

# Overview of the work performed at ONERA on composite materials

F. Laurin



# ONERA, the french aerospace lab

## A public enterprise

- Under the supervision of the French Ministry
- Largest wind tunnel fleet in Europe
- **€256 million budget** in 2021, including
- **€266 million budget** in 2022
- **2,123 employees** in 2021 including  
1,304 engineers and executives,  
350 doctoral students,  
23 qualified postgraduates
- 113 scientists holding an accreditation to direct research (french HDR)
- 11 new accreditations to direct research

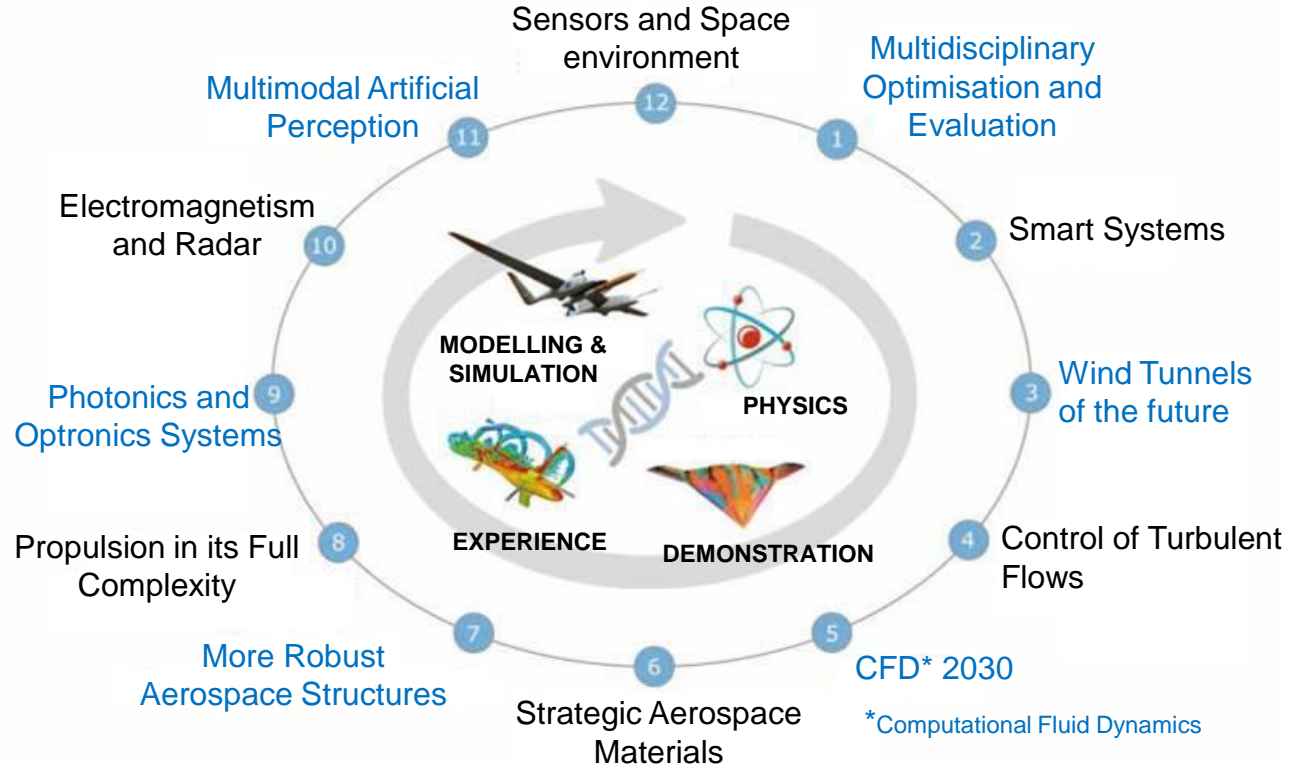


## 8 locations in France



# Scientific knowledge for the future of Aerospace

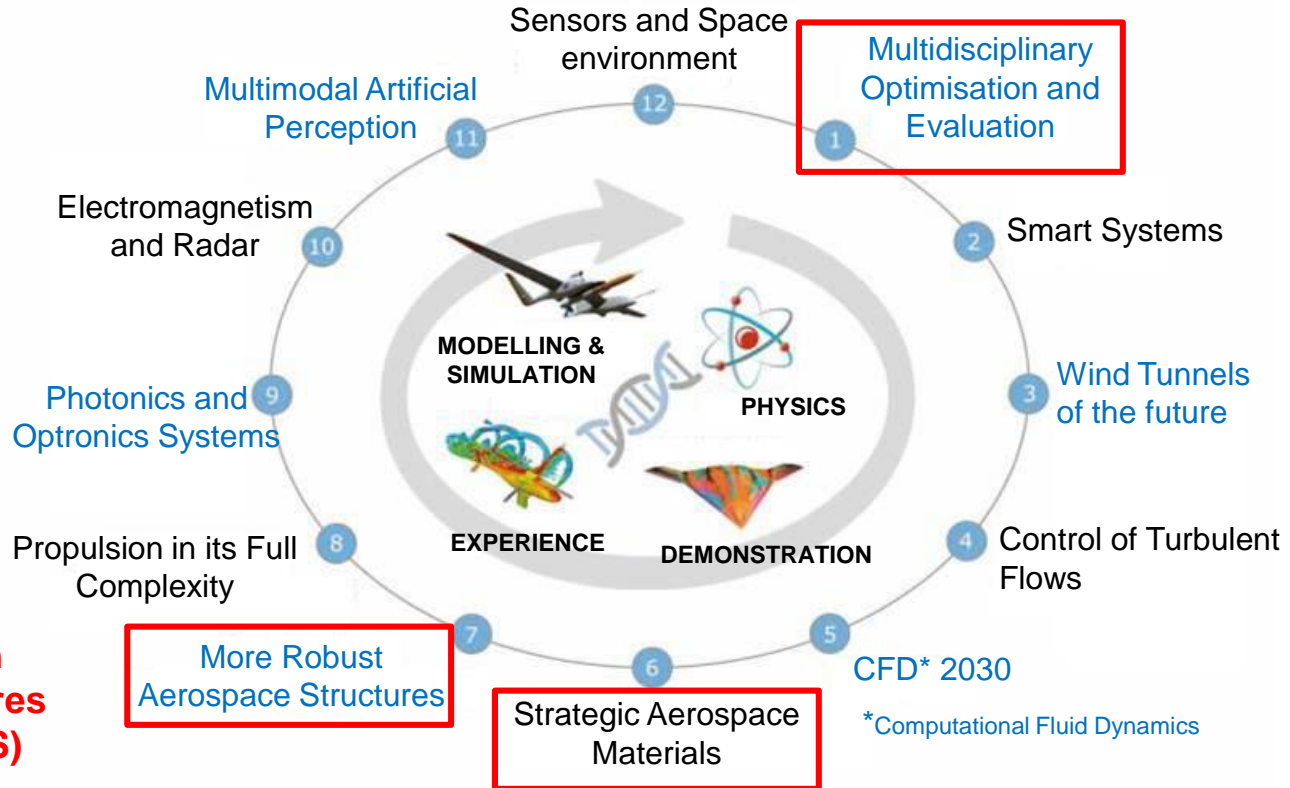
## The 12 ONERA challenges serving Defence, Aeronautics and Space



