



# **Multiphysics Multiscale Simulation Platform for Damage, Environmental Degradation and Life Prediction of CMCs in Extreme Environments**

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RTX Technology Research Center (RTRC)  
East Hartford, CT**

**Annual Review Meeting  
October 30, 2023**

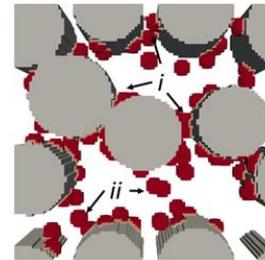
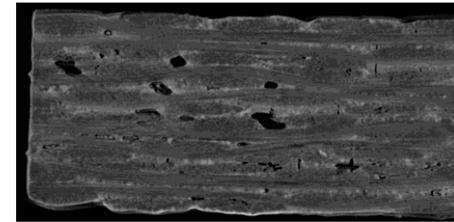
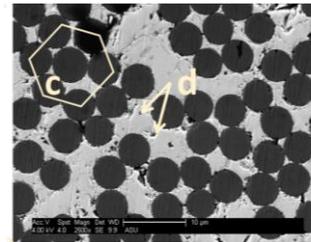
**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Program Manager: Matthew F. Adams  
Grant Number: DE-FOA-0001993**



- **Objectives**
- **Project Summary**
- **Research Progress**
  - **Deep learning framework for automated microstructure characterization & reconstruction**
  - **Thermomechanical tests for S200H SiC/SiNC**
  - **Physics-based high-fidelity generalized method of cells microscale simulations**
  - **Neural network-based reduced order model formulations**
- **Concluding Remarks & Future Work**

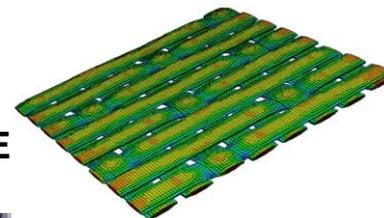
Develop a computationally efficient synergistic multiscale framework integrating multiphysics constitutive models with scale-specific experiments for damage assessment & life estimation of CMCs in service environment

- Accurate scale-dependent material characterization & uncertainty quantification
- Constitutive modeling of damage, inelasticity, and effects of environmental degradation
- Integration of developed models into commercial finite element (FE) software for CMC component analysis
- Closed-loop testing & validation for model calibration & validation



Micrographs

SRVE

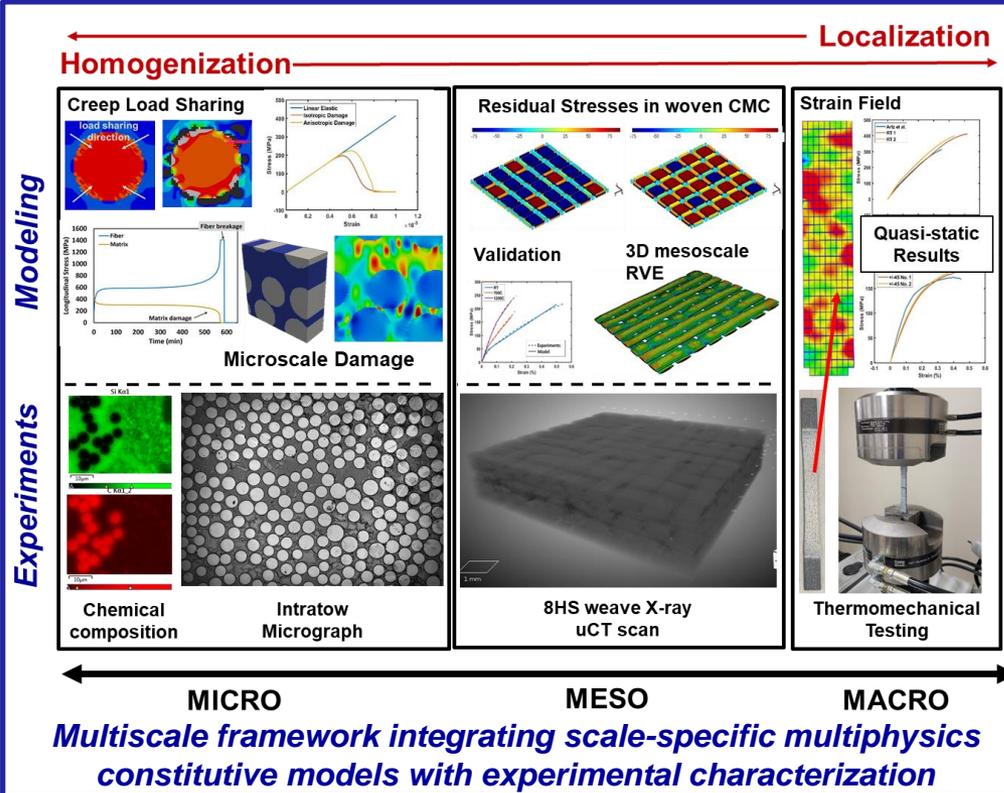


Thermomechanical testing



## Methodologies

## Accomplishments



### Previous year's work:

- Scale-dependent variability characterization of C/SiNC and SiC/SiNC CMCs via microscopy & X-ray micro-computed tomography (uCT)
- Image processing algorithm for feature identification and generation of stochastic representative volume element (SRVE)
- Machine-learning (ML)-based techniques to facilitate image segmentation, scale-dependent variability quantification, and SRVE generation
- High fidelity damage modeling to investigate effects of microporosity and residual stress in SiC/SiC composites
- Quasi-static tensile testing of 8HS woven SiC/SiNC CMC with in-situ digital image correlation (DIC)
- Coupled oxidation and damage model

### Current work:

- Creep-fatigue testing and microstructure assessment for woven SiC/SiNC and C/SiNC CMC
- ML-based SRVE generation and implementation for high fidelity models
- Physics-informed neural-network (NN)-based surrogate model to emulate multiscale methodology

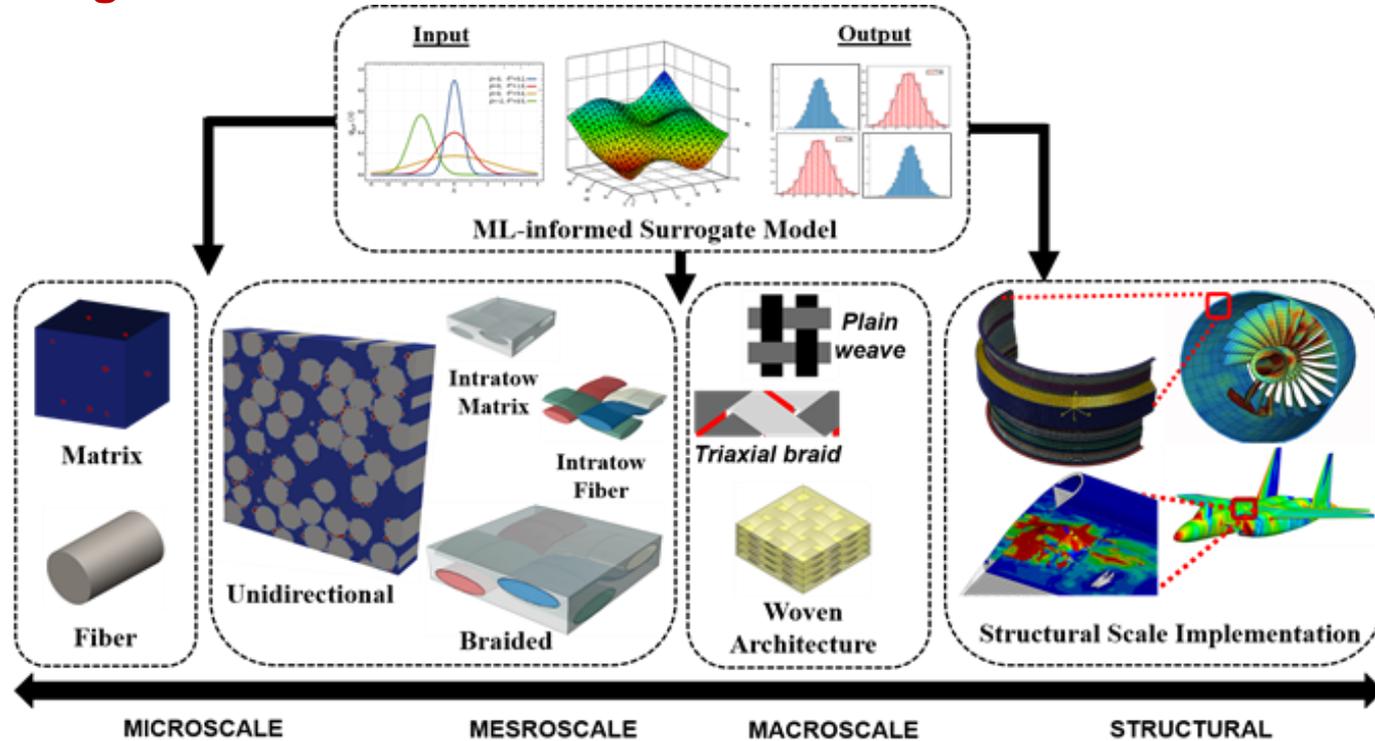
## Research Team

- Dr. Aditi Chattopadhyay – PI
- Dr. Luke Borkowski (RTRC)–Major Participant
- Mohamed Hamza – PhD Student
- Rayva Ranade – MSc Student
- Christopher Sorini – PhD Student/Dean's Scholar
- Khaled Khafagy – PhD Student
- Jacob Schichtel – NDSEG fellow, no cost to the grant

