

Material Testing and Calibration Strategies for Material Models of Polymers, Foams, and Composite Materials

Daniel Campos

CAE Engineer

Applus DatapointLabs

Brian Croop

CEO & Laboratory Director

Applus DatapointLabs



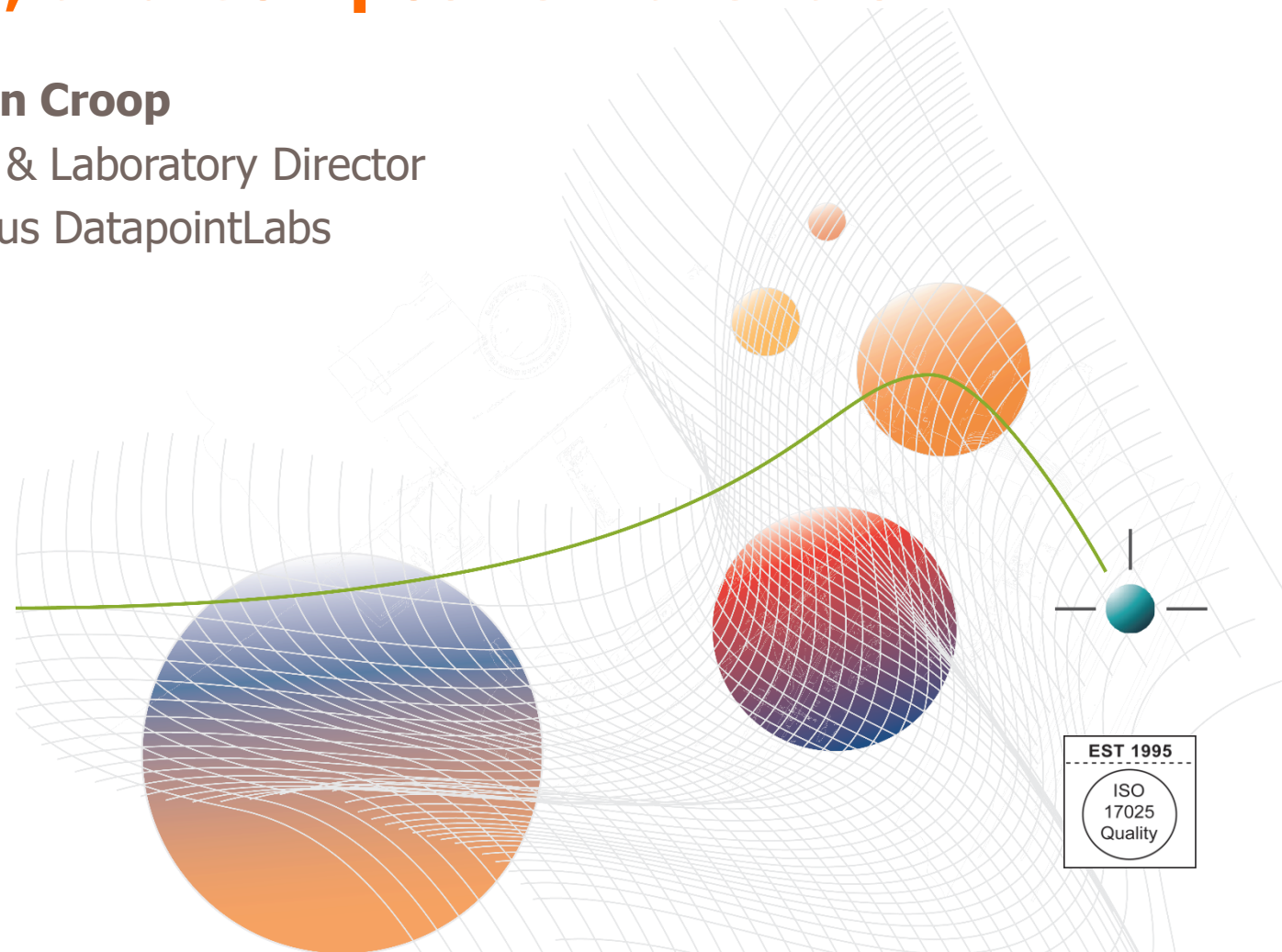
TestCart



TestPaks



CAETestBench



Applus, DatapointLabs & Materials Characterization

Applus Overview:

€1,558B revenue | 23,387 staff | 70+ countries

[2020]