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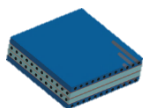
The 12 ONERA challenges serving Defence, Aeronautics and Space

Topics adressed in MAterial and Structures Departement (DMAS)

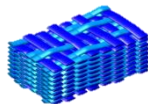


# Studied composite materials at ONERA

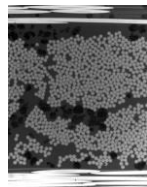
## Composites with polymer matrix



Unidirectional plies  
2D/3D woven plies



AIRBUS  
GROUP



Low temperature

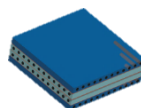
### Interesting properties

- Multiple damage/failure mechanisms
- High fatigue lifetime (compared to metal)
- High impact sensitivity

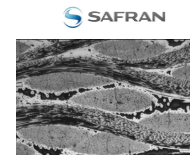
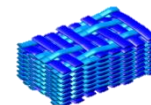
### Thermoset matrix or thermoplastic matrix

*Partners: AIRBUS, DASSAULT, STELIA ...*

## Composites with ceramic matrix



Unidirectional plies  
2D/3D woven plies



High temperature

### Interesting properties

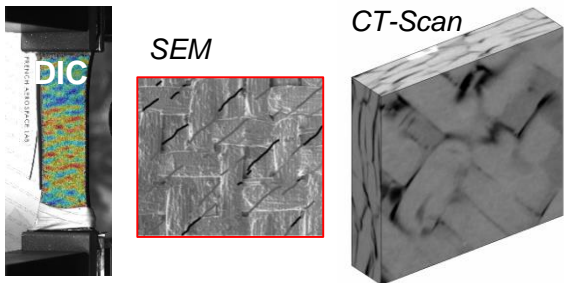
- Good mechanical properties at high temp.
- Sensitive to fatigue loadings
- Durability in severe environment

### Sic/Sic, C/C, Oxide/Oxide materials

*Partners: SAFRAN, CEA, MBDA ...*

# Content of the presentation

## Experiments



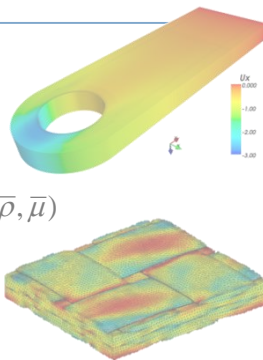
- Multi-instrumented tests
  - Image correlation, SEM, CT-Scan,
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- Design of new composite tests
- Link between simulation/test

## Modelling

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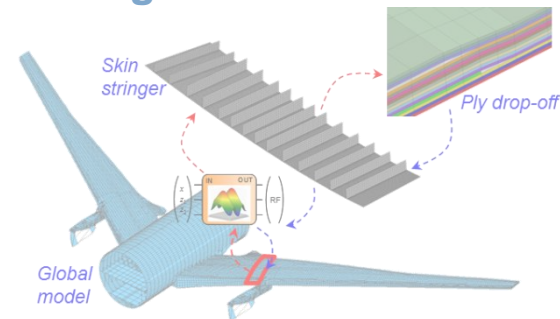
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- Development of advanced models
  - Damage and failure models
  - Fatigue lifetime predictions
  - Impact simulations
- Multi-physical simulation
  - Fire and lightning strike issues

## Design



- Design method
  - Lay-up optimisation with constraints
  - Topological optimisation
  - Coupled shape and orientation optim.
- Innovative composite structures
  - H2 tank, fractal structures

3 main topics addressed by the ONERA's composite team

# Methodology to detect transverse cracks in laminates

## Study of the damage mechanisms



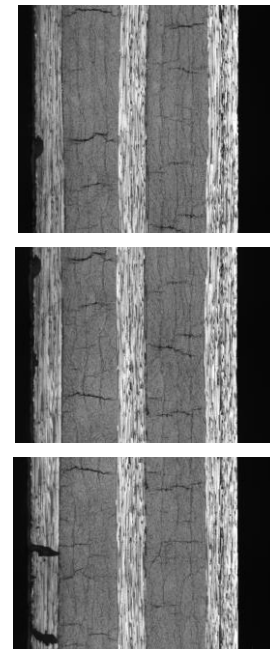
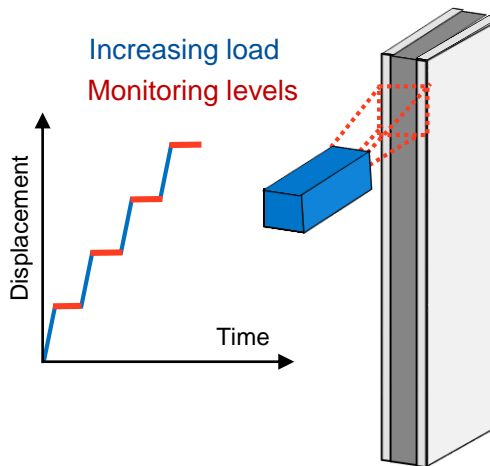
### Proposed methodology

- Optical analysis on one polished edge **during loading** (open cracks)
- Assembling many pictures (>100) to obtain high resolution images on a large domain
- Digital image correlation between initial and cracks images (*DeepFlow software*)
- Labelling each crack (orientation, length, ...)



### Fully automated crack detection method

- Applied on classical Carbon/Epoxy materials  
 [Nicol 22], [Patti 22]
- Applied to Carbon/thermoplastic in this study  
 [Laurin22]



