



# Inverse Estimation of the Flow Resistivity Tensor of Open-Cell Foams from Experimental Data and Darcy's Flow Simulations

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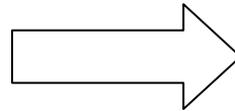
**Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden**

**COMSOL Conference 2010  
Paris, France**

# Objectives

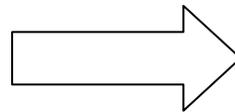


Method Göransson  
and Guastavino



Experimental set up  
Inverse estimation

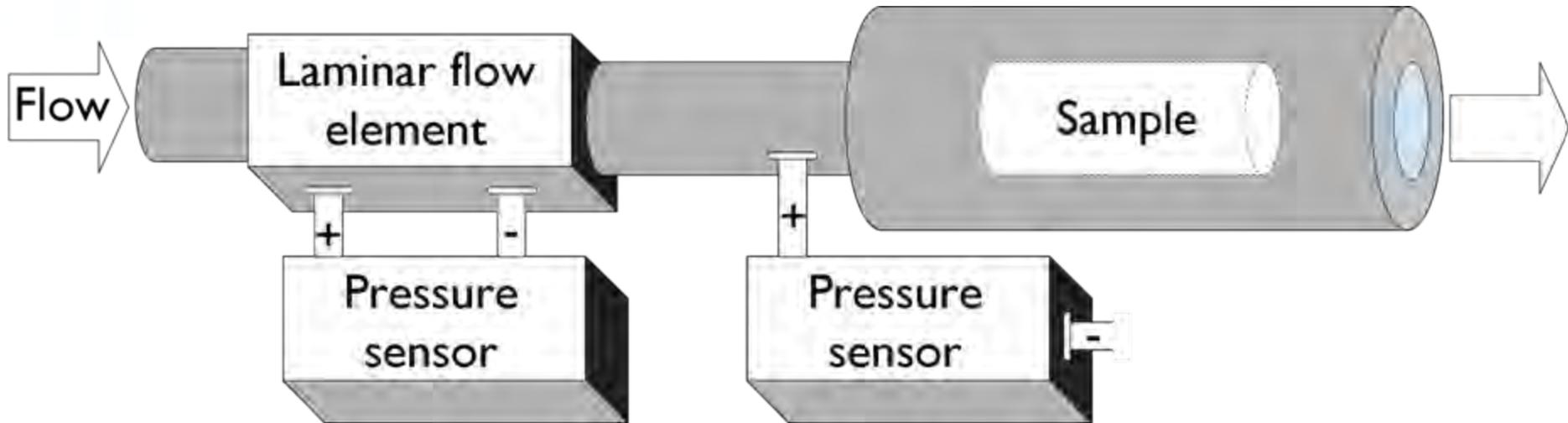
This work



Extend Verification  
Improvements  
Application



# Standard flow resistivity measurement (ISO 9053)

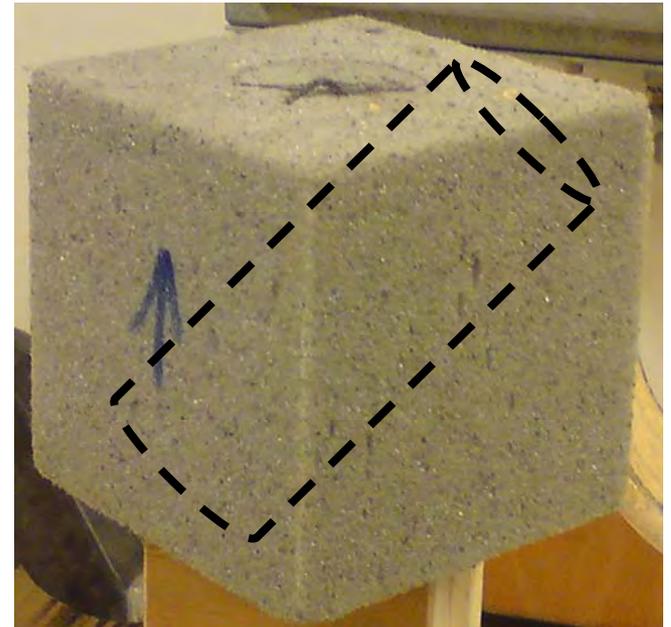
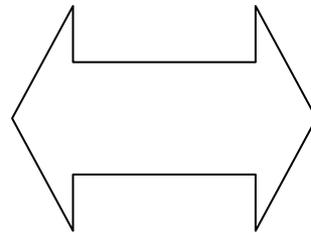
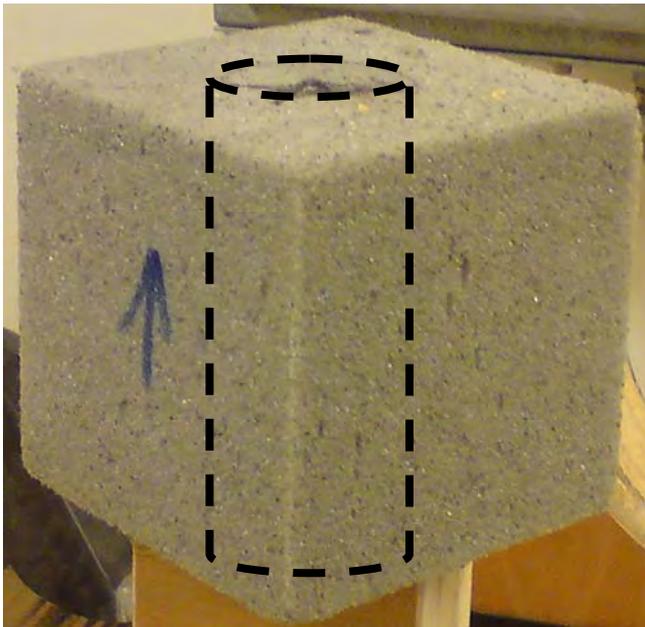