## Milestone

	BP1				BP2				BP3				BP4				BP5			
	8/16/19 – 9/30/19				10/1/19 – 9/30/20				10/1/20 – 9/30/21				10/1/21 – 9/30/22				10/1/22 – 8/15/23			
	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4																
Task 1: Project Management and Planning																				
Task 2: Material Characterization and Uncertainty																				
Task 3: Multiphysics Constitutive Modeling with Thermomechanical Damage																				
Task 4: Integrated Multiscale Framework																				
Task 5: Integration into FE Model																				
Task 6: Closed Loop Testing and Validation																				
Completed:																				
Projected:																				

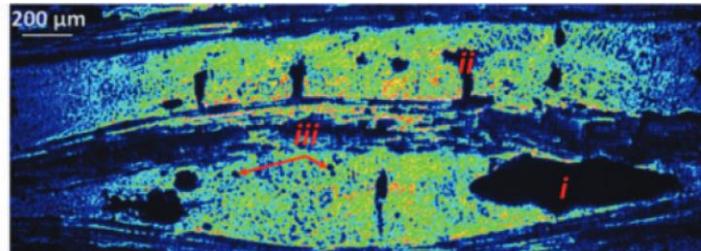
← Homogenization → Localization →



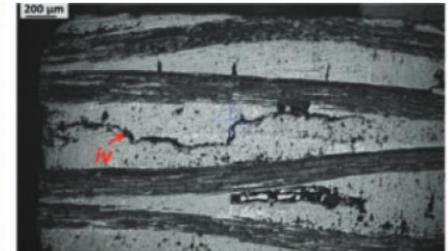
- Multiscale framework using multiscale generalized method of cells (MSGMC, Liu & Chattopadhyay, 2011) - generalizes two-scale homogenization & localization operations to arbitrary number of scales
- Allows synergistic analysis of woven or braided composite systems
- Model damage & inelasticity at constituent level & capture progression to higher length scales
- Reduced order models for computational efficiency

**Multiscale material & scale-dependent architectural variability quantification:**  
 i) extract scale-dependent architectural features & defect variability from micrographs; ii) construct statistical representative volume elements (SRVEs) inform multiscale modeling framework

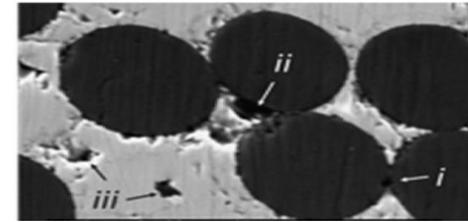
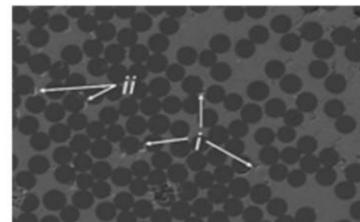
- **Meso/macroscale - X-ray micro-computed tomography (uCT)**
- **Microscale - confocal microscopy (CM) & scanning electron microscopy (SEM)**
- **Chemical elemental characterization - energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS)**
  - **Mesoscale**
    - Inter-tow defects;
    - tow size & shape
    - Inter-tow spacing
  - **Microscale**
    - Intra-tow fiber vol. %
    - Fiber radii & spacing
    - Intra-tow porosity vol. %



Denuded matrix defects:  
Open and intra-tow porosity



Crack nucleation at free surface



CMC intra-tow porosity

**Previously - semantic segmentation algorithm using deep learning based framework**

Deep learning (DL) framework: i) Deep Convolutional Nonlinear Regression for automated feature extraction; ii) Deep Conditional Generative Adversarial Network for SRVE generation

## Challenges:

- Unified feature extraction & regression models
- Random generation of synthetic microstructure
- Coupling between variability & generated RVEs – *generate microstructures based on desired microstructure variability*
- Sparsity in micrographs

## Advantages

- **Semantic segmentation of microstructure characteristic features through CNN layers**
- **Variability quantification through fully connected regression layers**
- **Vanilla regression output tensor used to train generative adversarial network (GAN)**
- **Various GAN architectures used for high-fidelity microstructure reconstruction**
- **Microstructure-inspired statistically representative volume elements (SRVEs)**
- **Applicable to other material systems with complex heterogeneous architectures**

## Vanilla Regression NN for CMC Characterization

Spans taxonomy of microstructure analysis: semantic segmentation of microstructure constituents & quantification of microstructure variability

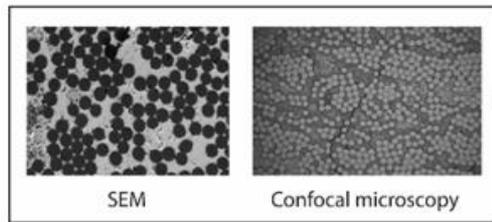
$a_i$  → Variability feature (fiber VF, Porosity VF, etc.)

$C_j^{(l)}$  → Feature Map at layer  $l$  and filter  $j$

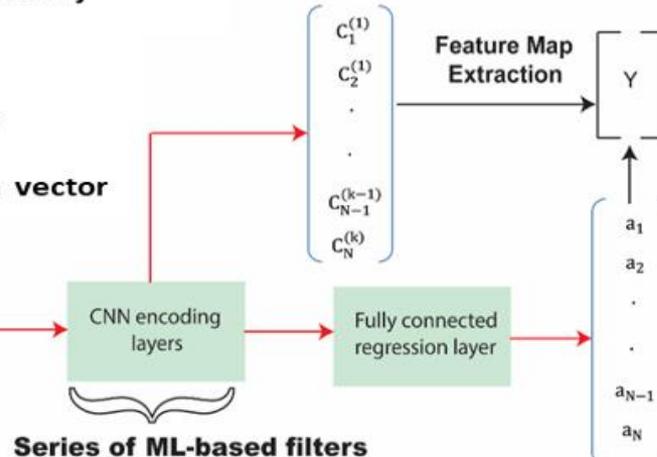
$N$  → Total number of features

$k$  → Total number of CNN layers

$Y$  → Microstructure information vector



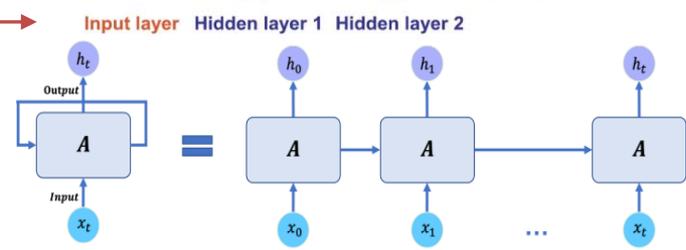
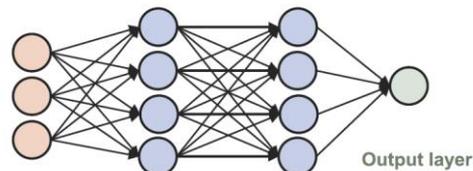
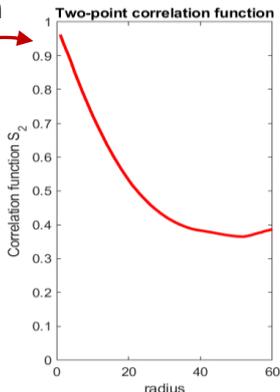
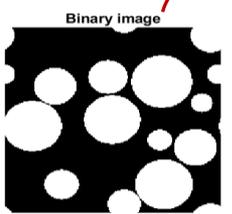
Micrographs



**Statistical Descriptors:**

- Two-point correlation

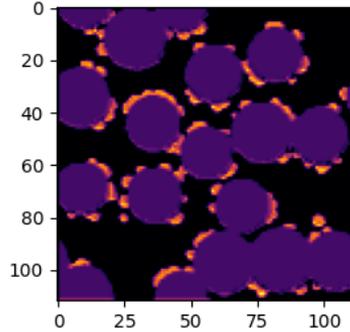
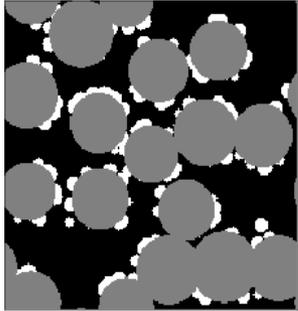
Statistical Representation



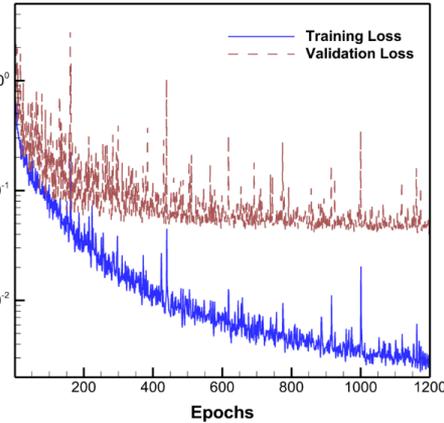
**Physical Descriptors**

- Fiber volume fraction
- Mean fiber radius
- Porosity fraction

**Used previously-developed computer vision (CV) SRVE generation algorithm to train DL-based algorithm & further improve variability quantification accuracy**