# Methodology to detect transverse cracks in laminates

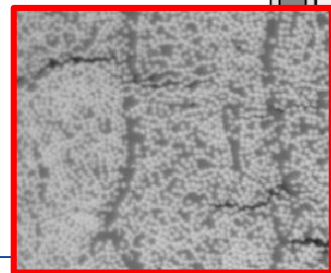
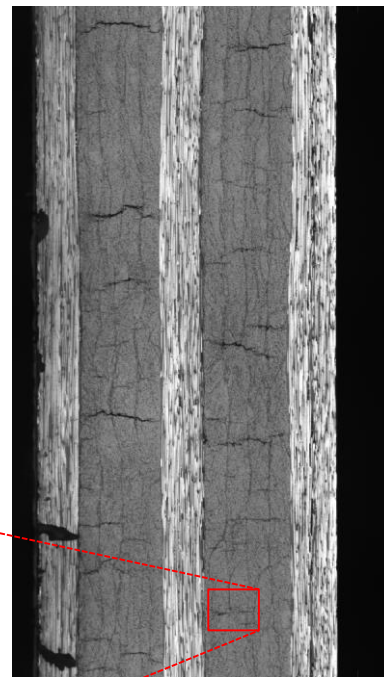
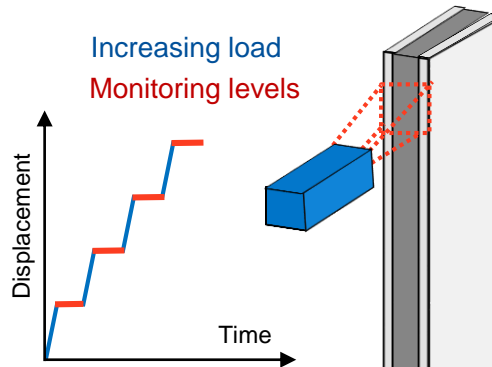
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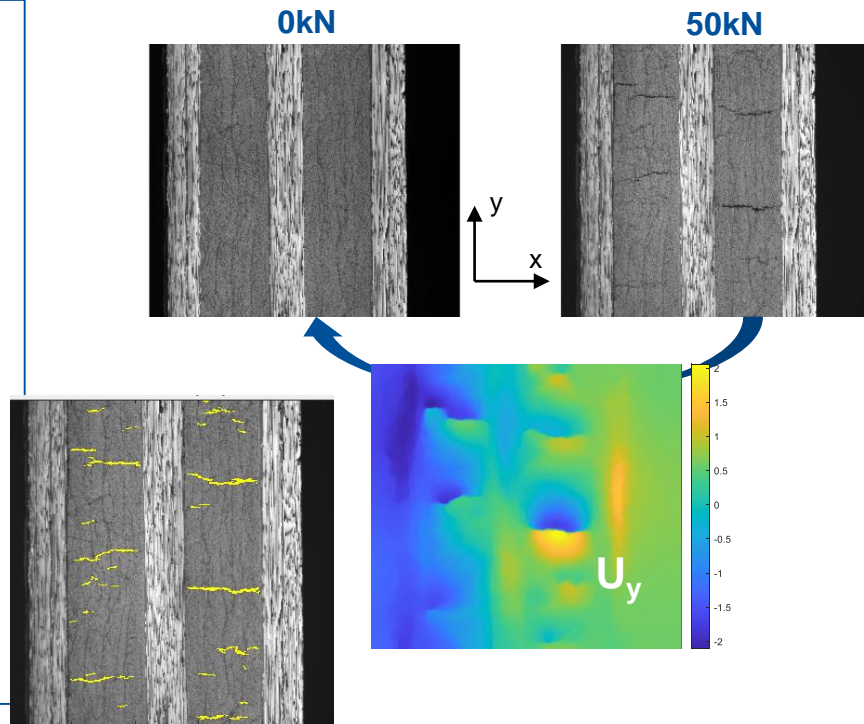
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## Study of the damage mechanisms



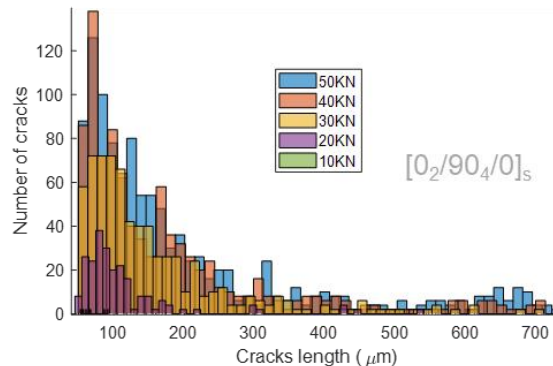
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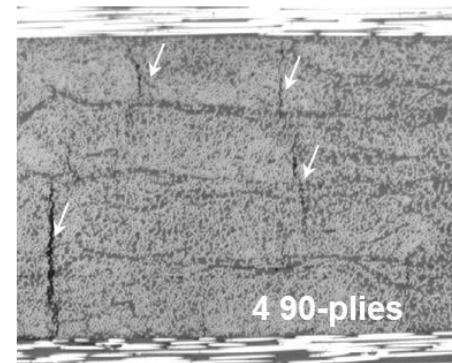
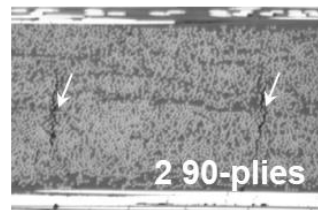
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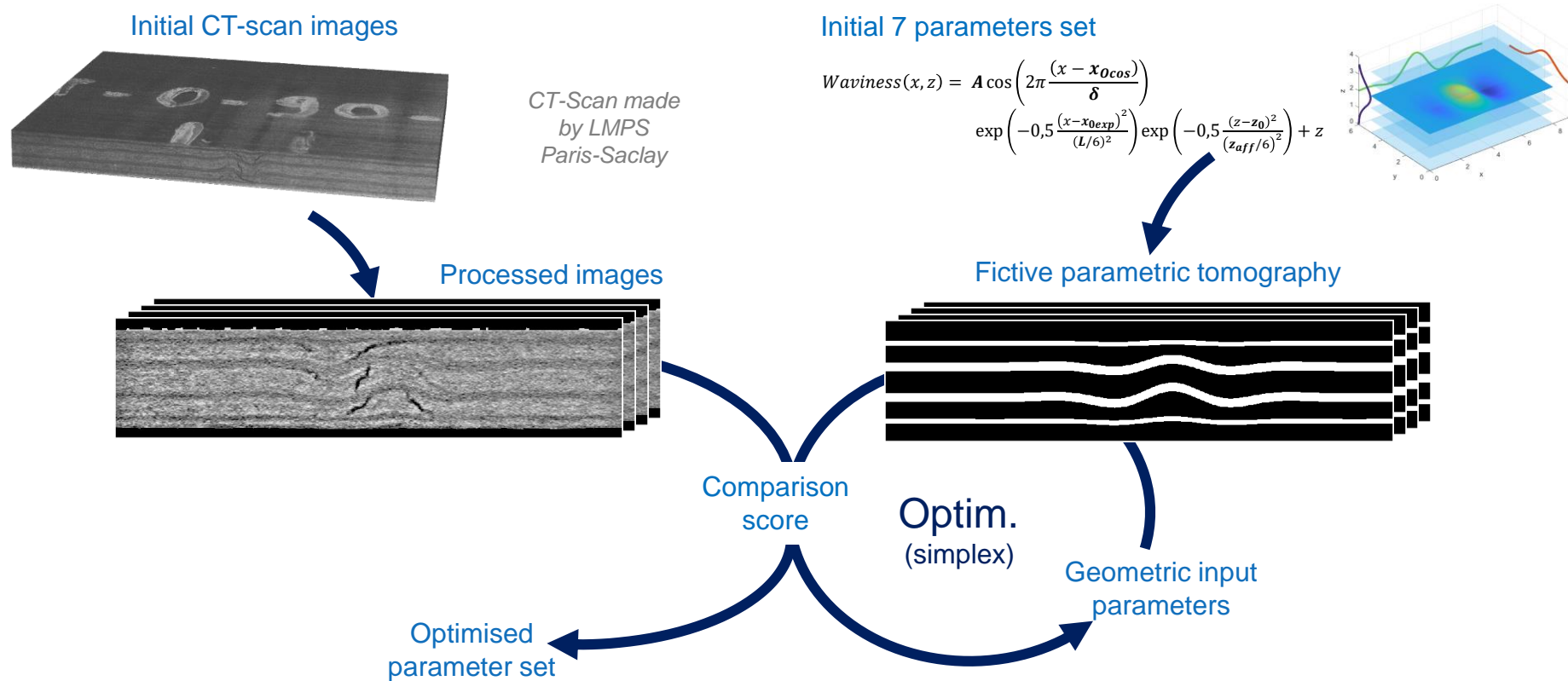