Limited repeatability

Unidirectional measurement

$$\sigma^{cyl} = \frac{\Delta p}{L \cdot V}$$

# Standard flow resistivity measurement (ISO 9053)



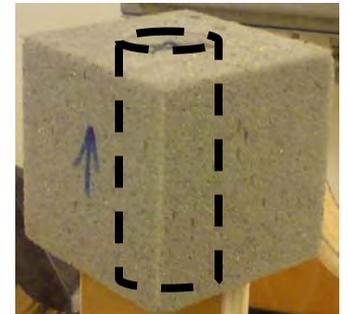
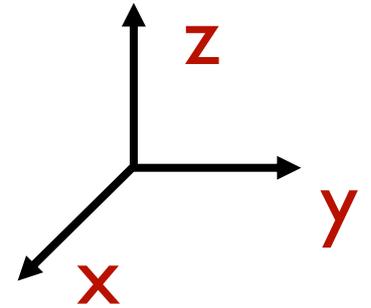


# Full 3D anisotropic flow resistivity tensor



## Flow resistivity tensor

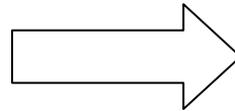
$$\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{xz} \\ & \sigma_{yy} & \sigma_{yz} \\ \text{sym} & & \sigma_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Objectives

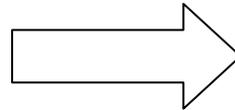


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and Guastavino



Experimental set up  
Inverse estimation

This work

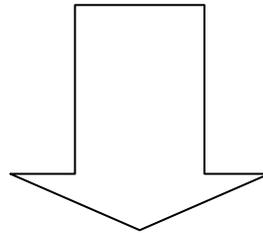


Extend Verification  
Improvements  
Application

# Method of Göransson and Guastavino



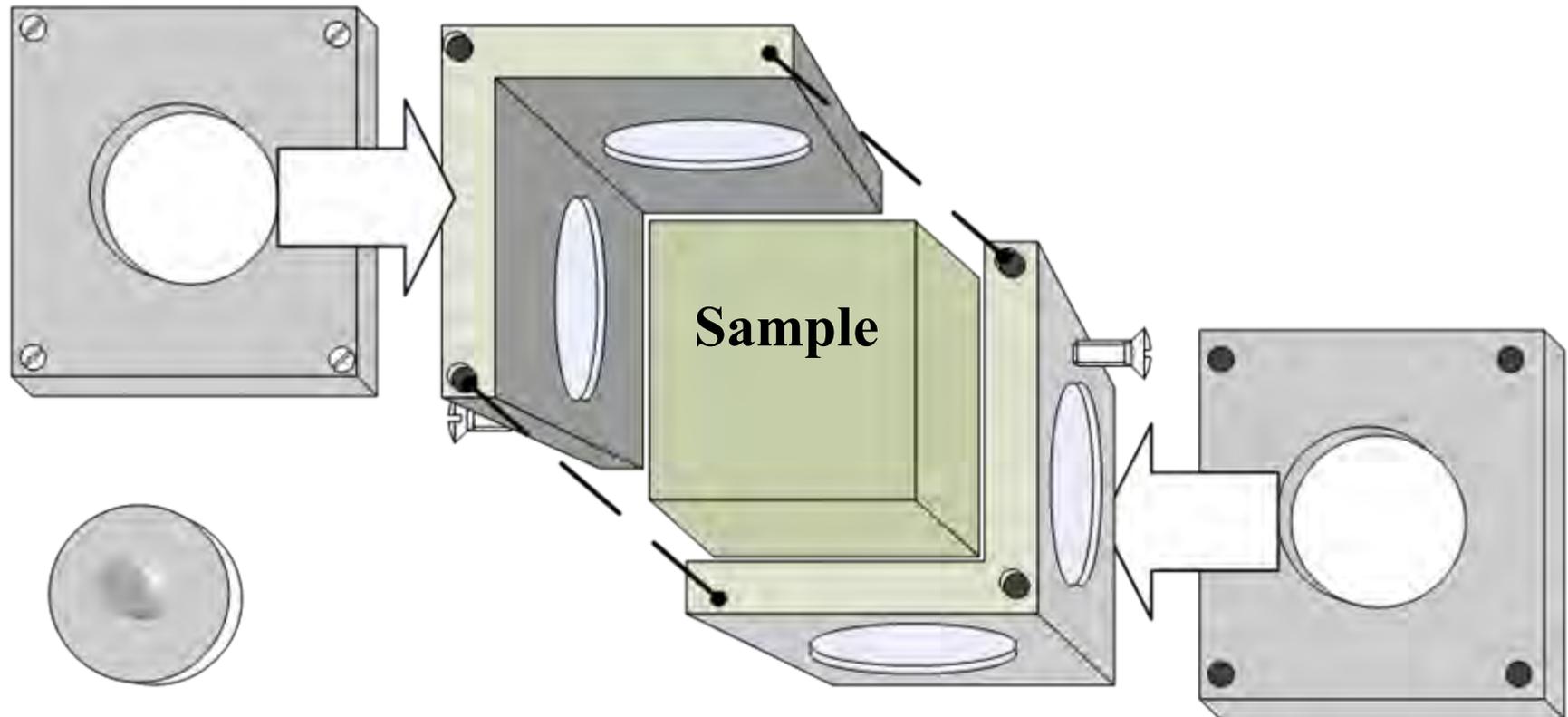
Identification of  
full anisotropic flow resistivity tensor