Loss function Minimization



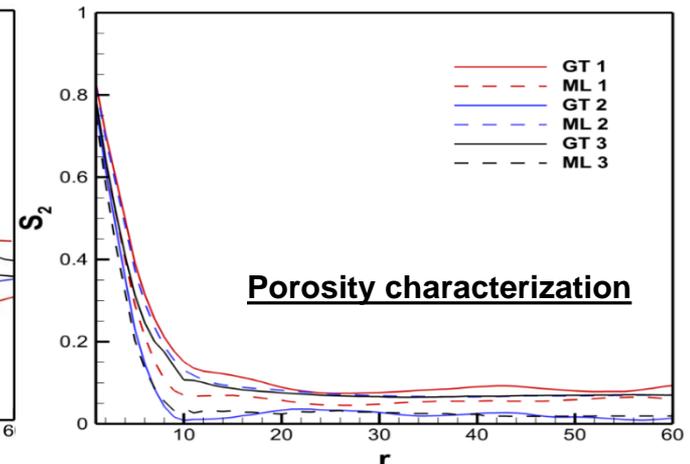
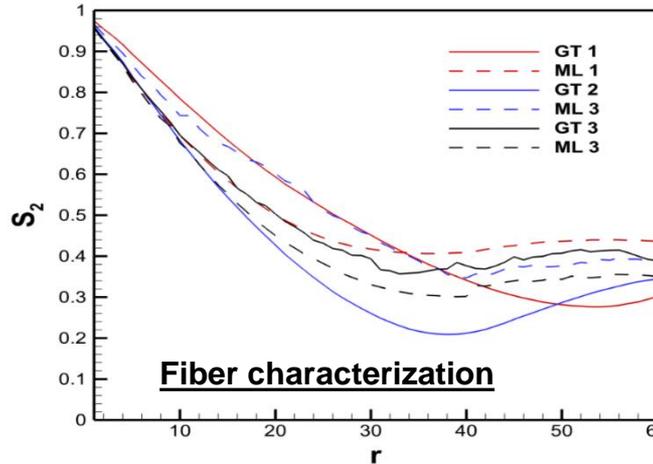
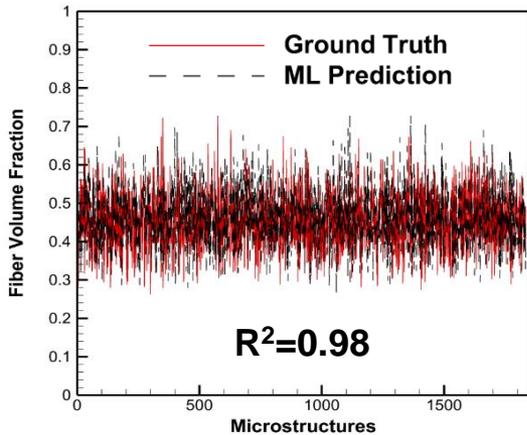
Two-point Correlation

$$s_2^i(r) = \langle I_p(x), I_p(x+r) \rangle$$

$$I_p(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \in \text{phase } i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Computer-vision training microstructure

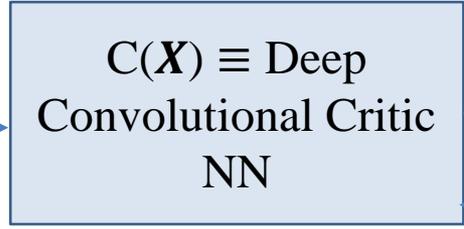
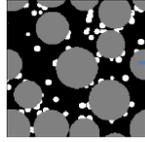
Deep-learning Segmented microstructure



- Optimized vanilla regression variability prediction show high coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) with respect to the ground truth
- Deep vanilla regression captured fiber and porosity radial correlation functions overall trend

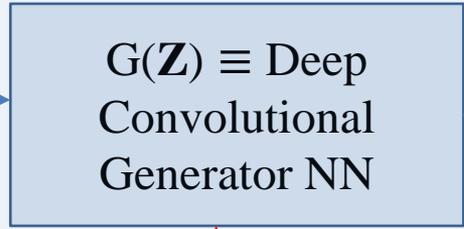
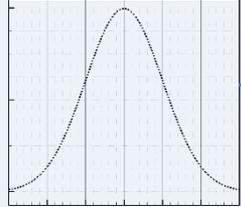
## Microstructure

$(X_{ijkl})$

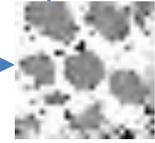


i: Sample Size  
j: Image Depth (i.e. Grayscale)  
k: Image Height  
l: Image Width

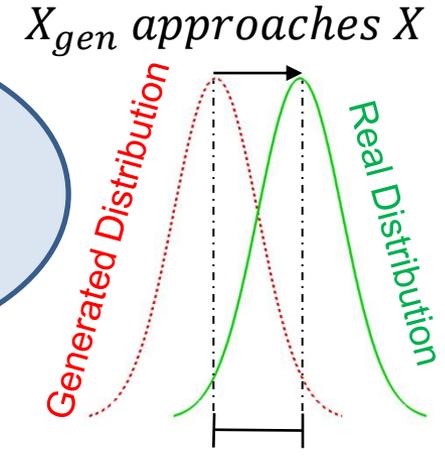
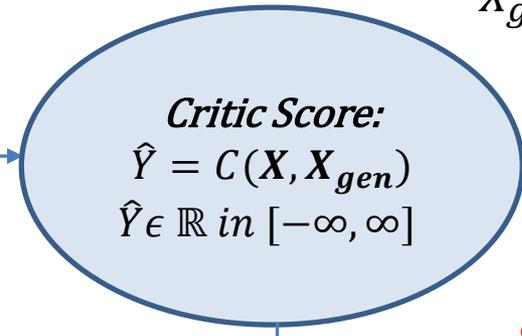
Latent Space



Random Gaussian Noise ( $Z$ )



Generated Microstructure  
 $(G(Z) = X_{gen})$



$$\min_G \max_C \mathbb{E}[C(X)] - \mathbb{E}[C(G(Z))]$$

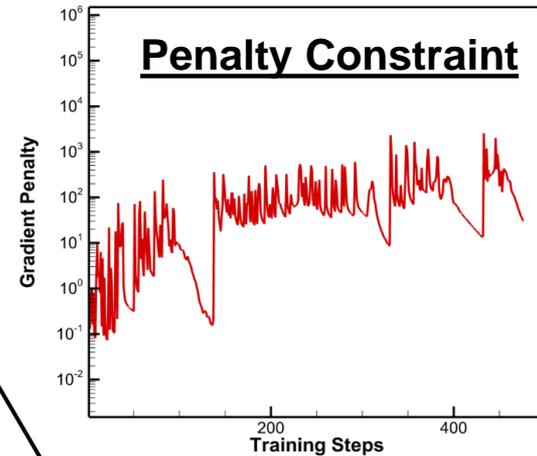
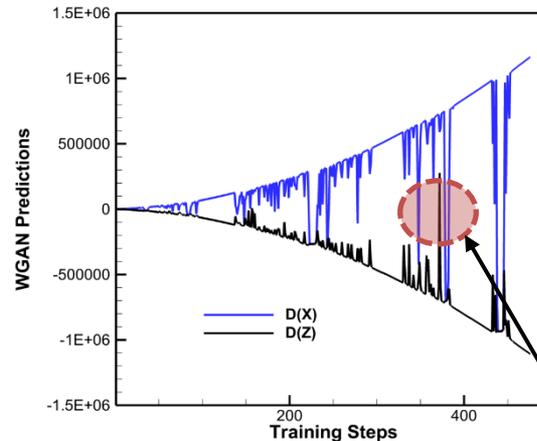
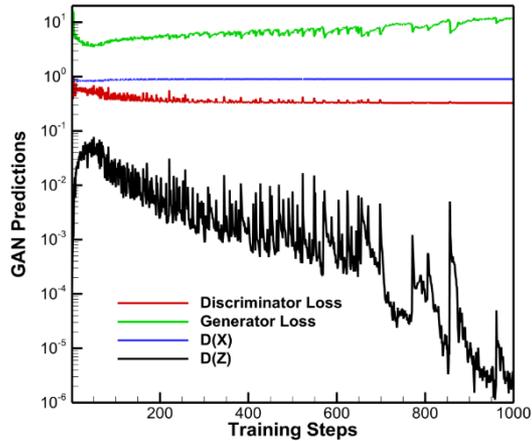
**Earth-Mover-Distance:**  
Distance between the real and generated distributions

**Update  $\theta_G$  via gradients**  
 $\theta_G$ : Generator parameters

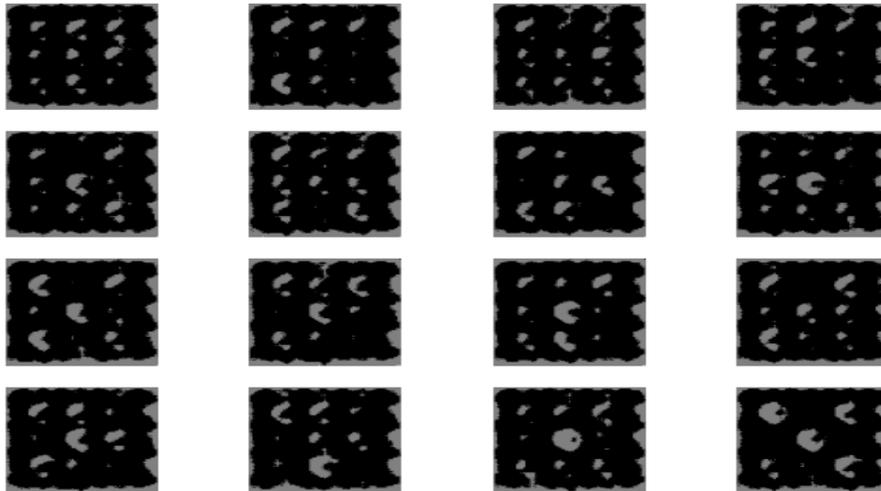
**Update  $\theta_C$  via gradients**  
 $\theta_C$ : Critic parameters

