs  $\sigma_{22}$  plane [6]



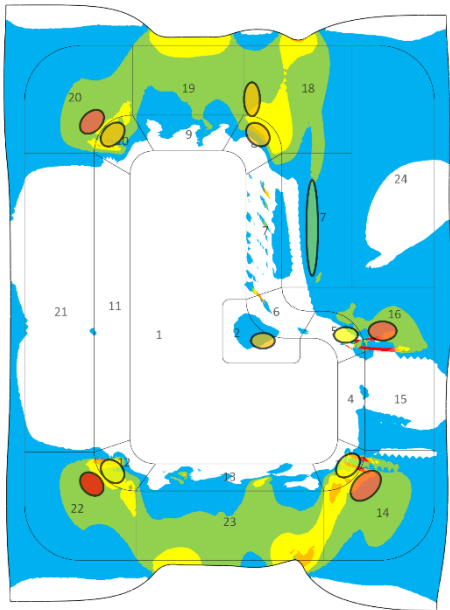
Efficient and reliable fracture angle search algorithm [7]

# Numerical and experimental quantification of draping effects

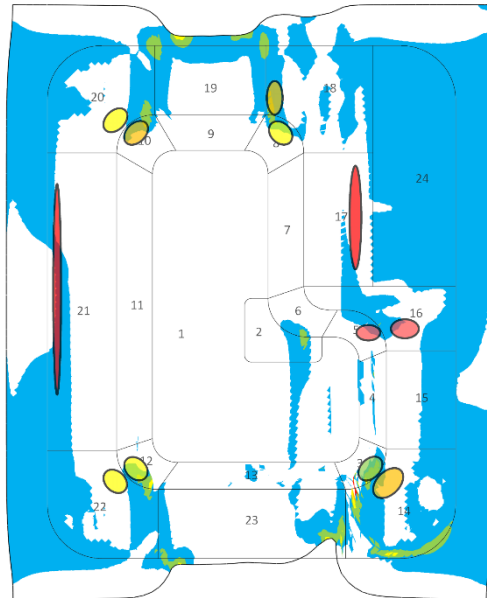
## Evaluation of the draping effect transverse compression

Superposition of numerically (contour plot) and experimentally generated draping maps

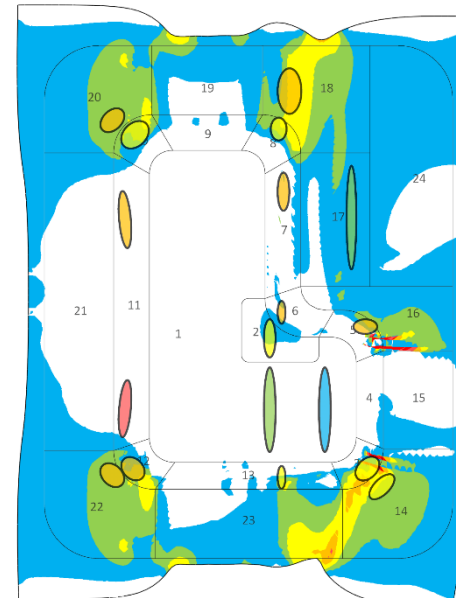
Lay up a)  
UD 90° (2 plies)



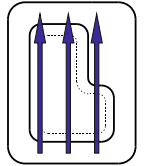
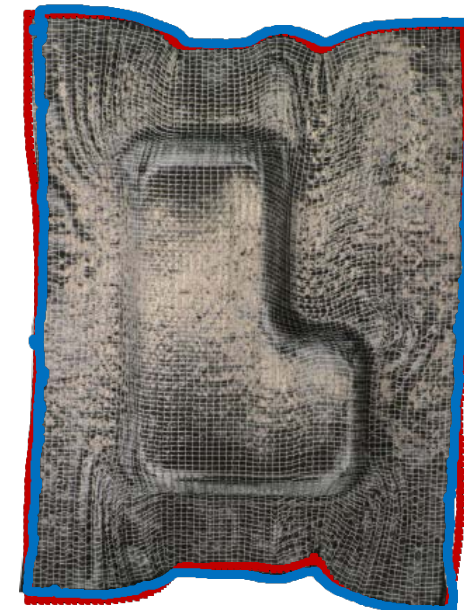
**BH 1 (free forming)**