Relevant Divisions: Product Development & Validation

LABORATORIES DIVISION

- Testing
- Engineering
- Product/System Certification
- Multidisciplinary Laboratories

IDIADA DIVISION (AUTOMOTIVE)

- Design & Engineering
- Data Analysis & Simulation
- Homologation Services
- Testing & Proving Ground

Relevant Partner Laboratories: Materials Characterization & Quality Assurance



USA | **Ithaca**



Spain | **Barcelona**



France | **St. Etienne**



Norway | **Bryne**



USA | **Detroit**



Spain | **Illescas**



Germany | **Bremen**



China | **Shanghai**

DatapointLabs Summary Overview (I)

- Experience
 - 27 years of experience in materials testing and characterization
 - ISO 17025:2017 accredited, operating on an end-end digital platform
 - Nadcap accredited [Aerospace / Defense] (Metallic/Non-Metallic Materials Testing)



- Operations
 - Testing 2000+ materials per year
 - Standard 5-day turnaround
 - Comprehensive one-stop testing capability
 - 168 unique tests: all aspects of mechanical, thermal and rheological characterization



DatapointLabs Summary Overview (II)

- Capabilities
 - Materials: plastics, composites, foam, rubber, metals, additive materials, films, adhesives
 - May be characterized over a wide range of temperature and environmental conditions (elevated/cryogenic, heat aging, moisture conditioning, weathering, fluid exposure, in-vivo)
 - Characterize non-linear and post-yield behavior, dynamic situations (drop, crash, impact), hyperelasticity (rubber, foams), time-based behavior (creep, stress relaxation, viscoelasticity)
- Clientele
 - Global clientele of more than 1,800 companies in 49 countries
 - Market leader in materials testing for CAE simulation
 - Recognized as accredited materials test lab by leading OEMs

Materials Testing for Product Development

TestCart

Comprehensive online catalog and order system for 168 unique tests characterizing physical, thermal and flow properties of materials for use in R&D and product development
metals, plastics, composites, rubber, foam, rubber, films



TestPaks[®]

Material testing and material parameter conversion to generate 179 material cards for 36 simulation (CAE) programs, including finite-element analysis, crash and drop-test simulations, injection-molding and other process simulations



CAETestBench[™]

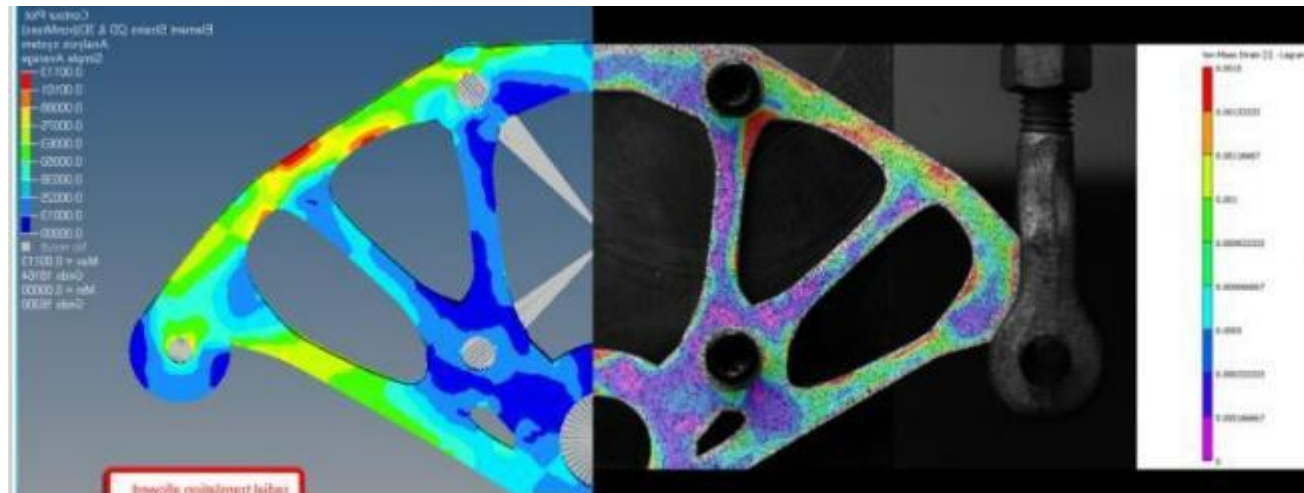
Validate your simulation against a physical part, created and tested using a rigid protocol, which can be accurately replicated in your solver – probe simulation accuracy and quantify its ability to replicate the test