Experimental set up

Inverse estimation with  
COMSOL Earth Science Module

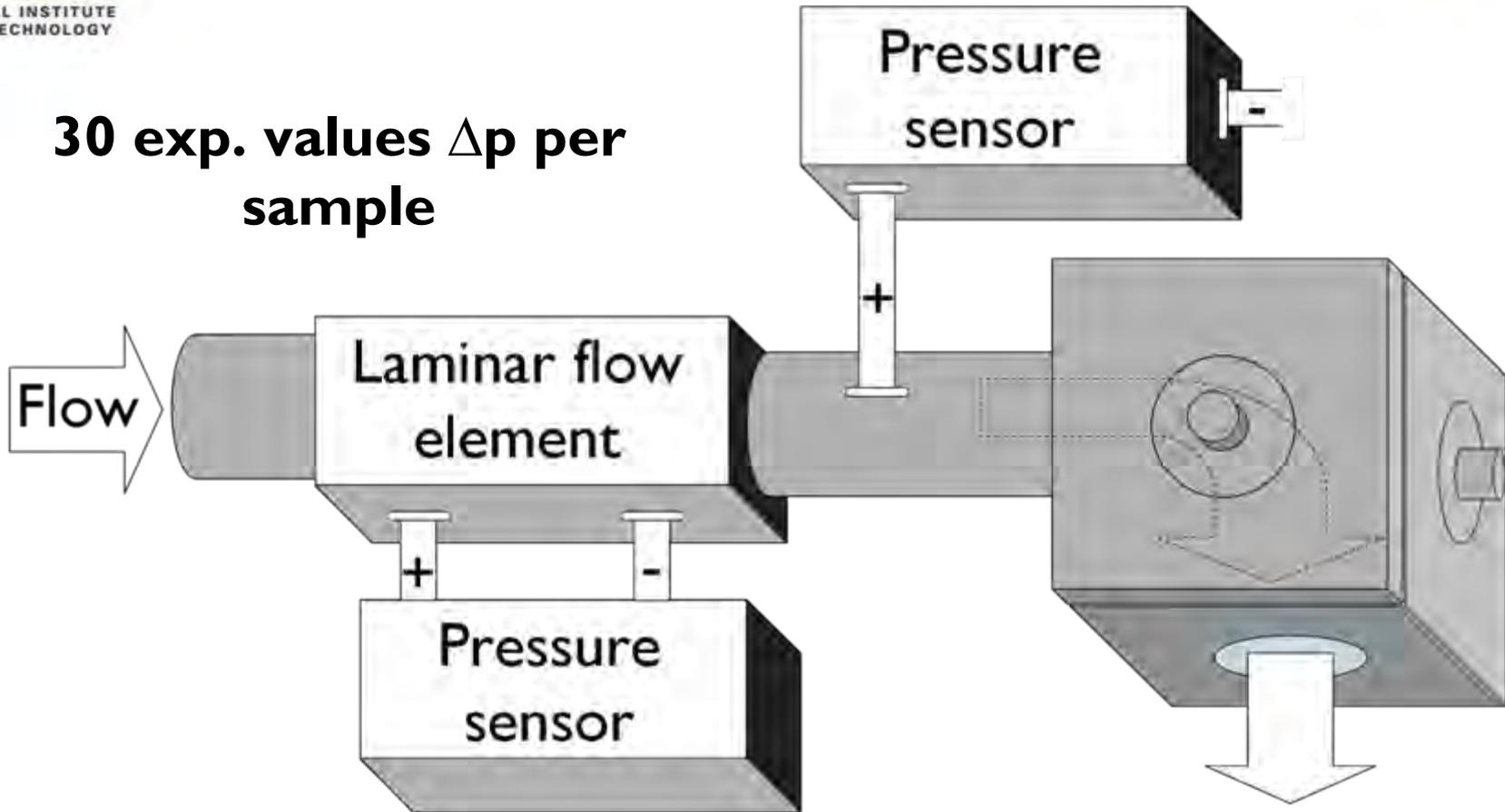
# Experimental set up



# Experimental set up



**30 exp. values  $\Delta p$  per sample**





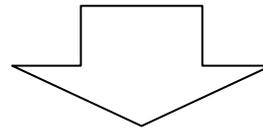
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# Method of Göransson and Guastavino



Experimental set up

Inverse estimation with  
COMSOL Earth Science Module



1. Governing Equation + Boundary Conditions
2. Modelling and solving with COMSOL
3. Optimisation loop

# Governing Equation



Darcy's law

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{-1} \cdot \nabla p = \mathbf{v}$$

+

Incompressibility  
condition

$$\nabla \mathbf{v} = 0$$

$$\nabla (\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{-1} \cdot \nabla p) = 0$$

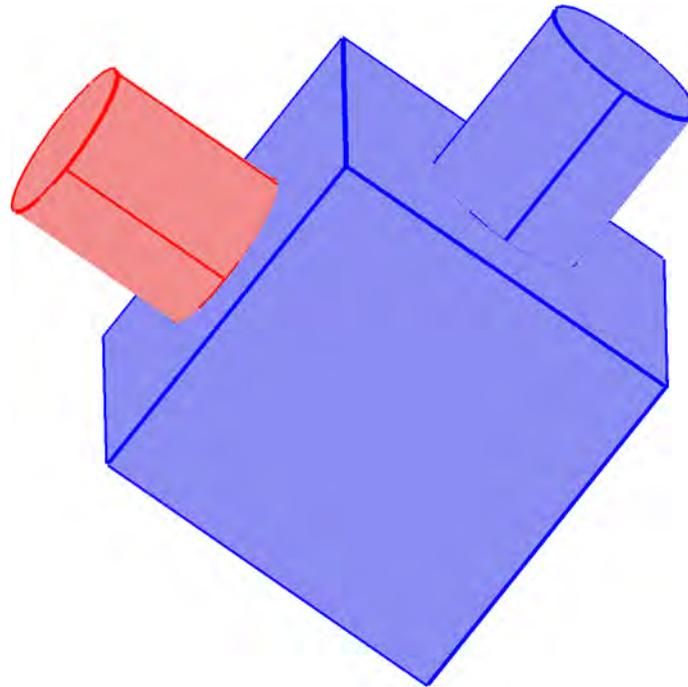
Solve for flow resistivity tensor  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$   
positive definite and symmetric