## Wasserstein Generative Adversarial Network (WGAN) Outcomes:

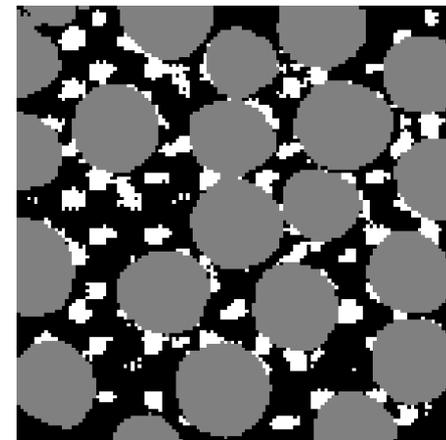
- Critic network learns microstructure convolution filters to distinguish between actual micrographs and generated SRVEs by maximizing the Wasserstein loss
- Generator network produces SRVEs which mimic the actual micrographs, thus minimizing the Earth-Mover-Distance (EMD) between the two distributions



## SRVE Evolution Across Model Training

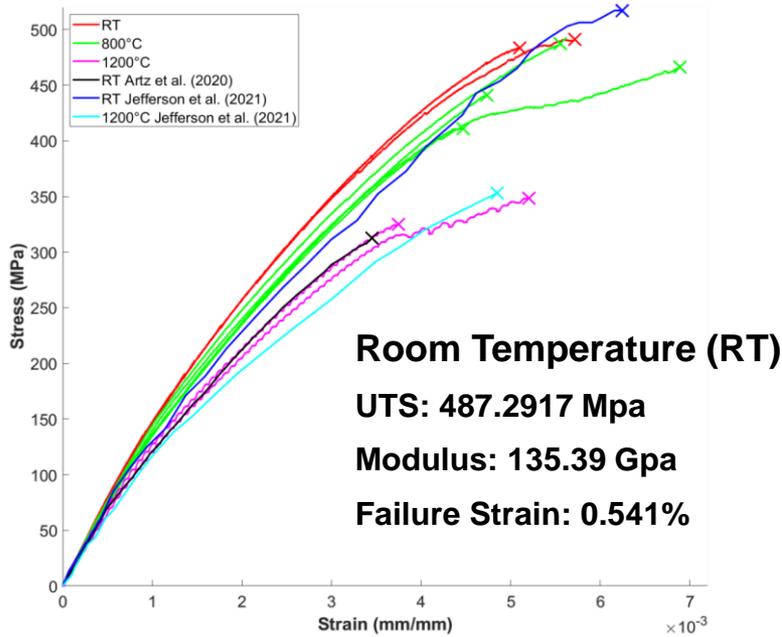


## Optimized Generated SRVE



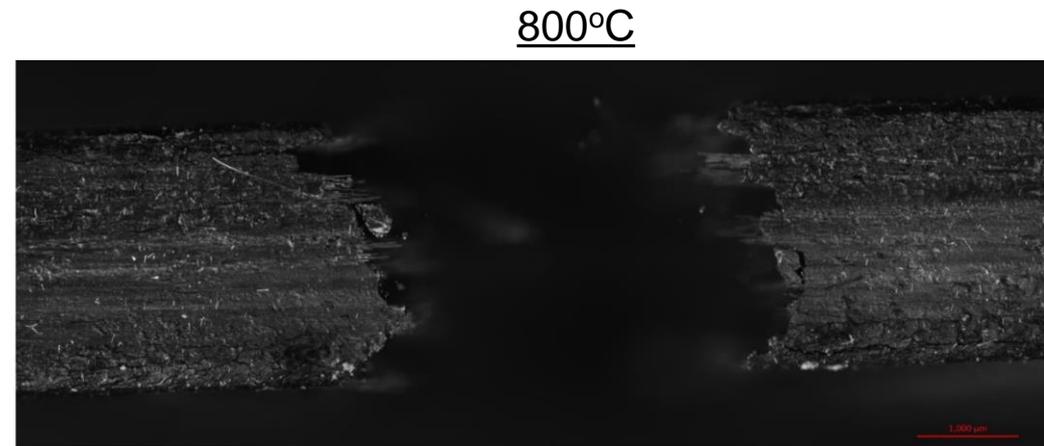
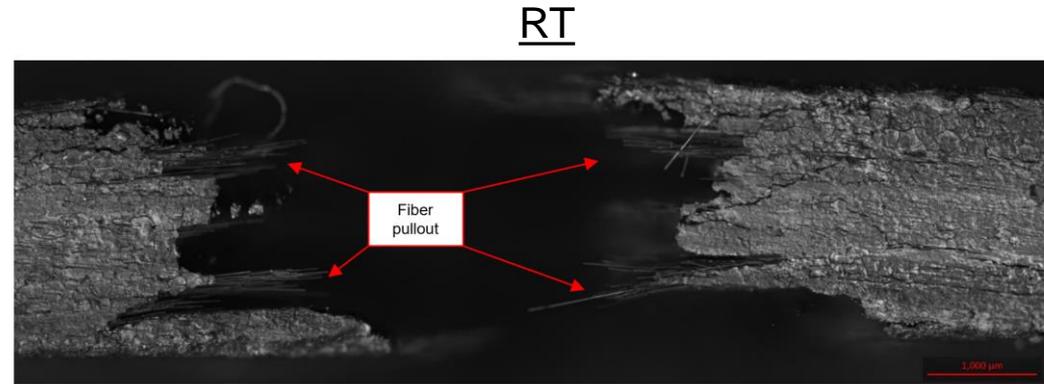
WGAN showed enhanced SRVE quality generation with microstructure variability compared to traditional GAN frameworks due to better gradient estimations and stable objective function

## Confocal Micrographs of Fracture Surface

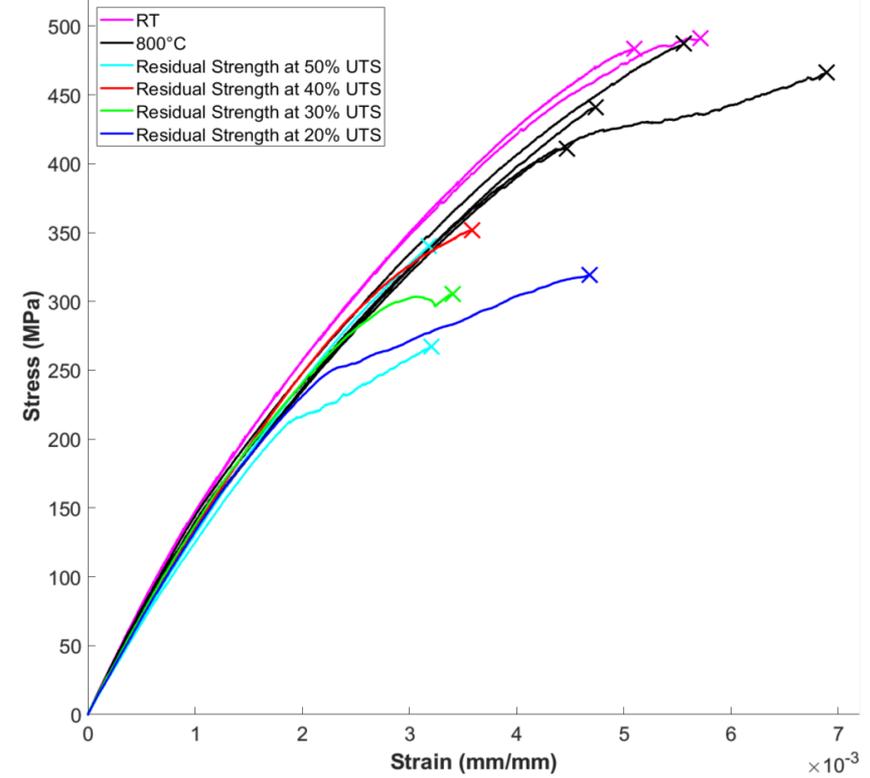
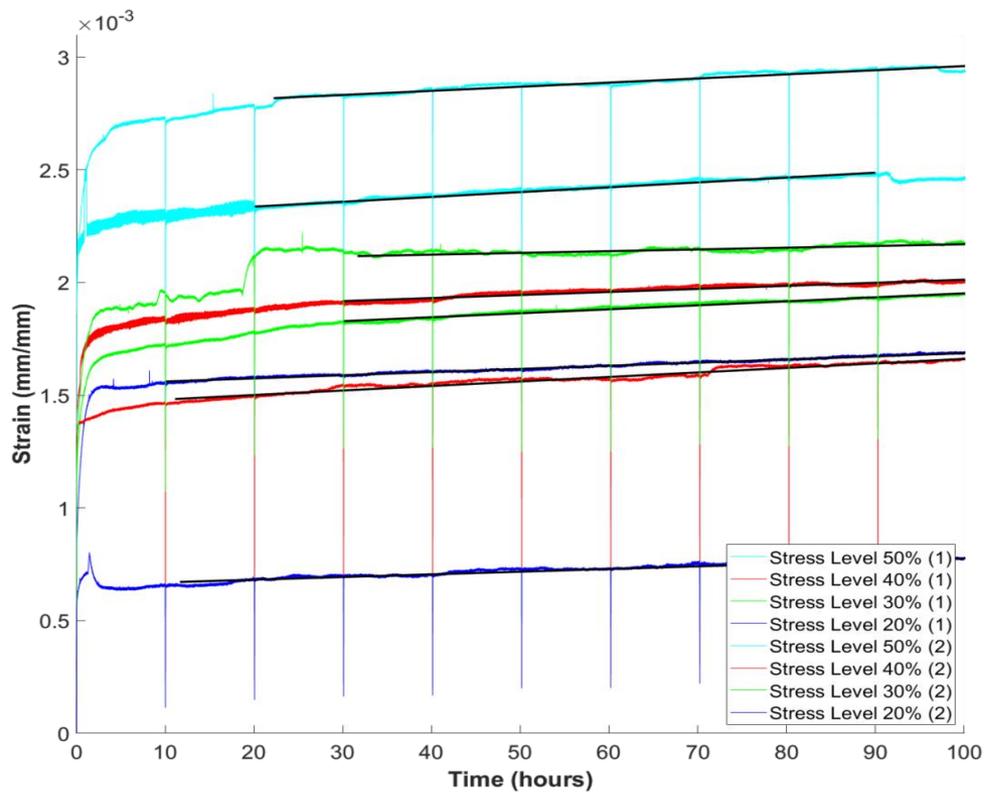