### Cross-ply laminates

- [0/90<sub>2</sub>/0/90<sub>2</sub>/0]<sub>s</sub>
- [0<sub>2</sub>/90<sub>4</sub>/0]<sub>s</sub>



# Methodology to detect initial out-of-plane waviness



# Methodology to detect initial out-of-plane waviness

CT-scan image - Slice 1

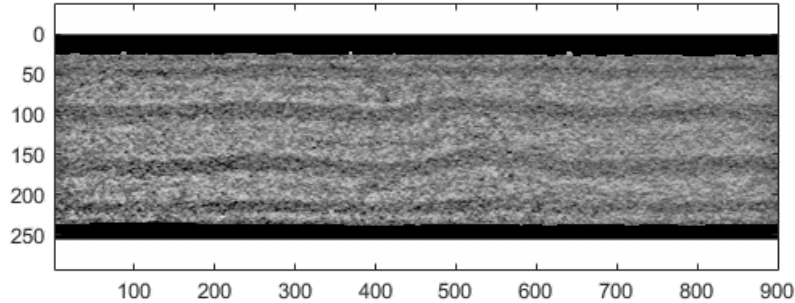
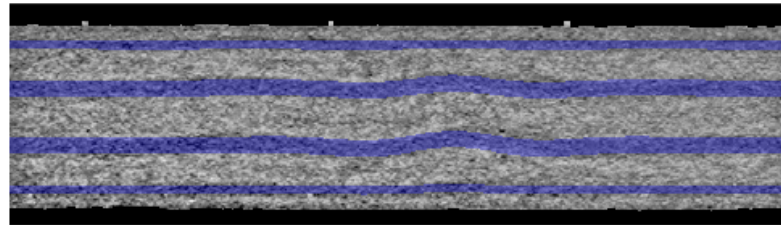
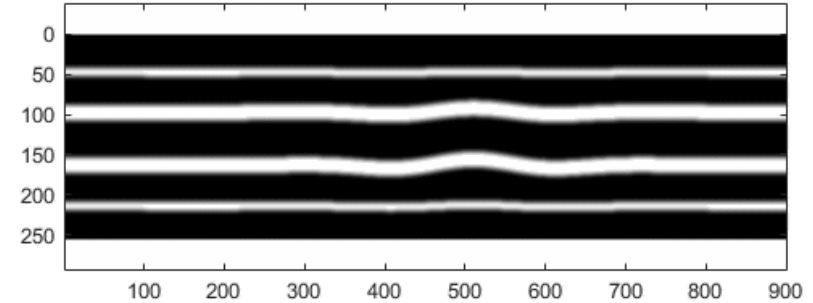


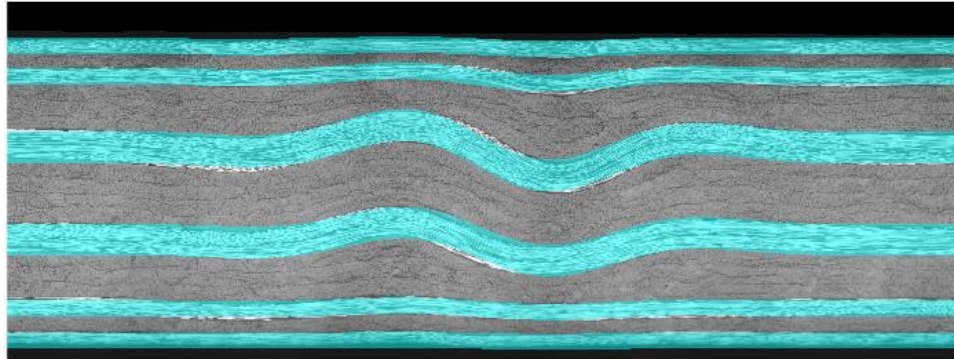
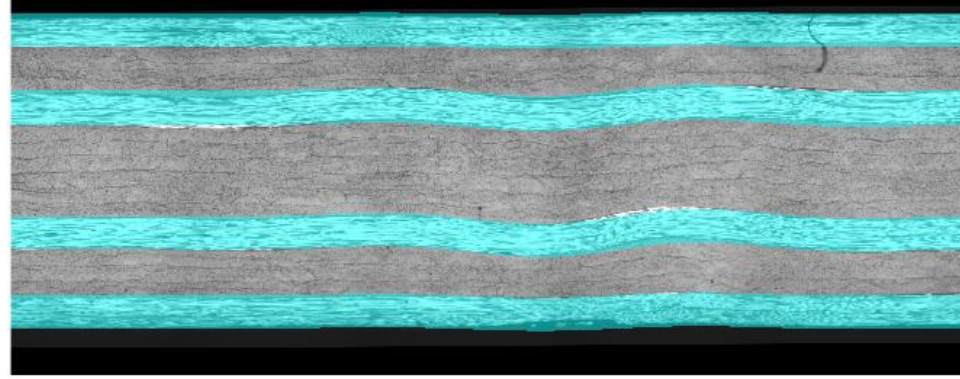
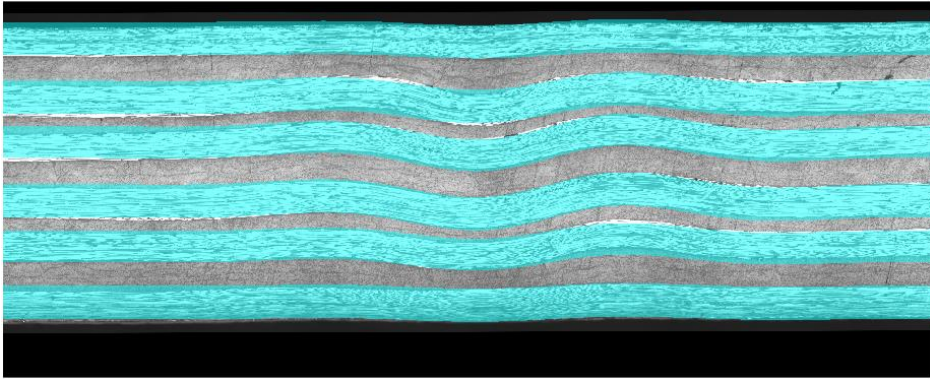
Image of parameterized defect - Slice 1



Validation on  
CT-Scan

 [Fougerouse 21]

# Methodology to detect initial out-of-plane waviness



**Validation on  
microcuts**

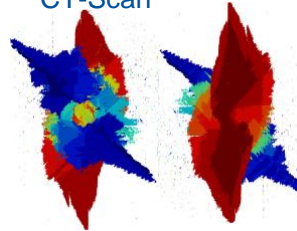
 [Fougerouse 21]

# In-situ damage monitoring during impact tests

## Study of the impact damage mechanisms

- Optical and thermal superfast cameras during impact tests
  - Able to monitor damage evolution during impact tests (<10ms)
  - Validation of IR thermography through analysis of CT-Scans
- Valuable information to validate finite element simulations