# Boundary Conditions



**Inlet:**

$$\nabla p \cdot \mathbf{n}_i = \bar{\sigma} \bar{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_i$$

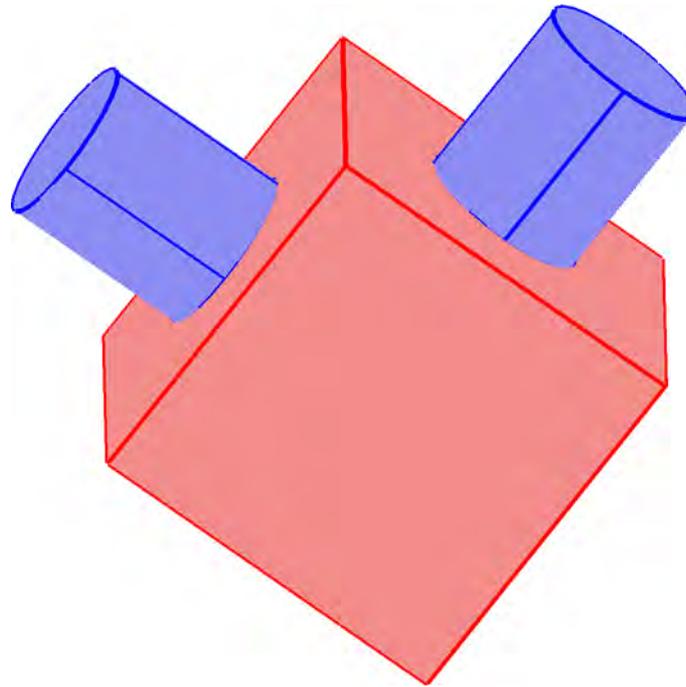


# Boundary Conditions



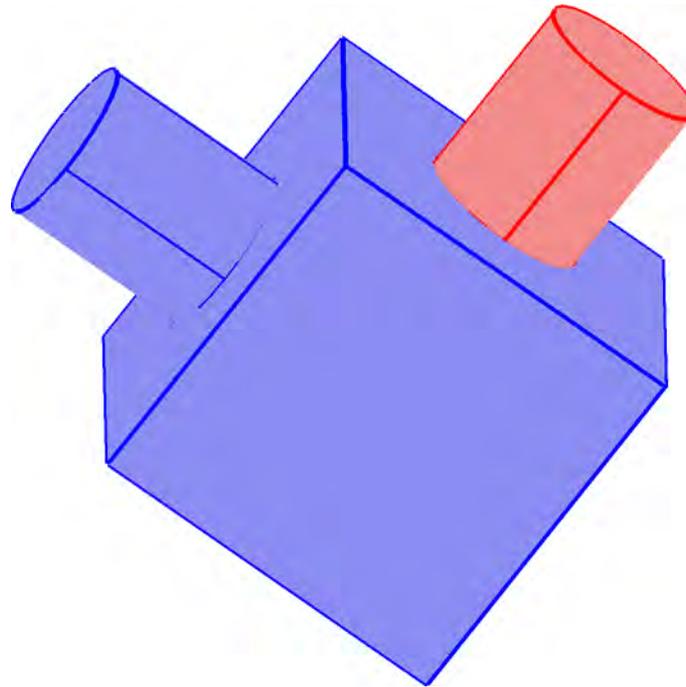
**Rigid walls:**

$$\nabla p \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$$



# Boundary Conditions

**Outlet:**  $p = 0$





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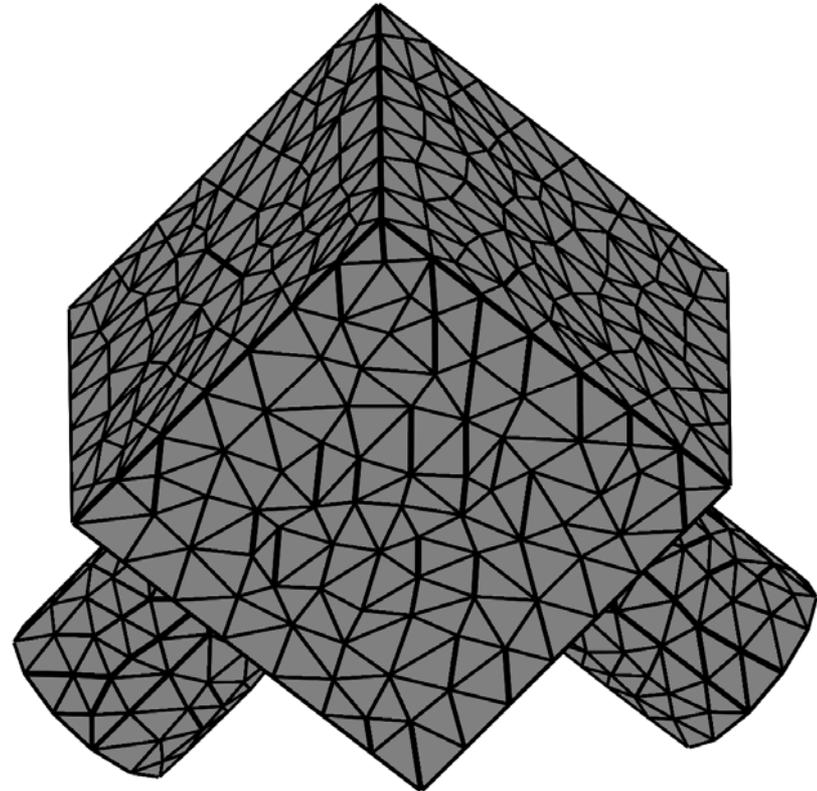
# Modelling with COMSOL