**BH 2 (250 N @ all BHs)**



**BH 3 (250 N @ sel. BHs)**



**Color legend**

transverse compression $t_c = \frac{b_{tc}}{b_r}$	$\Delta FVC$ (%)
= 0	= 0
> 0.9	< 11
> 0.8	< 25
> 0.7	< 43
> 0.6	< 67
> 0.5	< 100
< 0.5	> 100 wrinkles

**Outer contour**

— Simulation

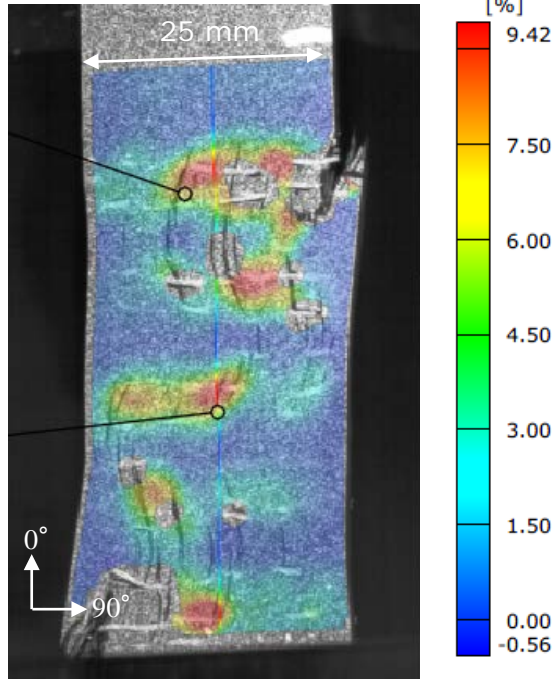
— Experiment

- Outer contours correspond to each other
- Results match well in the corners areas with high shearing
- Deviations in the bottom area of the mold
- Results underneath or in front of blank holders do not match – transverse compression found in front of the blank holders (red ellipses in BH2) were not seen in simulation → different friction behavior between experiment and simulation
- Influencing of draping effects through different BH configurations possible

# Mechanical properties

## Tensile properties of specimen with waviness

### Experimental Results

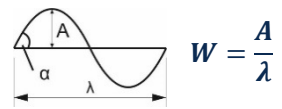


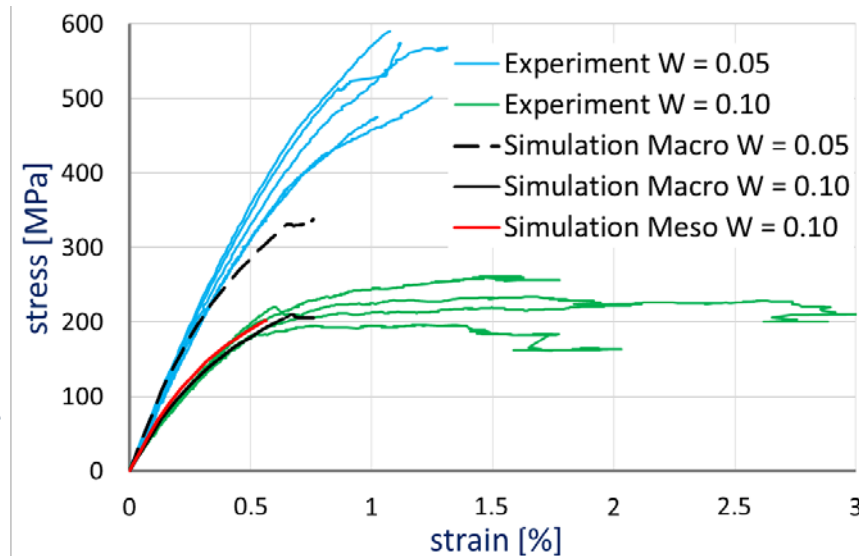
W=0.10 - strain in 0°-direction  
(sample D-03\_04,  $\lambda = 20 \text{ mm}$ ,  $A = 2 \text{ mm}$ )