Validations range from simple tensile modes to more complex, multi-axial modes, impact and failure



Why material models matter

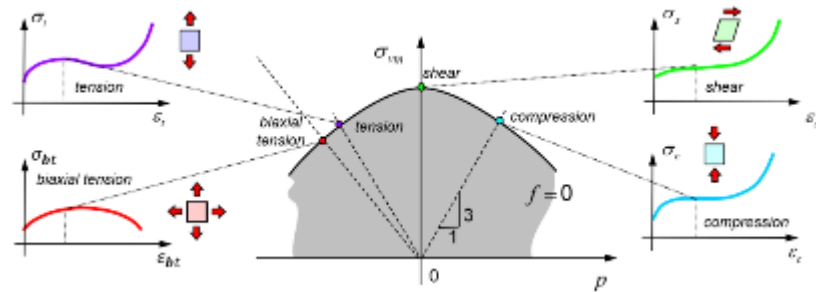
- Tailored material models are essential to ensure simulation results closely match real-world material behavior
- Untailored models can lead to inaccurate predictions → costly design failures or over-engineering
- Reduced need for physical testing → faster product development



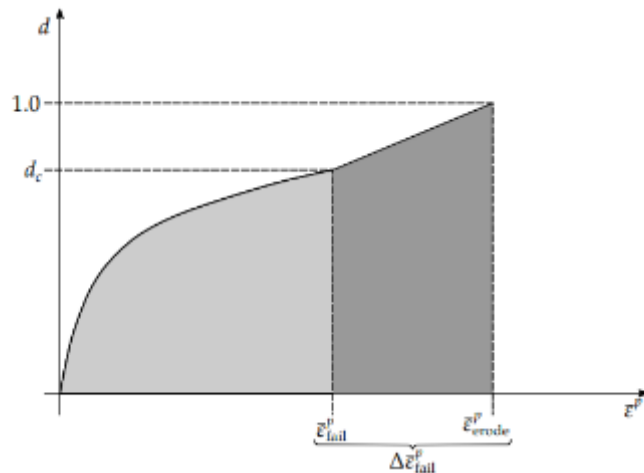
The Three Material Classes

Material	Key properties	Simulation Challenges	Applications
Polymers 	Lightweight Ductile Viscoelastic Temperature Strain-rate sensitive	Nonlinear deformation Strain-rate dependency Damage evolution	Car bumpers, packaging, medical devices
Foams 	Compressible Energy-absorbing Elastic region Plateau region Densification region	Capturing large Deformations Rate sensitivity Low Poisson's ratio	Helmet padding, vehicle interiors
Composites 	Anisotropic High strength-to-weight ratio Layered structure Brittle failure	Multi-directional stiffness Damage progression Delamination	Aircraft fuselages, drone arms, blades