COMSOL Earth  
Science Module

20000 DOF

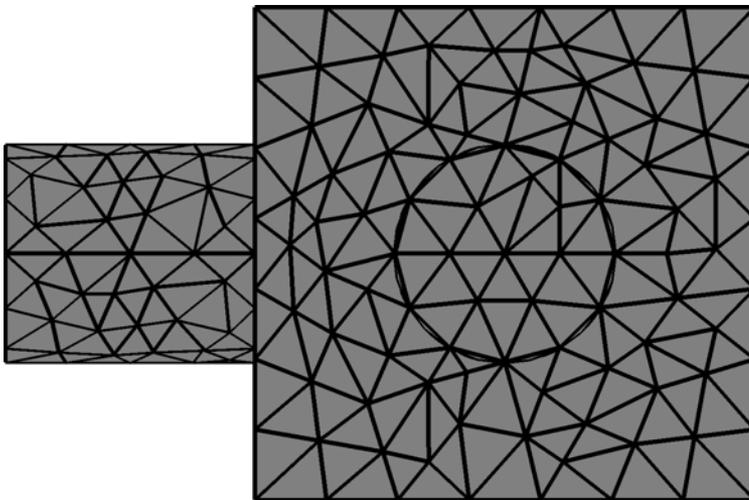
Quadratic Lagrange  
polynomial tetrahedral elements



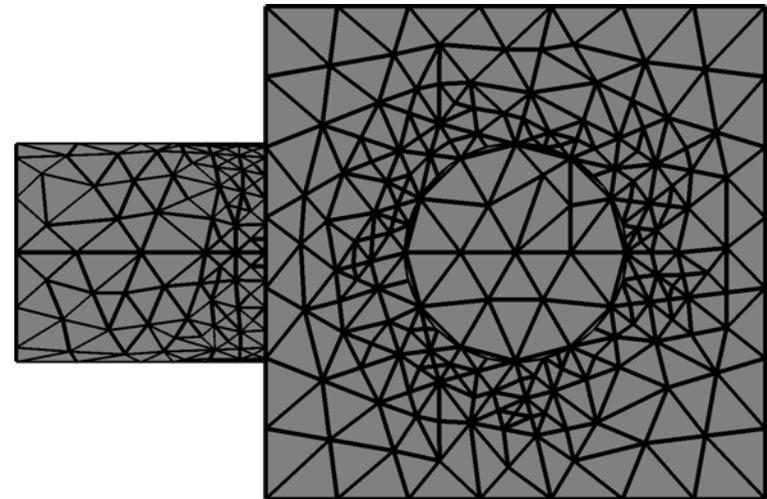


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# Mesh



Start with normal  
mesh



I adaptive mesh while  
solving

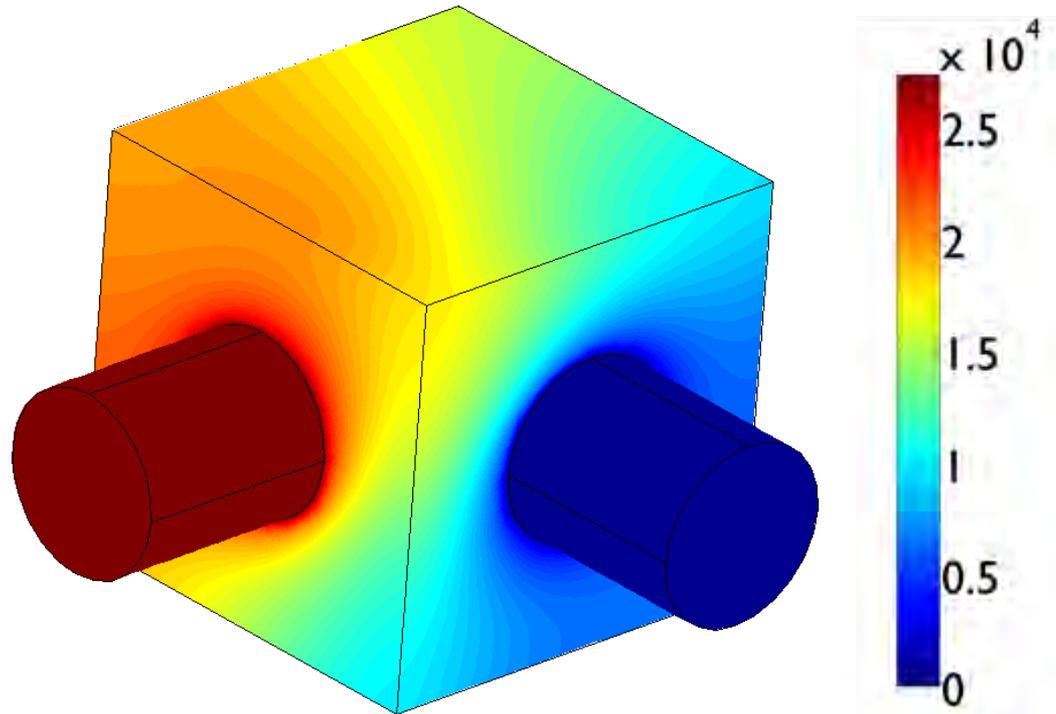


# Solving with COMSOL

Solve for inlet pressure

Calculation time | solution:  $\pm 7$  seconds

Pressure  
distribution  
inside sample  
(Pa)