CT-Scan



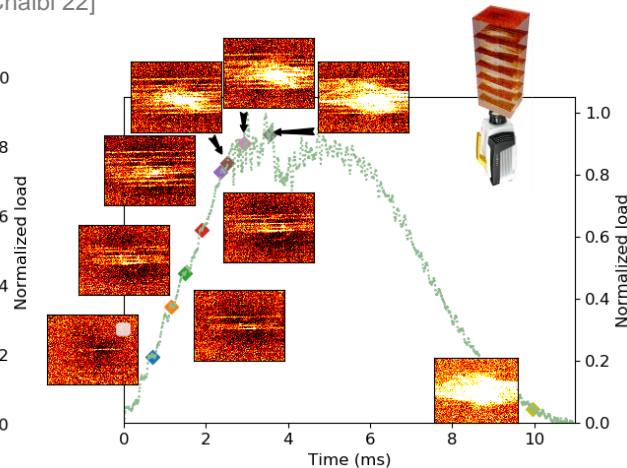
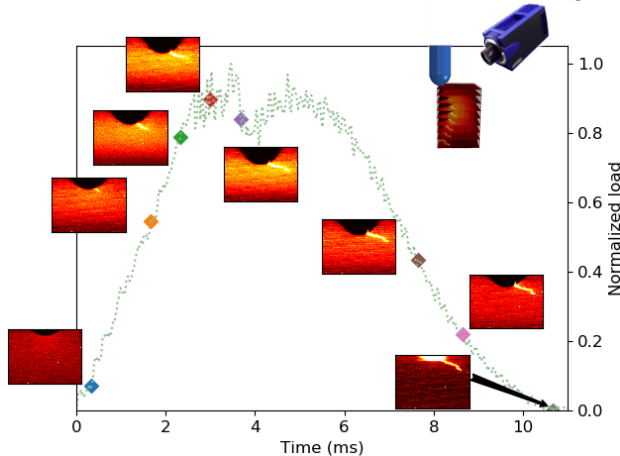
DASSAULT AVIATION

ONERA Impact device



ICA

[Chaibi 22]

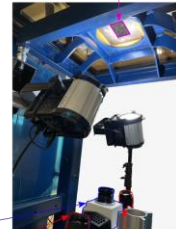


Medium-speed infrared camera (CEDIP)



High-speed infrared camera (TELOPS)

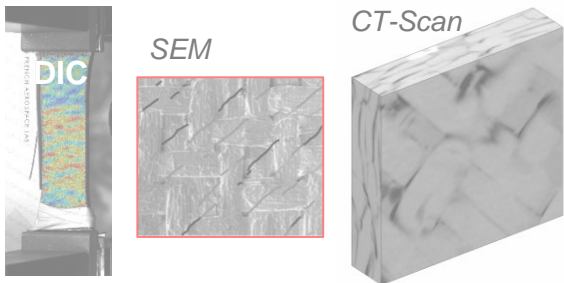
Composite sample



High-speed optical cameras x2 (FASTCAM)

# Content of the presentation

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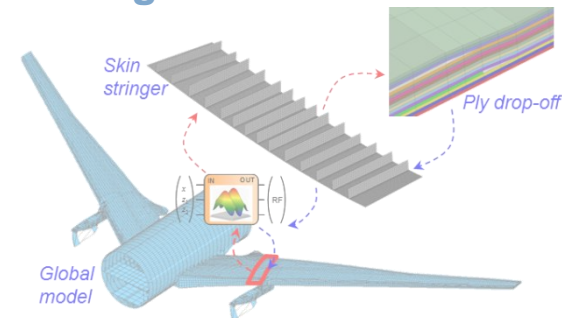
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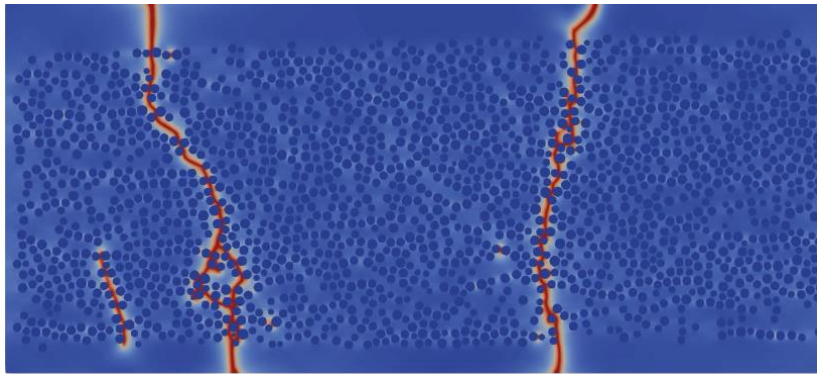
3 main topics addressed by the ONERA's composite team

# Simulation at microscale for comprehension purposes

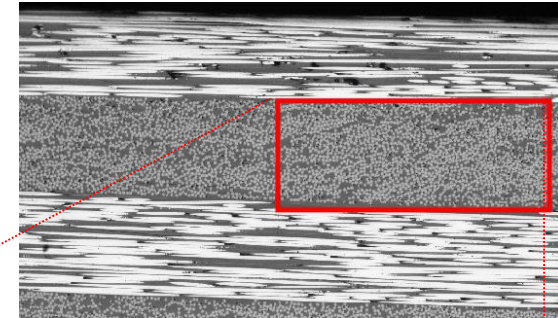
## Damage FE simulations

- Extraction of the real microstructure from pictures  [Benezech 19 , Przybyla 21]
- Mesh fibres and matrix around (~10 millions degrees of freedom)
- Fibre are linear elastic and **phase-field damage approach** for matrix
- **Massive decomposition domain** method associated to simulation
- **Comprehension** of the damage pattern in thermoplastic matrix composite

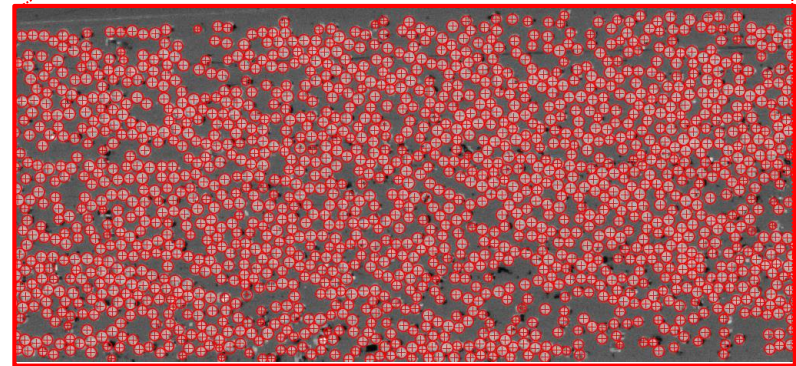
## Phase field simulation (10Mdof-40 domains)



## Optical micrograph



## Fibres detection





# Computational strategy for large composite structures

## Proposed methodology

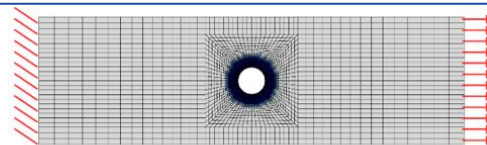
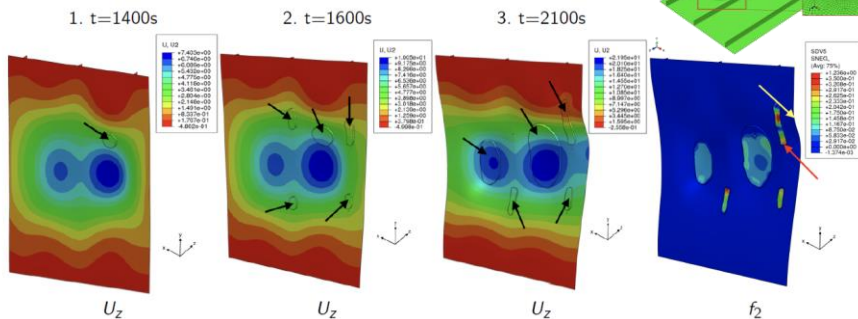
### Adaptive computational strategy