- Initial failure at edge of specimens
- Realignment of rovings under load
- Transverse tensile strength determines crack growth

Mean $\pm$ standard deviation	Young's Modulus (GPa)		
	Exp.	Macro model	Meso model
Reference	105.00 $\pm$ 6.40	105	/
W = 0.05	73.15 $\pm$ 6.27	69.7	/
W = 0.10	43.80 $\pm$ 2.54	42.8	46.0

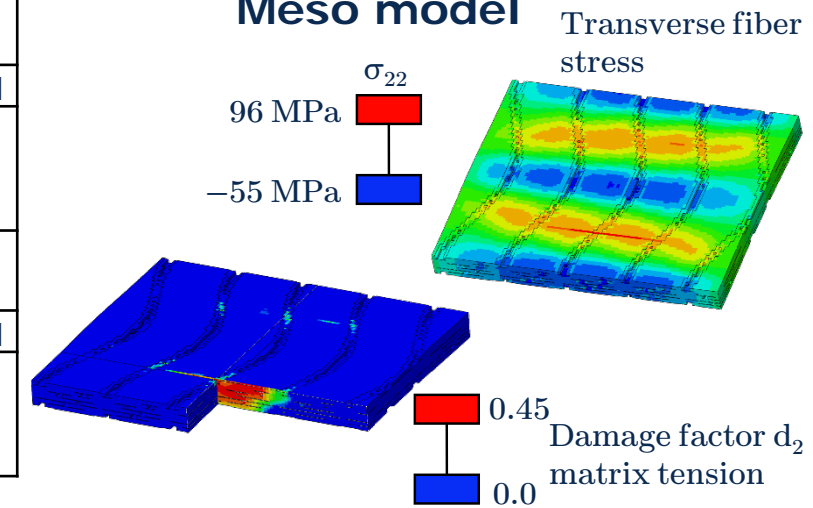
  

	Initial failure (MPa)		
	Exp.	Macro model	Meso model
Reference	1503 $\pm$ 127	1500	/
W = 0.05	421 $\pm$ 37	331	/
W = 0.10	205 $\pm$ 16	210	202