# Optimisation loop

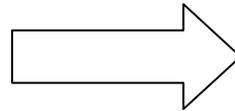
Using Svanbergs "(Globally Convergent) Method of Moving Asymptotes: (GC)MMA"

Find  $\sigma$  so that  
 $\|\Delta P_{\text{meas}} - \Delta P_{\text{COMSOL}}\|$  is minimal  
Constraint:  $\sigma$  positive definite

# Objectives

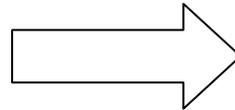


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Experimental set up  
Inverse estimation

This work



Extend Verification  
Improvements  
Application



# Extended verification of estimation procedure



## Case 1

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10000 & 3800 & 2800 \\ 3800 & 9800 & 5200 \\ 2800 & 5200 & 12400 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Case 2

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10000 & -3800 & 2800 \\ -3800 & 9800 & -5200 \\ 2800 & -5200 & 12400 \end{bmatrix}$$

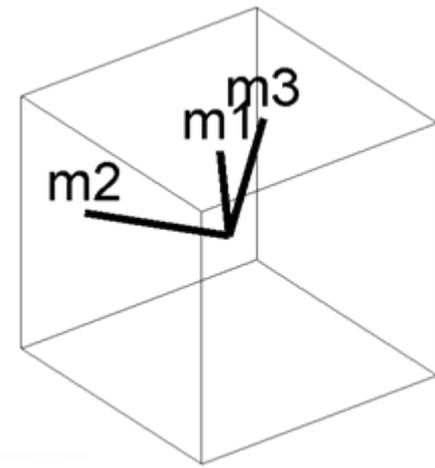
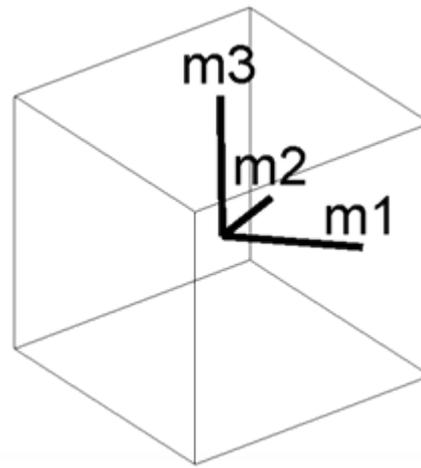
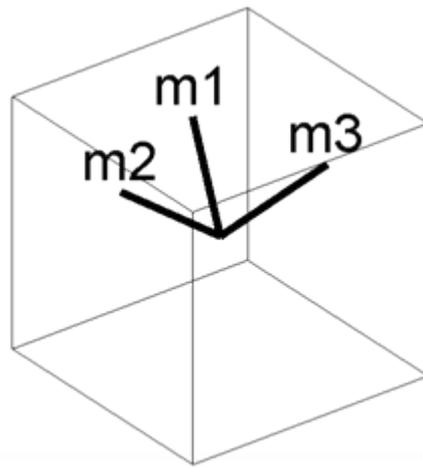
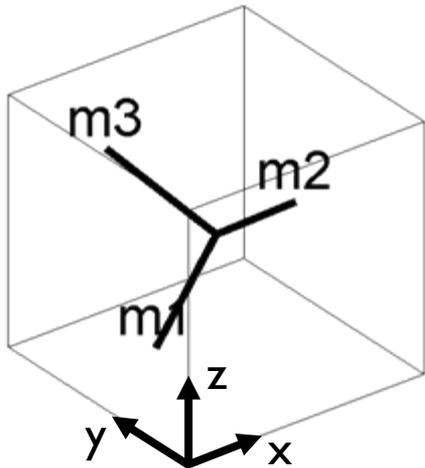
## Case 3

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10000 & 380 & 280 \\ 380 & 9800 & 520 \\ 280 & 520 & 12400 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Case 4

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10000 & -380 & 280 \\ -380 & 9800 & -520 \\ 280 & -520 & 12400 \end{bmatrix}$$

[Pa s/m<sup>2</sup>]



# Extended verification of estimation procedure



Largest relative error in flow resistivity

Case	GCMMA	MMA
Case 1	0.003 %	0.10 %
Case 2	0.002 %	0.11 %
Case 3	0.03 %	0.03 %
Case 4	0.52 %	0.02 %