- Shell elements for the structure (hot-spot detection)
- Solid element only in critical areas + NL behaviour
- Evolution of the critical area due to propagation of damage events → Remeshing + field transfer

### Numerical tools

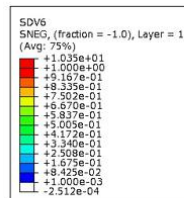
-  **Z-set**: Remeshing + field transfer
-  **ABAQUS** or  **Z-set** Equilibrium + NL behaviour

Impacted stiffened panel

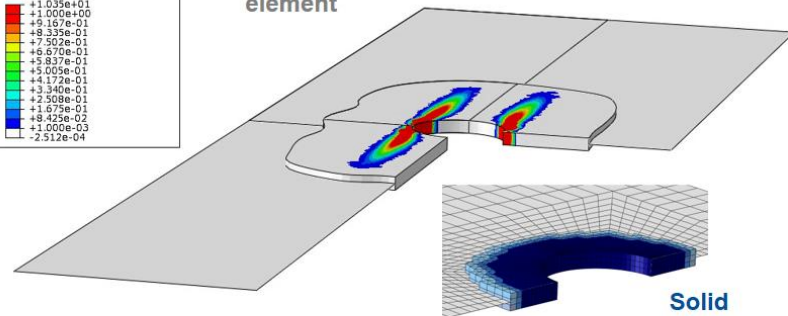


Open-hole plate with 0-ply under tension

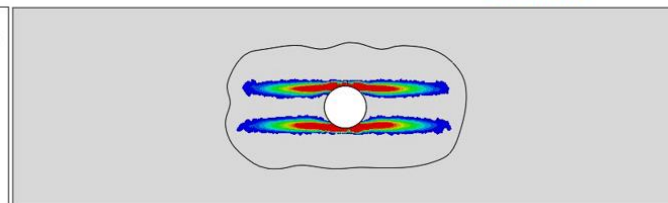
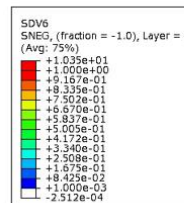
 [Borakiewicz 19]



Shell element

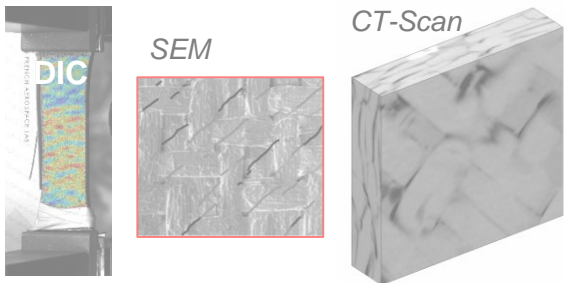


Solid element



# Content of the presentation

## Experiments



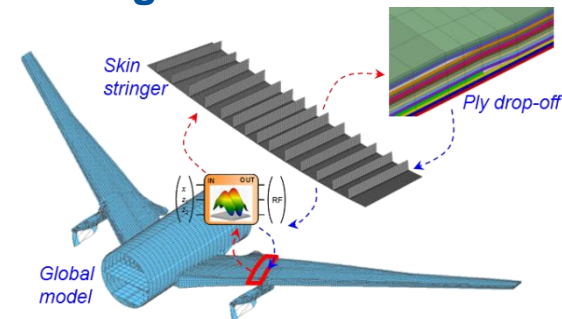
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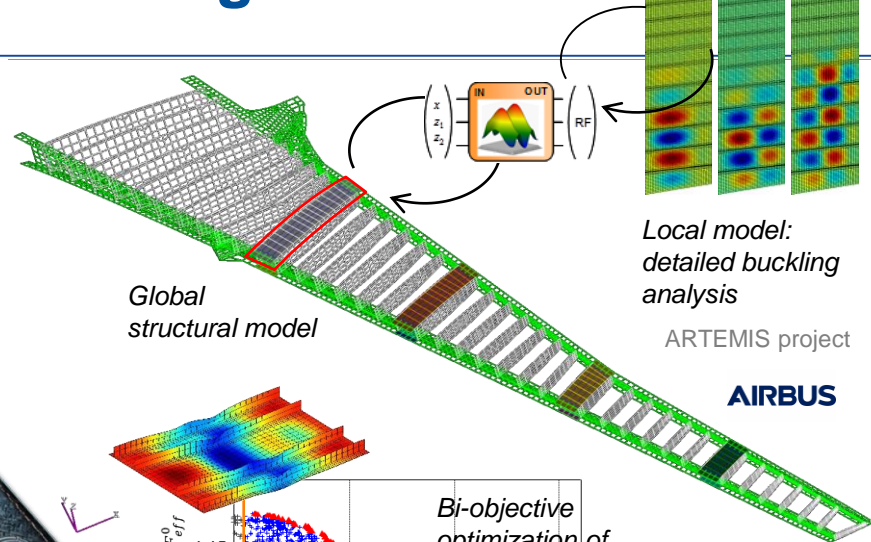
# Laminate optimization and global surrogates

## Specialized genetic algorithms

- Direct parametrization of the **ply angles and ply drops**
- Pareto multi-objective optimization
- Handling of laminate design guidelines (symmetry, ...)

## Computational strategy

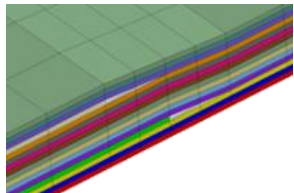
- **Global surrogates**  
failure modes, buckling modes .....
- Design of experiments in LP-space
- MDO process



Automotive suspension arm

[Irisarri 19]

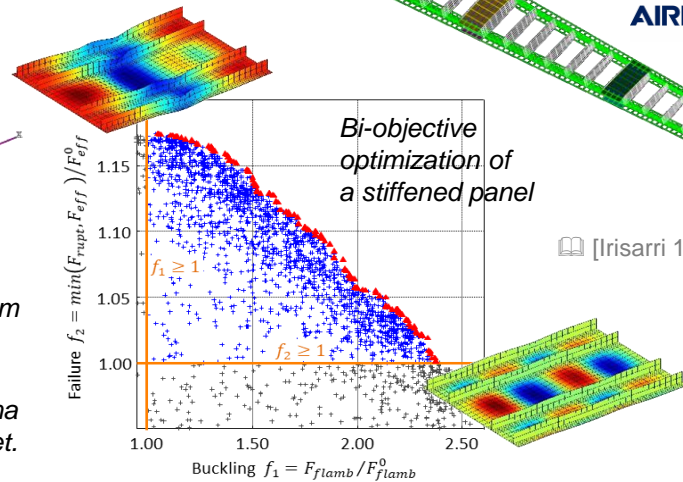
[Lasseigne 15]



Ply drops



Satellite antenna mounting bracket.