**800°C**  
**UTS: 451.2897 Mpa**  
**Modulus: 128.47 Gpa**  
**Failure Strain: 0.541%**

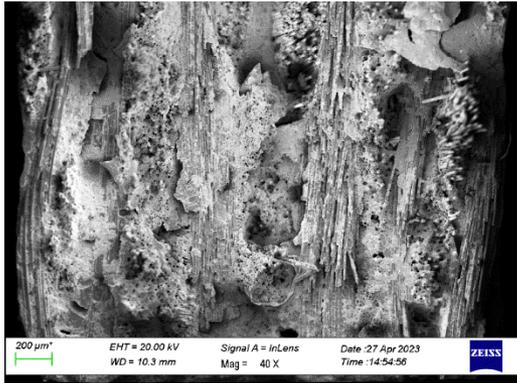
**1200°C**  
**UTS: 336.5265 Mpa**  
**Modulus: 110.83 GPa**  
**Failure Strain: 0.448%**



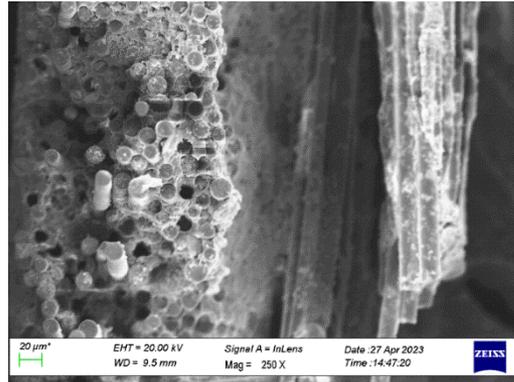
- **Nonlinear behavior is due to large pores and cracks caused by PIP manufacturing process; accelerating damage growth in the composite**
- **Tensile strength results at 1200°C are in good agreement with literature**
- **Drastic decrease in tensile strength at 1200°C due to higher activation energy for matrix microcracks**



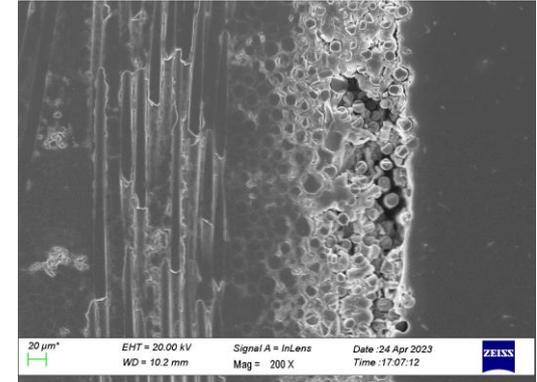
- Large difference in strain between repeated tests at 50% and 40% Stress Levels
- Strain rates for repeated tests at 50%, 40% and 30% stress levels match
- Stiffness decreased due to embrittlement caused by oxidation
- Significant decrease in strength and strain to failure upon creep-fatigue exposure



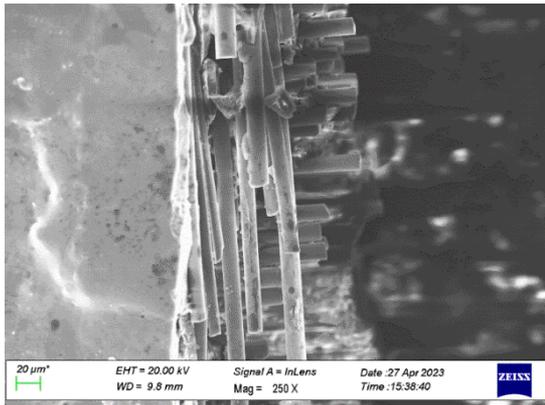
Cross section of fracture surface



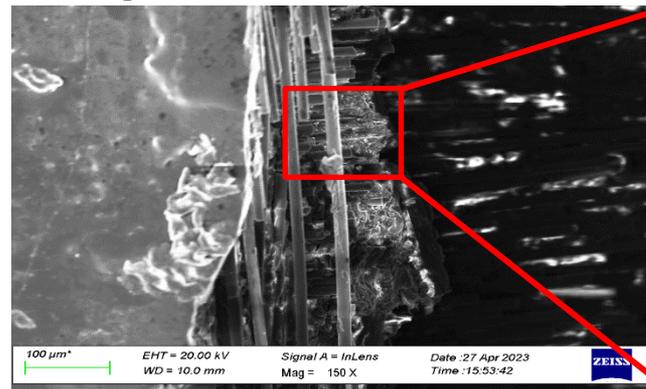
Manufacturing-induced damage on fracture surface



Void in matrix leaving exposed fibers



Fracture damage located close to sample surface



Silica formation on fracture surface



- Material characterization using SEM and EDS performed after creep-fatigue testing and residual strength testing
- Damage due to manufacturing induced defects depicted in sample fracture surface
- SiNC matrix oxidizes into glassy silica phase causing embrittlement

## Key Features

- **Modeling CMC viscoplasticity and damage induced inelasticity at elevated temperature**
- **Capturing the CMCs global mechanical response due to damage mechanisms in each constituents (fiber and matrix)**
- **Model training on high-fidelity microstructure representation to account for microstructure features and variability effects**
- **Capturing the main stages of creep strain behavior**
- **Enforcing physics-based constraints through loss function regularization**
- **Microscale surrogate model training on stress relaxation and creep testing scenarios with damage**

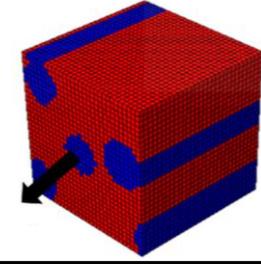
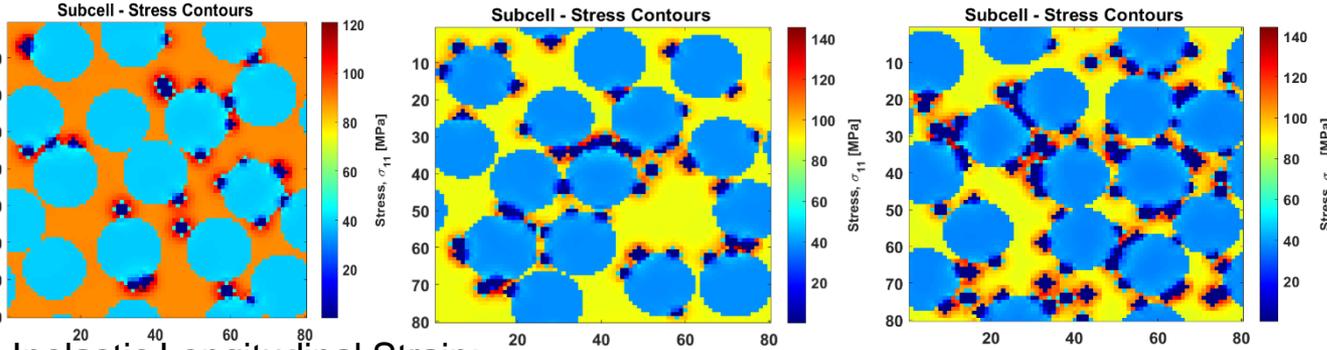
## 1% defect VF