Estimation procedure works

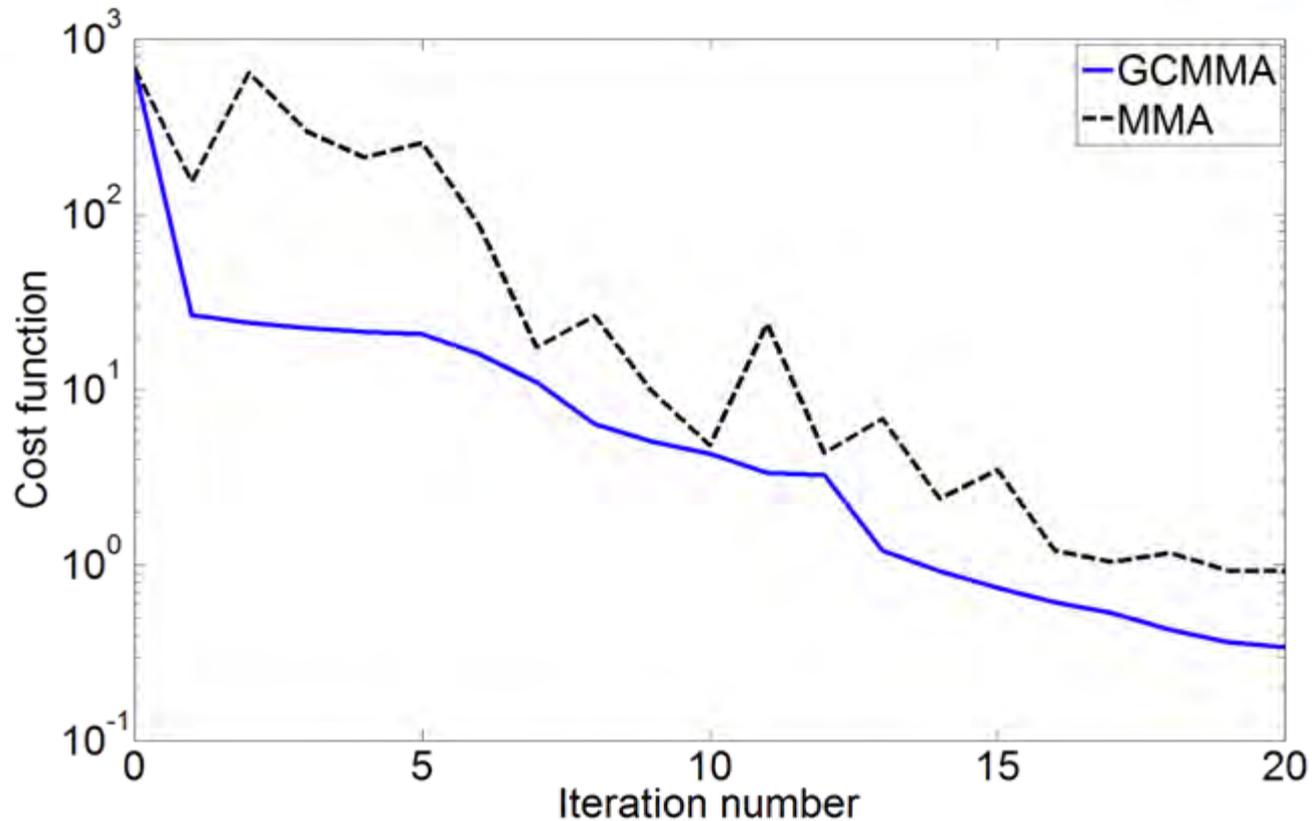




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# MMA vs. GCMMA

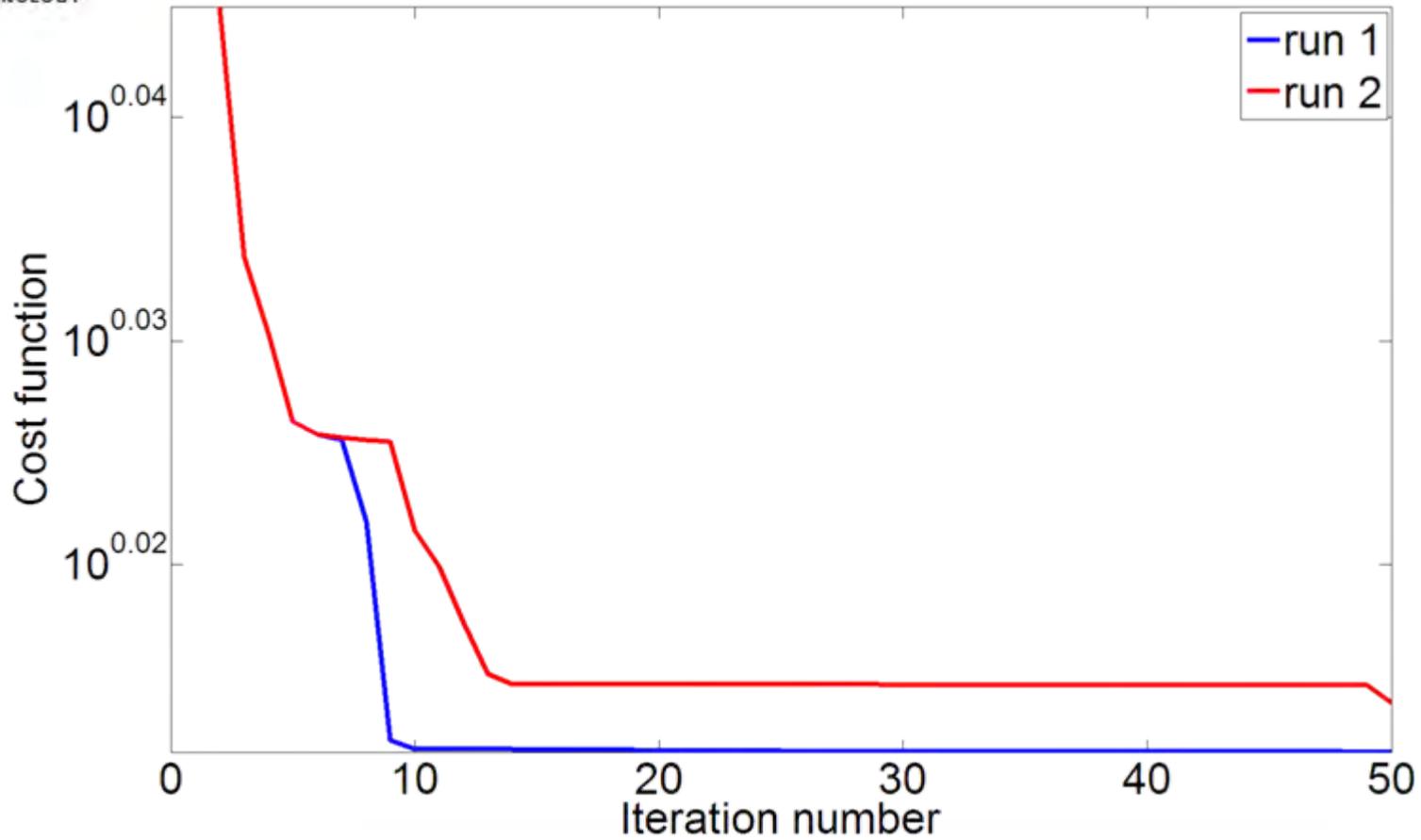


**GCMMA is improvement**



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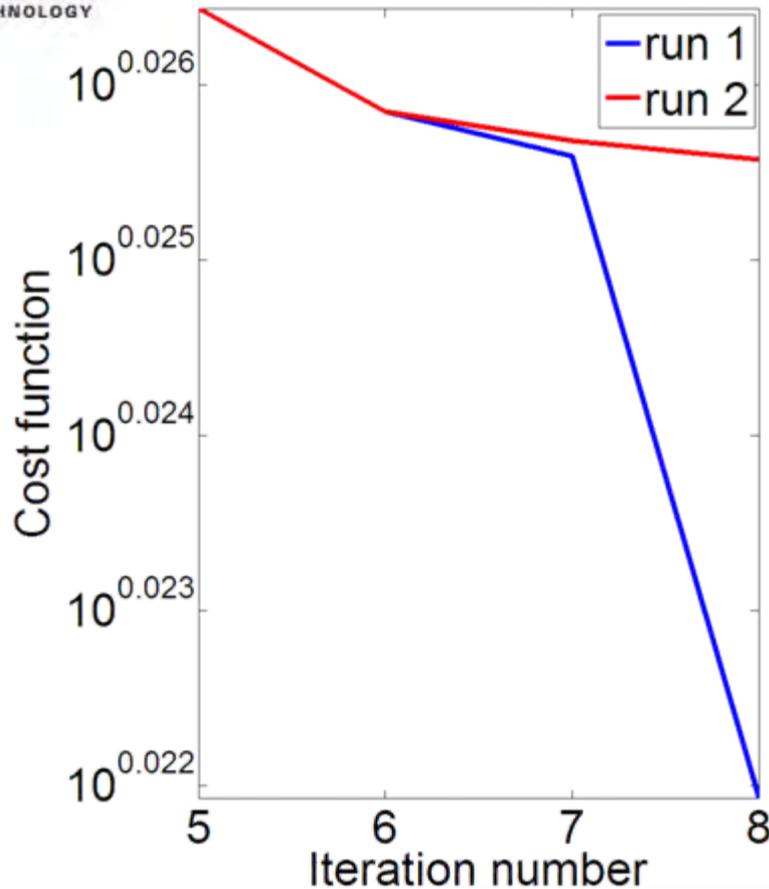
# COMSOL observations



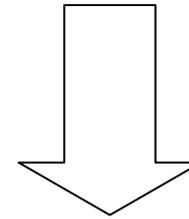


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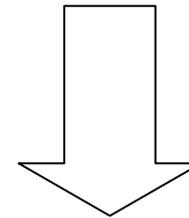
# COMSOL observations



Adaptive mesh based on random algorithm



Different mesh possible



Different pressure output



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# COMSOL observations



Workaround: limit COMSOL output  
to 7 significant digits



Suggestions?



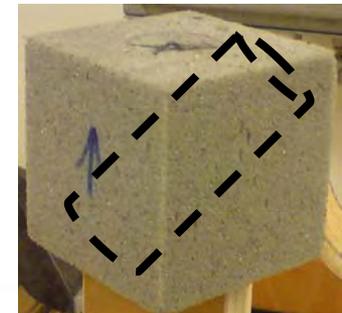
# Application to Melamine sample



Full anisotropic flow resistivity tensor

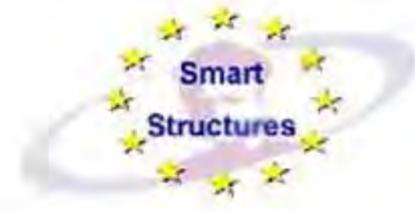