# Topology optimization for anisotropic materials

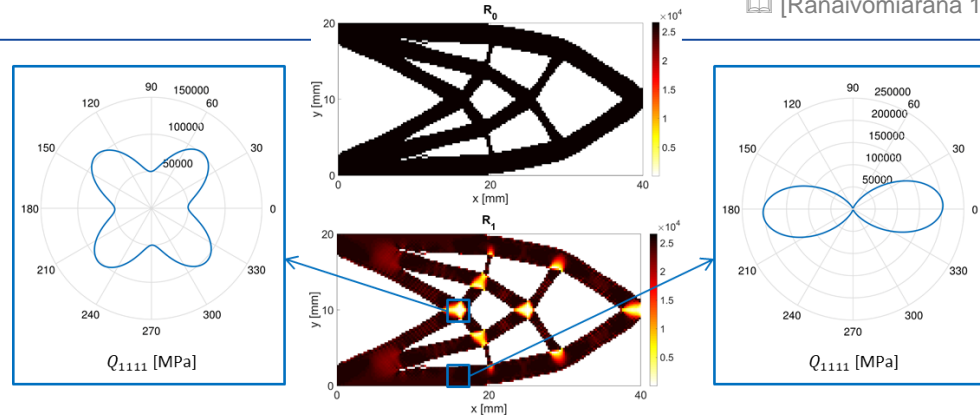
[Ranaivomiarana 18]

## Anisotropy as a design variable

- **SIMP** / level-set methods for shape
- Invariant-based parameterization : 2D orthotropic materials or 3D transversely isotropic materials
- **3D printed cellular materials and structures**

## Design criteria

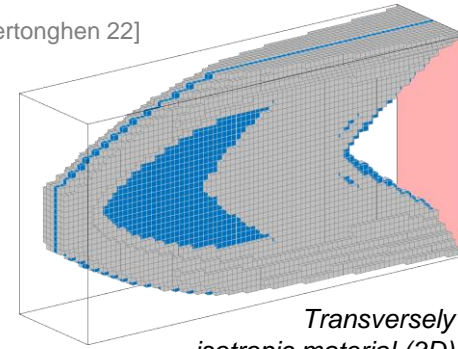
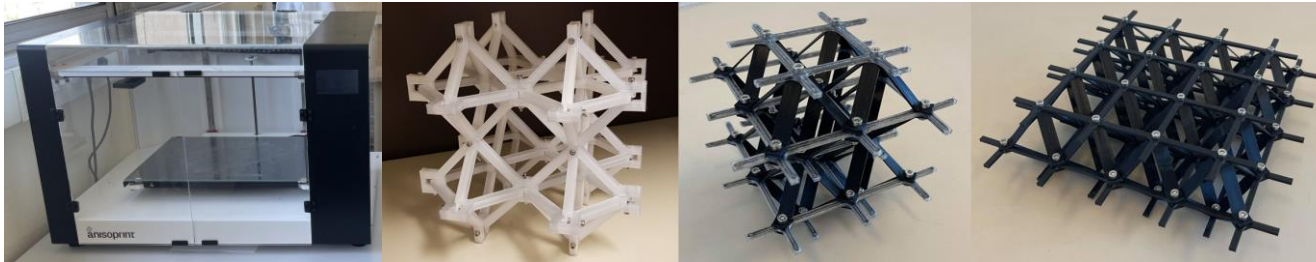
- Compliance minimization
- Mass minimization with stress constraints



Concurrent density and anisotropy optimization (2D)

[Vertonghen 22]

3D printed multi-material cellular lattice structures



Transversely isotropic material (3D)

# Simultaneous optimization of shape and composite layups

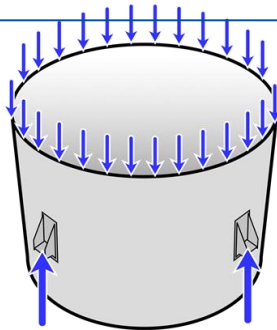
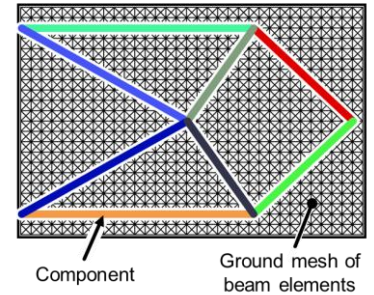
## Multilevel optimization framework

- Level 1 combines optimization of macroscopic properties and shape  
Stiffener layout optimized using a geometric projection method
- Level 2. Double/Double composite laminates or quasi-trivial laminates

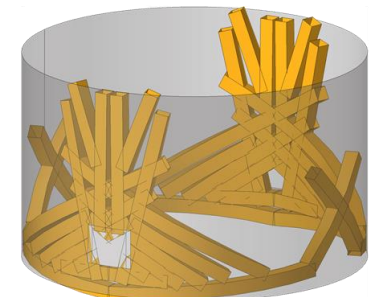
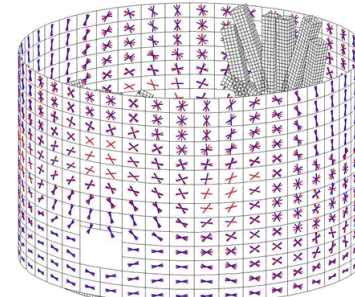
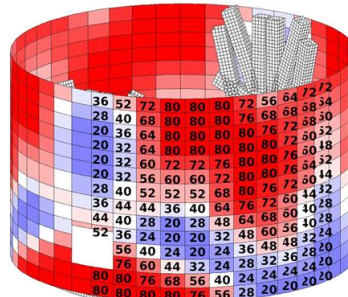
## Design criteria

- Compliance minimization
- Constraints on mass, buckling, strength and displacements

[Savigne 22]