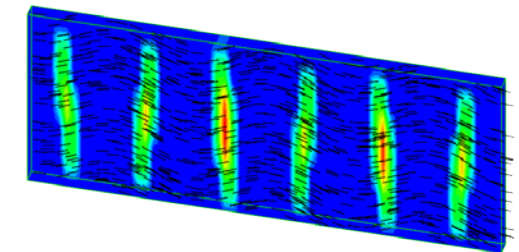


Experiment vs. simulation:  $\sigma$ - $\epsilon$ -curve

### Meso model



### Macro model



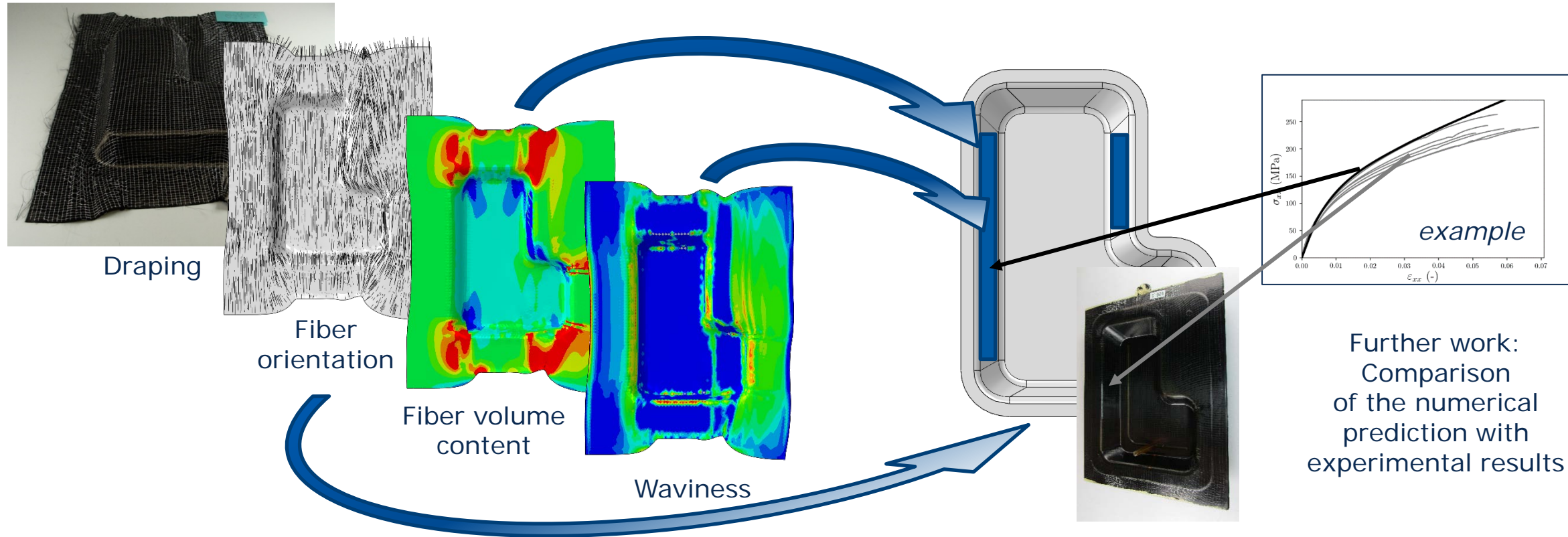
- Prediction of Young's Modulus and Initial Failure
- Initial failure at inflection point of wave
- Good agreement with experiment



# Transferring results to structural simulation

Closed process chain and further works

Main goal: prediction of a more realistic structural performance of a composite part



Further work:  
Comparison  
of the numerical  
prediction with  
experimental results

Draping simulation and experiment

Information mapping

Structural simulation and testing



- Draping effects such as change of the fiber orientation, varying fiber volume content or waviness occur during the draping process
- Structural performance of composite parts is highly affected by local draping effects
- Reproduction and quantification of draping effects on structural and coupon level
- Comparison of the experimental and numerical results of coupons with waviness show a good agreement for a high amplitude to wavelength ratio
- Good local agreement of the draping simulation with the experimentally determined draping map, but the resolution of the experimental map must be refined through an improved evaluation method
- Numerically predicted position and magnitude of the draping effects are transferred from the draping simulation to the structural simulation

This work was performed within a research project (number 287275762) funded by



Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



- [1] Kärger L. et al., Development and validation of a CAE chain for unidirectional fibre reinforced composite components. *Composite Structures* 132: 350–358, 2015
- [2] Böhm R. et.al., Experimental Analysis of Draping Process Generated Material Imperfections in Textile Preforms, Proc.18<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Composite Materials 2018, Athens, Greece 24-28th June 2018
- [3] Galkin S. et.al., Experimental and Numerical Determination of the Local Fiber Volume Content of Unidirectional Non-Crimp Fabrics with Forming Effects, *Journal of Composites Science*, volume 3, Issue 1, 2019
- [4] Schirmaier F]. et al., A macroscopic approach to simulate the forming behaviour of stitched unidirectional non-crimp fabrics (UD-NCF). *Composites Part A: Applied Science and Manufacturing* 2017; 102: 322–335
- [5] Kärger L. et al., Forming optimisation embedded in a CAE chain to assess and enhance the structural performance of composite components. *Composite Structures* 2018; 192: 143–152
- [6] Puck A and Schürmann H. Failure analysis of FRP laminates by means of physically based phenomenological models. *Composites Science and Technology* 2002; 62: 1633–1662.
- [7] Schirmaier F], et al. A new efficient and reliable algorithm to determine the fracture angle for Puck's 3D matrix failure criterion for UD composites. *Composites Science and Technology* 2014; 100: 19–25.

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