$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} 9800 & 3 & -11 \\ 3 & 9700 & 8 \\ -11 & 8 & 10900 \end{bmatrix} \quad [\text{Pa s/m}^2]$$

Anisotropic  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$  dependent on sample orientation and manufacturing process

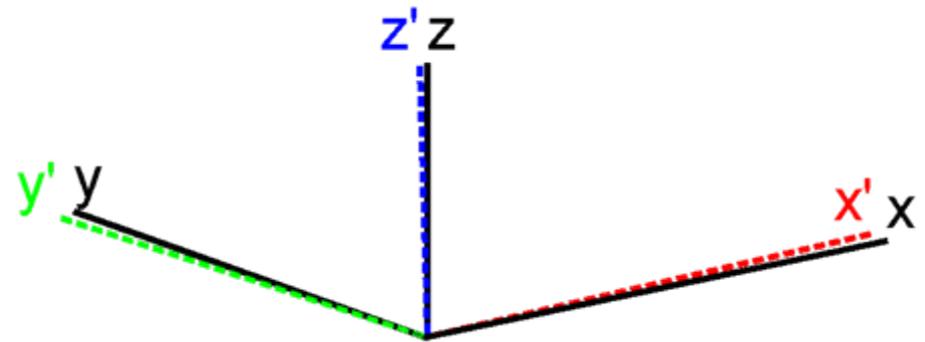




# Application to Melamine sample



$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{x'} = 9800 \\ \sigma_{y'} = 9700 \\ \sigma_{z'} = 10900 \end{bmatrix}$$



$x, y, z$ : geometric coord. system

$x', y', z'$ : material coord. system

Close to tranverse isotropy



# Conclusions

## Extend Verficiation

Method verified for wider range of applications

## Improvements

- \*GCMMA optimiser
- \*Minimisation of effect adaptive meshing

## Application

Melamine sample close to tranverse isotropic



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# Acknowledgements



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