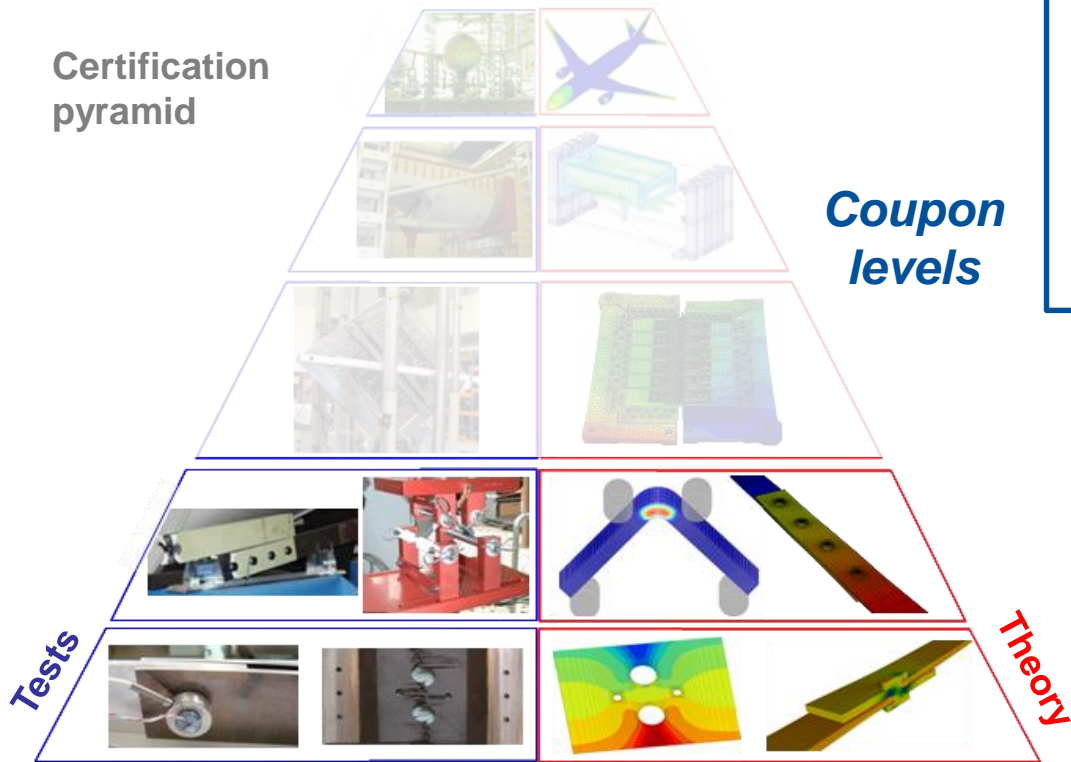


Interstage skirt Ariane 6

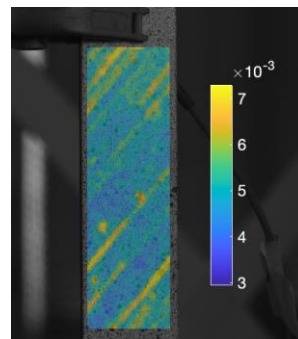


Stiffened structure or corrugated sandwich?  
30% mass reduction wrt reference metallic design

# Conclusions

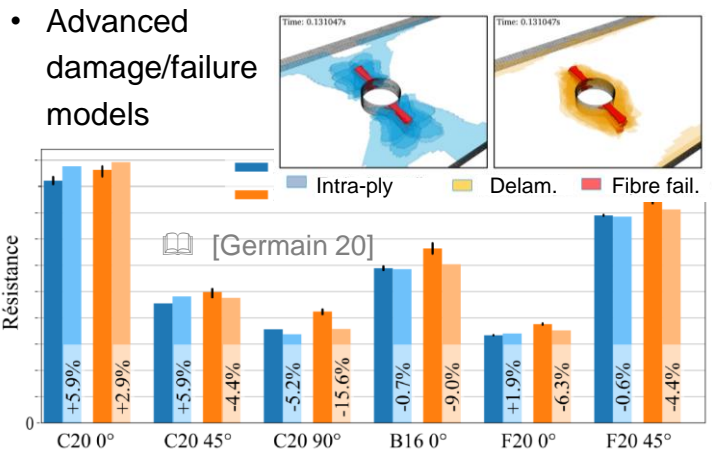


## Tests at low levels of pyramid



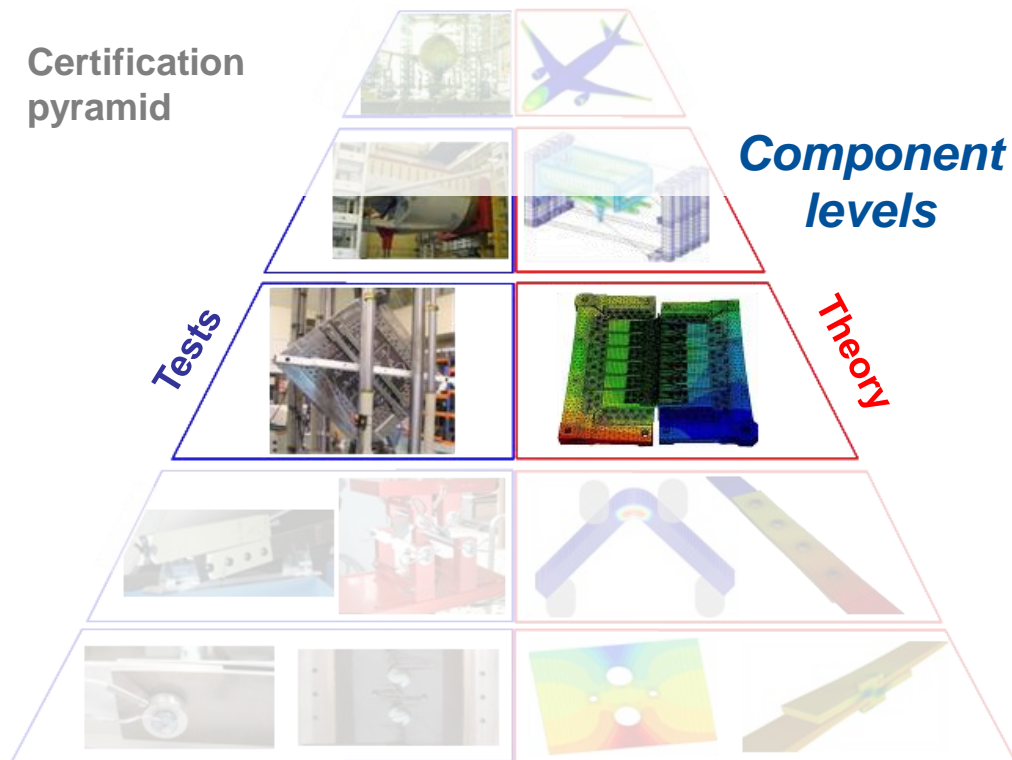
- Test on coupons**
  - Multi-instrumentation
  - Fine comprehension
- Test on structures**
  - Plain coupons
  - Open-hole plates
  - L-angle specimens

## Simulation on structures



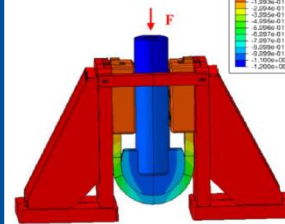
# On-going works

Certification pyramid

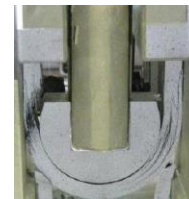
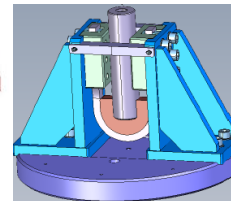


## Components level

[Garcia 19]



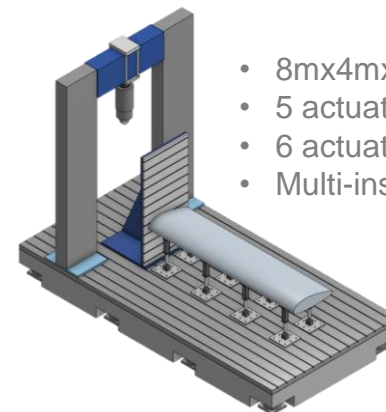
Data capitalization



## Test on structures

- Multi-instrumentation
- Mastered BCs

## JERICHO test platform (end 2024)



- 8mx4mx5m platform
- 5 actuators (250kN-1500kN)
- 6 actuators (150kN-250kN)
- Multi-instrumented tests



Test hybridization



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