## 2% defect VF

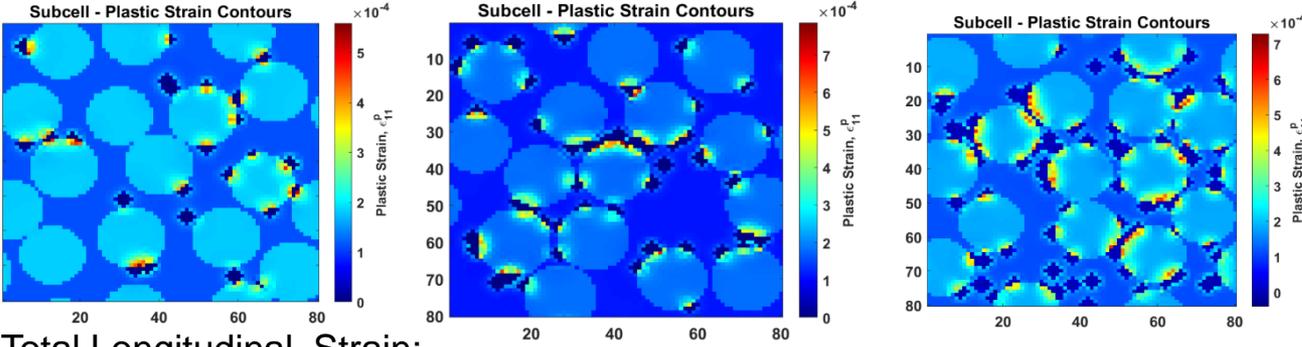
## 4% defect VF

## Applied Strain

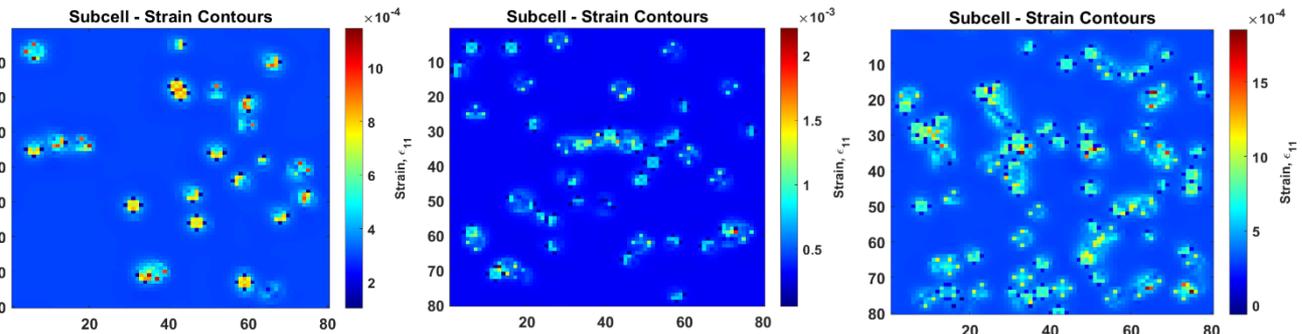
### Cauchy Longitudinal Stress:



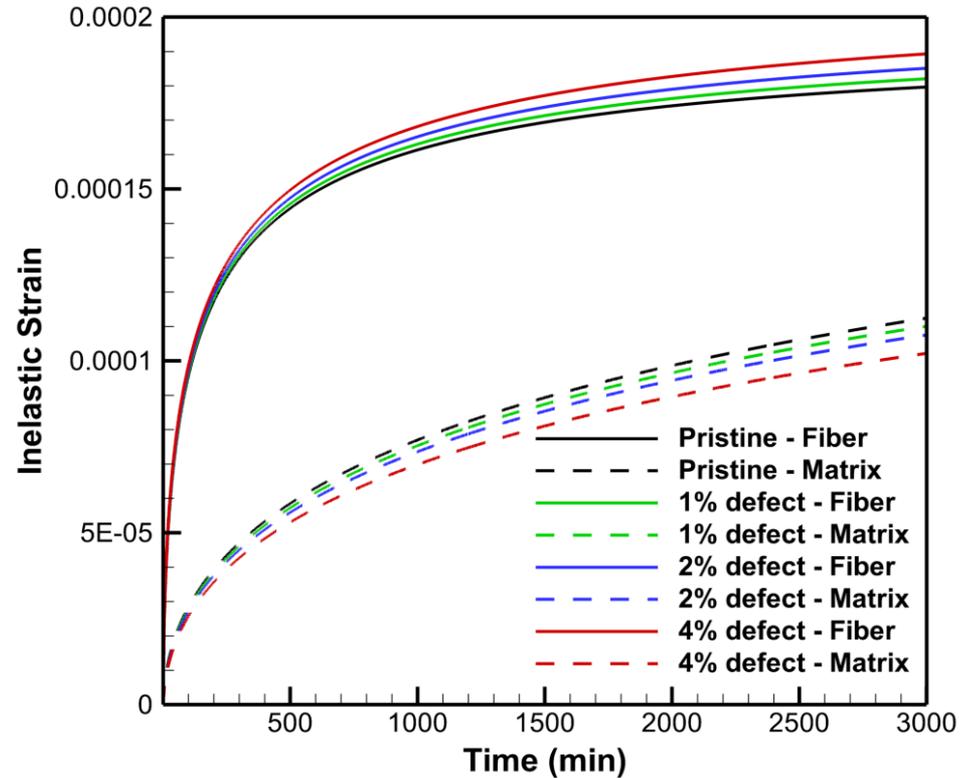
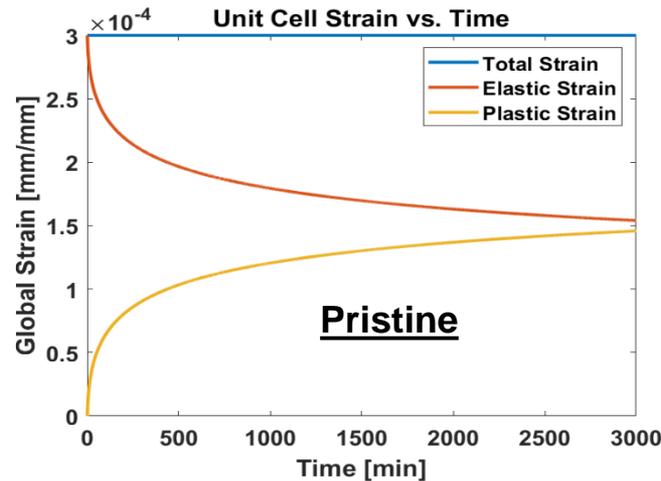
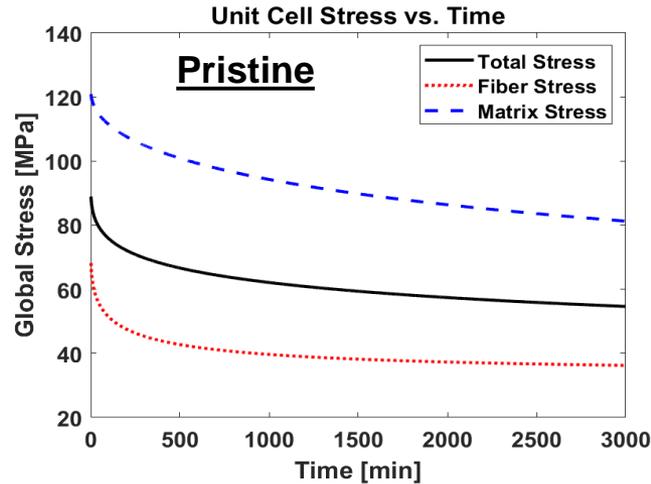
### Inelastic Longitudinal Strain:



### Total Longitudinal Strain:



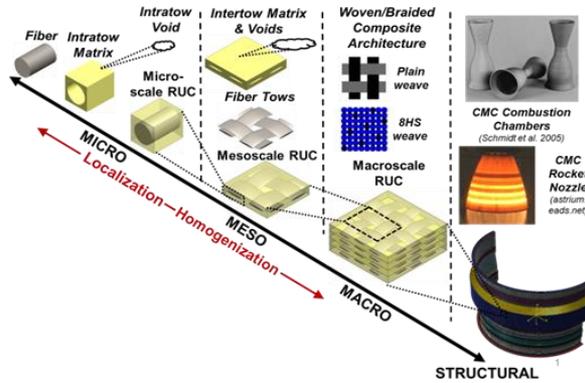
- Intratow defects induced localized stress and viscoplastic strain around fiber surfaces
- Viscoplastic strain mismatch between SiNC matrix and Hi-Nicalon fiber due to different stress state and inelasticity activation energy
- Localized total strain near porosity; indicating defects diffusion along fiber surfaces during stress relaxation



- S200H exhibits inelastic strain mismatch during stress relaxation simulations
- Fiber stress rapidly drops and approaches a constant creep strain rate
- Inelastic strain in fiber increases with porosity as a result of stress localization along fiber surfaces

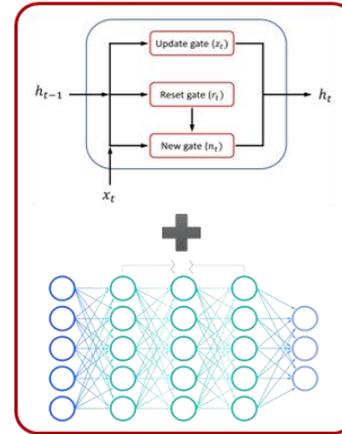
Surrogate model developed and extended to effectively predict response of woven SiC/SiC with microstructural variability

## Multiscale model for training ML surrogate model



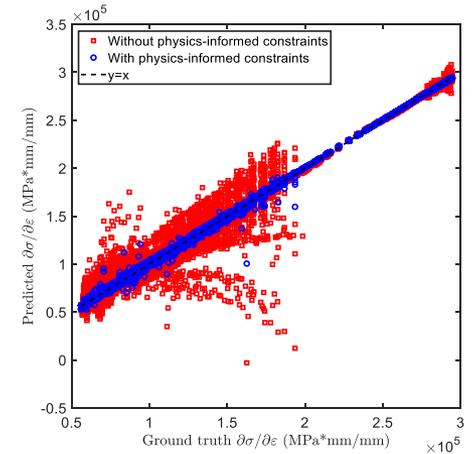
Training

## RNN-based, physics-informed surrogate model

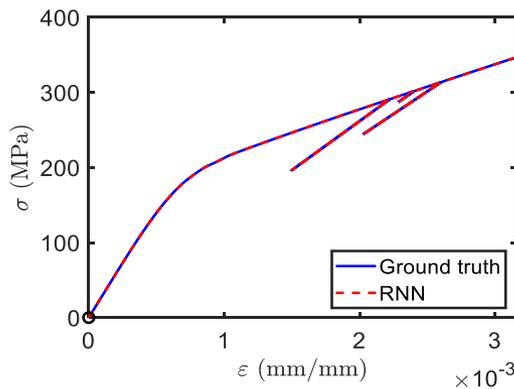


Testing

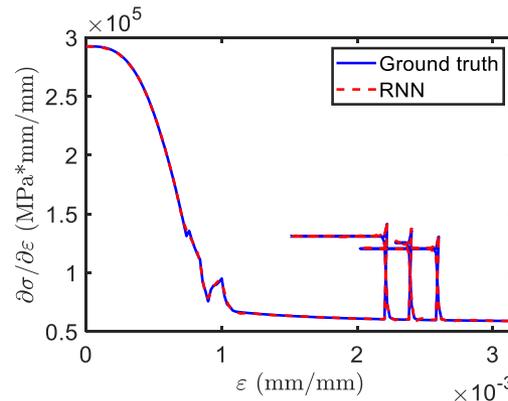
## Parity plot – with and without physics-informed constraints



## Stress vs. strain



## Tangent modulus vs. strain



## Prediction speedup

Model	Runtime (s)	Speedup (times)
Numerical	116.41	NA
Surrogate (CPU)	2.22e-3	5.2e4
Surrogate (GPU)	2.08e-4	5.6e5

\*Borkowski, L., Skinner, T., & Chattopadhyay, A. (2023). Woven ceramic matrix composite surrogate model based on physics-informed recurrent neural network. *Composite Structures*.

