

# Overview of potential for NDT of Automotive Composites.

#### **Robert A Smith**

#### Professor of NDT and High Value Manufacturing, University of Bristol, UK





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   Project



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council







- Introduction
  - Automotive Composites in the UK Composites Strategy
- NDT of Composites Overview
- Using NDT to characterise 3D material properties & model performance
  - 3D non-destructive characterisation
  - FE Materials Modelling





#### Introduction

Engineering and Physical Sciences

**Research Council** 

#### Aerospace

- Strategy led by Aerospace Growth Partnership <u>http://www.theagp.aero/</u>
- Technology led by Aerospace Technology Institute <u>http://www.ati.org.uk/</u>
- Have Specialist Advisory Groups
- Refreshing roadmaps.

#### Automotive

- Led by Automotive Council <u>http://www.automotivecouncil.co.uk/</u>
- 5 Technology Workstreams:
  - Internal Combustion Engines
  - Electric Machines & Power Electronics
  - <u>Lightweight Vehicle</u> & Power Train
  - Energy Storage & Management
  - Intelligent Mobility
- Funding:





#### **HVM Catapult Overview**







### **UK Composites Strategy 2016**

Engineering and Physical Sciences

**Research Council** 

### UK Composites – Market Opportunities







#### **UK Composites Strategy 2016**

#### **CLF Strategy Delivery**



#### UK SUPPLY CHAIN MANUFACTURING CLUSTERS AND PRODUCTS



Ultrasonics and NDT Group



#### **UK Composites Strategy 2016**

#### **CLF Strategy Delivery**





# BRISTOL Global Picture – Key Growth Market

Global emission targets are driving growth in use of composites in higher volume automotive.



China's target reflects gasoline vehicles only. The target may be higher after new energy vehicles are considered.
 US, Canada, and Mexico light-duty vehicles include light-commercial vehicles.
 Supporting data can be found at: http://www.theicct.org/info-tools/global-passenger-vehicle-standards



# BRISTOL Global Picture – Key Growth Market

Light-weight drivers mean that global growth is predicted at a 10-fold increase in composite parts in auto by 2030!



Predicted Growth in UK Production Requirement





## NDT of Composites Overview





#### NDT of Composites Overview

Defect types Porosity, delaminations, inclusions, resin-rich areas, wrinkling, waviness, lay-up error incomplete resin infusion,

**Composite types** Monolithic Unidirectional Monolithic 2D woven Monolithic 3D textured Glass/Carbon/Kevlar fibres Thermoset/thermoplastic resins Sandwich cores: honeycomb (nomex or metal), foam, balsa etc...

NDT methods Ultrasound (PE, ded) sins thermal, optical, mb tradiography tron

#### • Refer to reviews, books, training courses!





#### NDT of Composites Overview

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	Defect detection	Defect characterisation	Material characterisation
>95% Universal	Ultrasound X-ray CT	Ultrasound X-ray CT	Ultrasound X-ray CT
Specific	The rest	The rest	The rest







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X-ray CT:

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## NDT of Composites Overview

- Ultrasound reason for success
  - Wavelengths ~ply spacing and < defect size
  - Beam size ≤ defect size
  - Amplitude and phase contain different information
- Ultrasound Limitations
  - Scanning speed limits area of coverage
  - Accessibility
  - Coupling into surface
  - Depth of penetration in thick attenuative structures









- X-ray CT reasons for success
  - Responds to mass density (actually electron density)
  - Contrast between different materials in composite
  - Resolution < defect size and ≤ ply spacing
- X-ray CT limitations
  - Limited component size and shape
  - Radiation containment Usually requires a cabinet
  - Trade-off between component size and resolution
  - Scanning time



# Using NDT to characterise 3D material properties & model performance

## 3D non-destructive characterisation FE Materials Modelling





- Predict performance of as-manufactured component.
  - Materials model with actual 3D NDT data inputs
- Finite-element mesh created from NDT plywrinkling data.