- **Variability quantification and generation of microstructure morphology**
  - **Deep learning (DL) model for microstructure features quantification**
  - **Microstructure-inspired representative volume element generation for microscale constitutive modeling**
  
- **Thermomechanical testing: Quasistatic high temperature and creep-fatigue**
  - **S200H SiC/SiNC showed significant nonlinearity due to porosity and shrinkage crack induced through manufacturing PIP process**
  - **Matrix microcracking and fiber brittle fracture control SiC/SiNC failure at elevated temperatures**
  - **Silica formation observed in SiNC matrix above 800°C**
  
- **High-fidelity generalized methods of cells captured viscoplastic and damage mechanisms at the intratow level**
  - **Analyzed the impact of S200H CMC defects on stress relaxation and localized inelastic response**

- **Computationally efficient deep learning-based surrogate modeling training based on high-fidelity simulations**
- **Dwell-fatigue modeling through coupling damage, viscoplastic creep and oxidation models**
- **Extension of oxidation model to include matrix reactions, fusing, crack sealing & refine formulation for enforcing surface-based reactions**
- **Fracture mechanics-based damage model development with temperature effects to capture matrix microcracking activation at elevated temperatures**

## Program Manager: Matthew F. Adams

- Dr. Patcharin Burke – *National Energy Technology Laboratory*
- Dr. Edgar Lara-Curzio – *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*
- Dr. Anindya Ghoshal – *Army Research Lab*
- Dr. Ojard, Dr. Kumar, and Dr. G.V. Srinivasan – *RTRC*
- Dr. Amjad Almansour and Dr. Goldberg – *NASA Glenn Research Center*

### Research Contributions:

Luke Borkowski – PhD (RTX Technology Research Center)

Mohamed Hamza – PhD Student

Rayva Ranade – MSc Student

Khaled Khafagy – PhD (Mechanical Core Competency, Intel, Oregon)

Jacob Schichtel – PhD (Mechanical Core Competency, Intel, Chandler)

Christopher Sorini – PhD (SWRI)

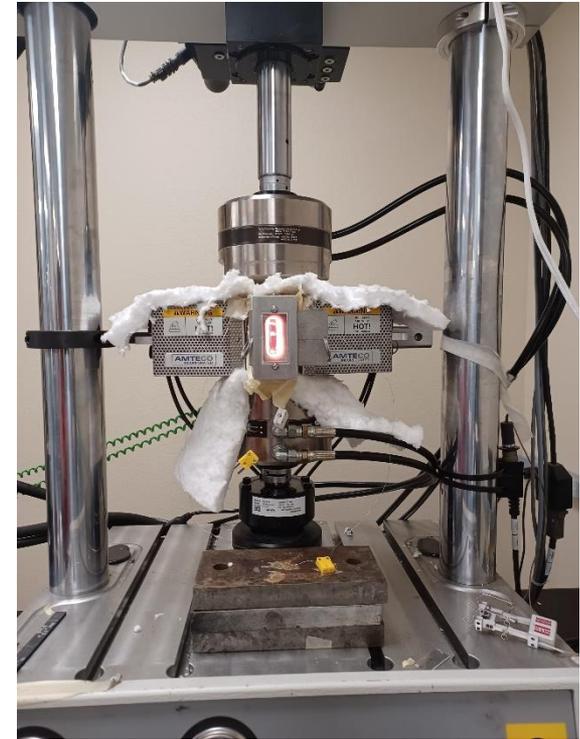
# Backup Slides



(a)



(b)

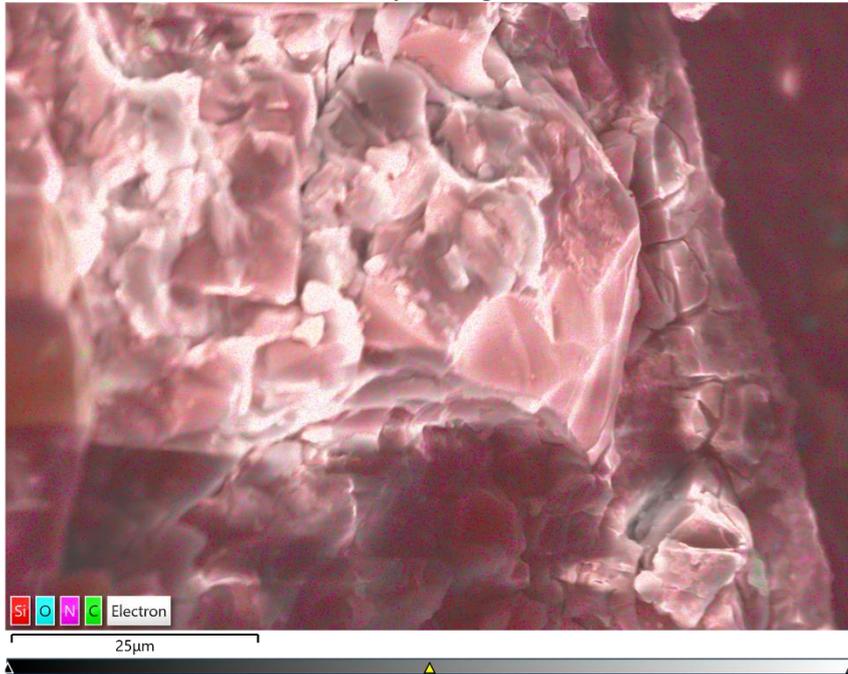
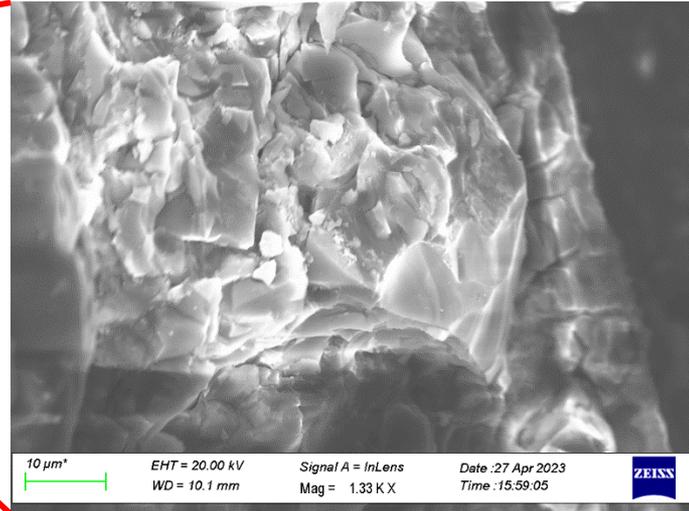


(c)

**Test setup for 800°C quasi-static tensile test; (a) thermocouples attached to sample, (b) furnace heating up to desired temperature with thermocouples plugged in to reader, (c) tensile test being performed**



EDS Layered Image 11



- Weight percentages of undamaged SiNC matrix:

	Wt%
Si	43.7
C	27.7
B	19.4
N	6.7
O	2.5

- Weight percentages of portion of sample shown to the left:

	Wt%
Si	37.0
O	33.0
C	15.6
N	14.4

## Modeling of brittle damage mechanism in SiC/SiC CMC constituents (the matrix and fibers)

- The matrix modulus degradation can be described as:

$$E_m^* = (1 - (D^p + D^c))E_m$$

- Damage variables can be expressed as:

$$\dot{D}^c = \frac{\pi^2}{10} (1 + \nu)(5 - 4\nu) \frac{N}{V} L^2 \dot{L}, \quad \leftarrow \text{Microcracking damage variable}$$

$$\dot{D}^p = \alpha(1 - D^p)\gamma\varepsilon^V, \quad \leftarrow \text{Porosity growth damage variable}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2} (1 - D_p) \Gamma_P F_{dil}^{-1} G \left( \mathbf{F}_{dist} \cdot \mathbf{I} - \frac{9}{F_{dist}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{I}} \right)$$