Populate cells with 3D Fibre Angle (α,β,γ), vector field, stiffness axes 1', 2' & 3





## BRISTOL 3D non-destructive characterisation

#### Ultrasound

• Grey level can be amplitude or phase response







• Quantitative 3D fibre orientation 'inversion'









#### 3D non-destructive characterisation

0.50 Quantitative Pseudo-3D 8 41.5 0.45 0.40 42.0 ply surface 0.35 42.5 0.30 height... 0.25 43.0 0.20 43.5 ີ່ ສ<sup>0.15</sup> ອັດ.10 44.0 Height 0.05 20 Distance (mm) 70 0.00 0.05 0.10 60-<mark>∂</mark>0.15 50· Distance (mm) -0.2040--0.2530--0.30 -0.35 20 -0.4010 -0.45-0.50 N 41.5 42.0 42.5 43.0 43.5 44.0 20 0 Distance (mm) Depth (mm)

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#### 3D Vector Map of Fibre-tow orientation

- Vector Field
- Fibre-tow maps of 'streamlines' (analogy with fluid dynamics), vectors, F



0.125 mm thick plies. [45°, 0°, -45°, 90°, -45°, 0°, 45°]<sub>3</sub>





## Ply tracking

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## **Ultrasonic Propagation in CFRP**

- CFRP
  - Ultrasonic propagation is complex
  - Interfering reflections from resin layers
  - Weak resonances
    - 6 MHz for 0.25 mm plies
  - Resonances disrupted
    - Ply thickness variations
    - Material property variations
  - Localised response

Low Reflection Coefficients (R). R peaks at resin layers - thin, so thickness-dependent R.







#### Ply-drop specimen



#### Optical Micrograph

#### Analytic-signal

#### X-ray CT





#### Overlaid





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## **Impact Damage - delaminations**

- Defect Characterisation
  - Delaminations due to impact damage



 Instantaneous amplitude with Ply tracking...

Green: Resin layer. Red: front, back or delamination. Note: multiple reflections are not colour coded





### Impact damage - delaminations

- Defect Characterisation
  - Delaminations due to
    impact damage

 Instantaneous amplitude with Ply tracking...

Red: front, back or delamination. Note: multiple reflections are not colour coded







#### Tape gaps, overlaps, wrinkling

Tape gaps and overlaps can cause wrinkling



#### X-ray CT data







#### Tape gaps, overlaps, wrinkling

Front-wall, back-wall, ply-drops

- Instantaneous amplitude with resin layers, FWE, BWE
- Note white line at peak amplitude







#### Tape gaps, overlaps, wrinkling

#### X-ray CT scan



#### With analytic-signal overlay







#### **Woven Composites**

#### 2D woven...

#### & 3D textile



Plain weave



Orthogonal



Multilayer 3D



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# BRISTOL Ply Fingerprinting for woven fabrics

- Multiple peaks in:
  - Angular distribution, and
  - Spatial frequency distribution
- But each weave has a characteristic Ply Fingerprint









Plain

Basket 2x2

Twill 2*x*2

4-harness satin with 'crow's-foot' [1,2,3,2] repeat



# BRISTOL Ply Fingerprinting for woven fabrics



• 5-harness satin – offset [1]



• 5-harness satin – offset [2]



# BRISTOL Ply Fingerprinting for woven fabrics

- Ultrasonic data
- 5-harness satin weave offset [2]





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#### Woven fabrics - distortion/shear







- 'Fingerprint' obtained for each ply\_\_\_\_\_
- Top half: \_\_\_\_\_
  - -26° 0° 20° 64° 90° 110°
- Bottom half:
  - -20° 0° 26° 70° 90° 116°
- One strong angle from a square array of dots is at ±26.5°









Mechanical properties of 'as-manufactured' component Better-informed concession decisions





- Predict performance of component.
  - Materials model with actual 3D NDT data inputs
  - Create FE mesh using ply interface heights
  - Population with stiffness axes from fibre directions







Populate cells with 3D Fibre Angle (α,β,γ), vector field, stiffness axes 1', 2' & 3



Fibre-tow vector field

FE mesh populated with fibre-tow vector field







• Modelling of real specimen from NDT data





#### • Simulated 24-ply specimen – compressive loading







#### • Failure-mode Modelling





(Experimental results from earlier work by Mukhopadhyay et al, 2013)

- Compression-loading. Development of:
  - matrix crack and delamination (left), and
  - post failure fibre kinking in axial plies (right).





#### Modelled failure modes

Delaminations









#### Modelled failure modes

- Delaminations
- Matrix crack









#### Modelled failure modes

Delaminations Matrix crack Fibre kink





Step: Step-the Frame: 0 Total Time: 0.000000



Miss Ningbo Xie, PhD student



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#### Simulation and modelling



#### Miss Ningbo Xie, PhD student





#### Conclusions

- Ultrasound and X-ray CT offer:
  - 3D characterisation
  - Inversion to map 3D material properties
  - Automated creation of FE materials models
  - Prediction of performance
- But only ultrasound can do this for large components.
- NDT-based FE Materials modelling offers potential benefits