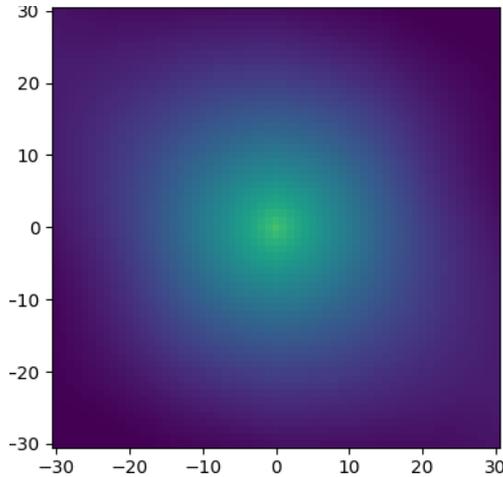
$$\Gamma_P = \Gamma_{Po} \frac{3G}{\sigma_{eqv}} \left( \frac{\langle \sigma_{eqv} - \sigma_Y \rangle}{\sigma_{Yo}} \right)^2$$

$$\dot{L}_c = \frac{C_R}{\alpha} \left( \frac{K_I - K_{IC}}{K_I - \frac{K_{IC}}{2}} \right)^\gamma \quad \text{if } K_I \geq K_{IC}$$

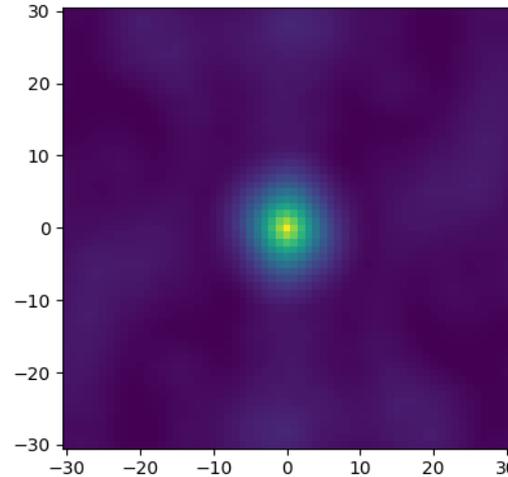
↑ Crack kinetics

- Computational parametric study to investigate the influence of voids and fiber VF on the damage mechanism

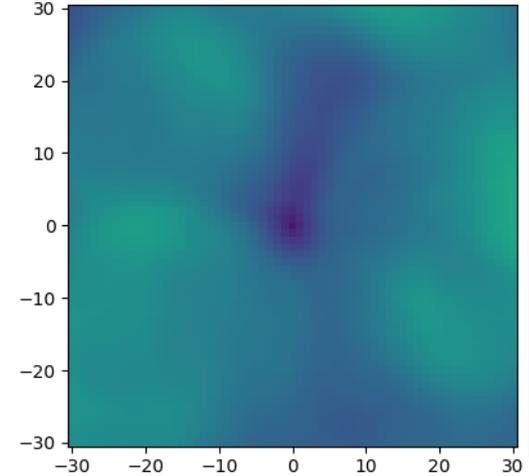
**Autocorrelation Fiber**



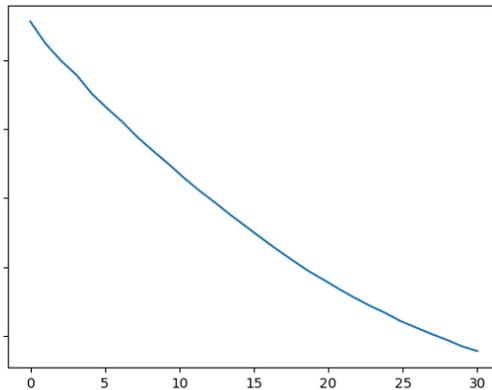
**Autocorrelation Porosity**



**Cross-Correlation**

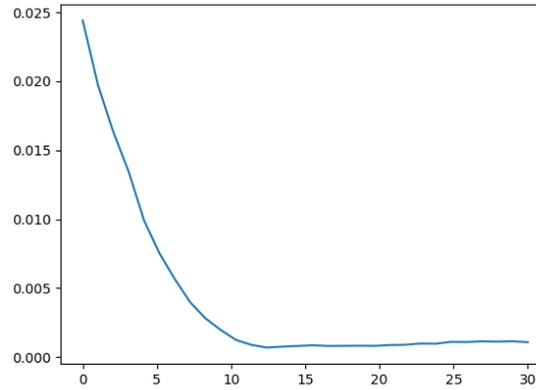


**Radial Fiber Correlation**



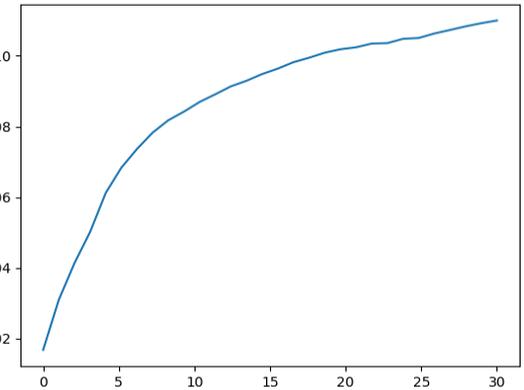
**Pixel Distance**

**Radial Porosity Correlation**



**Pixel Distance**

**Radial Cross-Correlation**



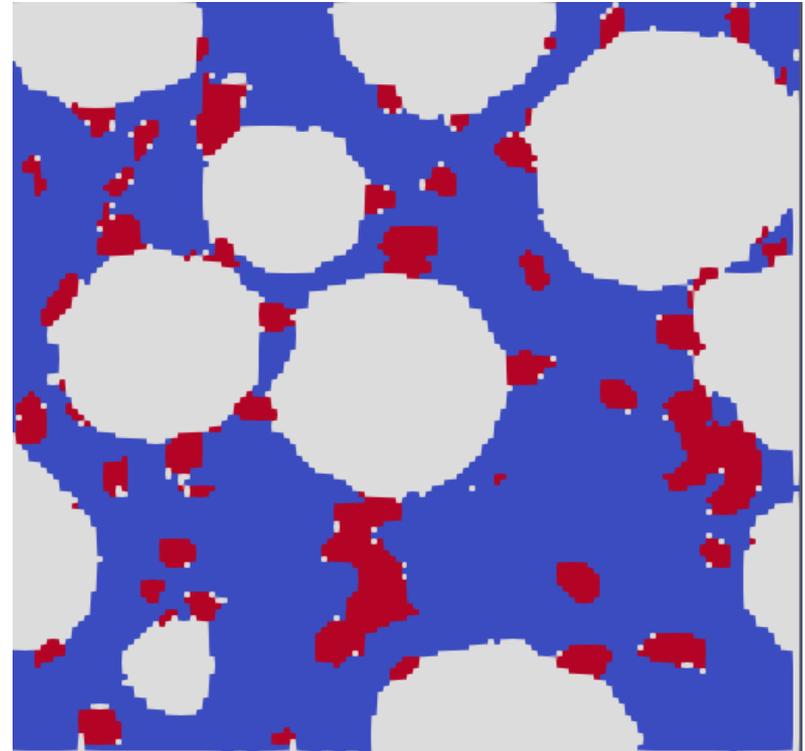
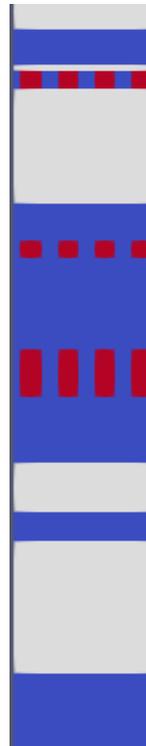
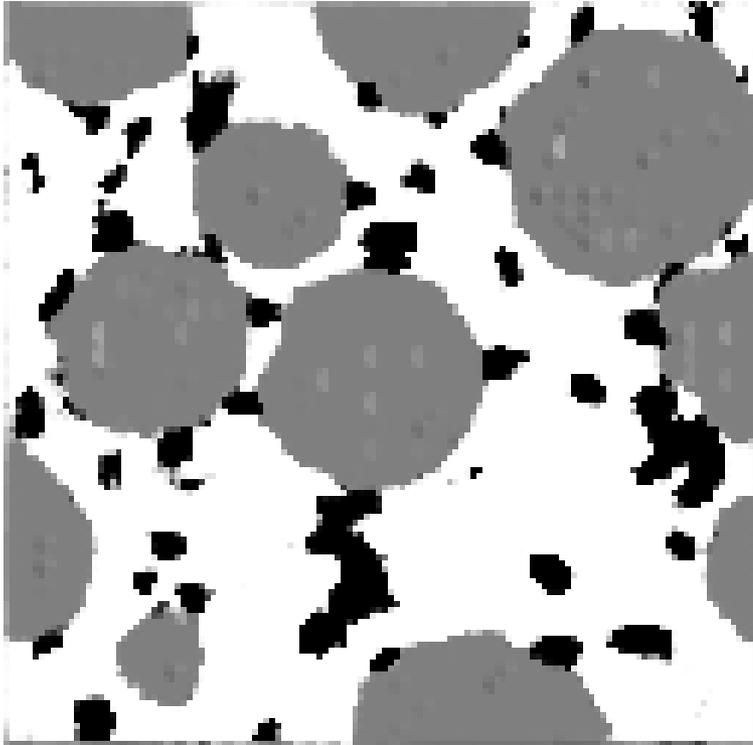
**Pixel Distance**

- Computed the probability density associated with finding specific local states at two ordered material points for a given microstructure
- Statistical and physical descriptors preprocessing for microstructure inspired RVEs generation

Results: Pixel-Based Information for composite ML-based images.

X-Z Plane

Y-Z Plane



• Porosity • Matrix • Fiber

- Re-constructed DL-based images for C/SiNC and SiC/SiNC CMCs
- Artifacts of ML-based images in terms of fiber distribution and shape will be avoided through further optimization and tuning of the deep neural network