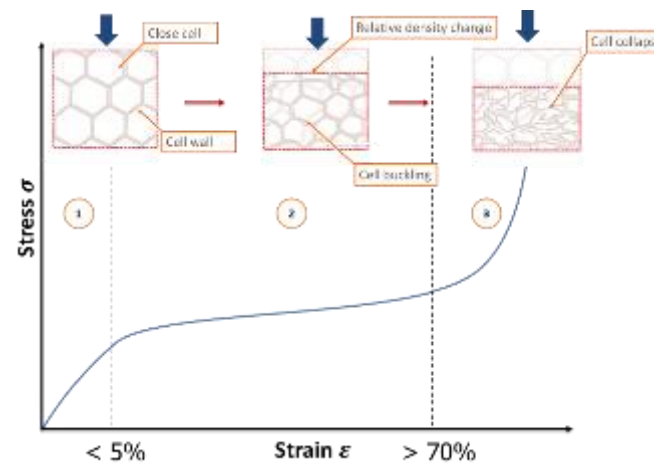
LAW76 SAMP



Yield surface as function of pressure

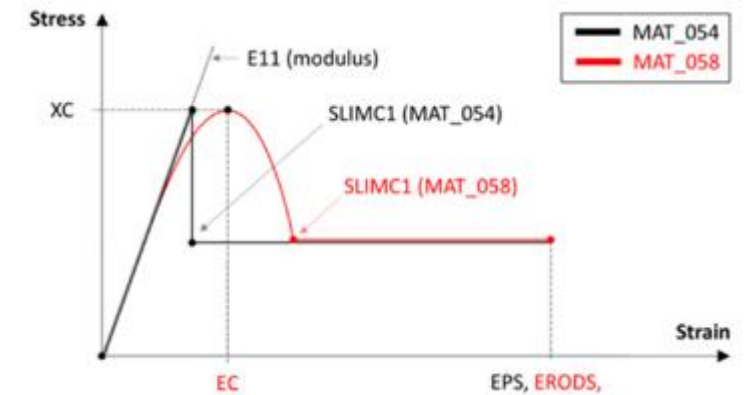


LAW70 Foam_Tab



Compression response of foam materials

MAT058 model for CFRP*



Damage evolution of MAT058 vs MAT054

*LSDYNA model

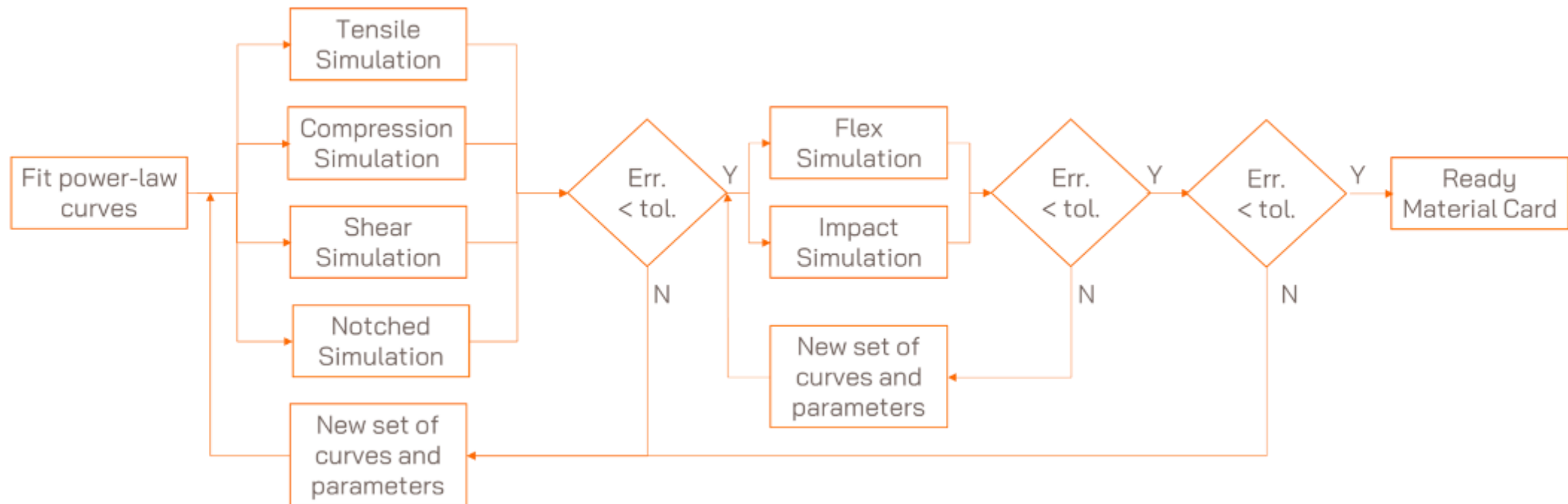
Calibration workflow: Polymers

Optimization process required

Strain-rate Model

Calibration of the yield surface

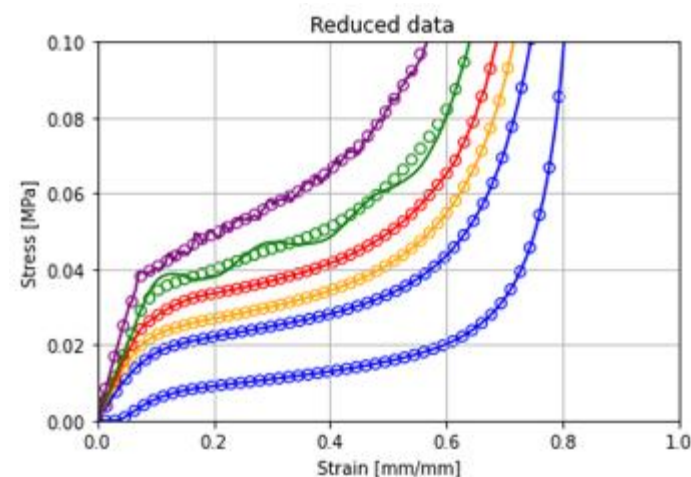
Material card formatting



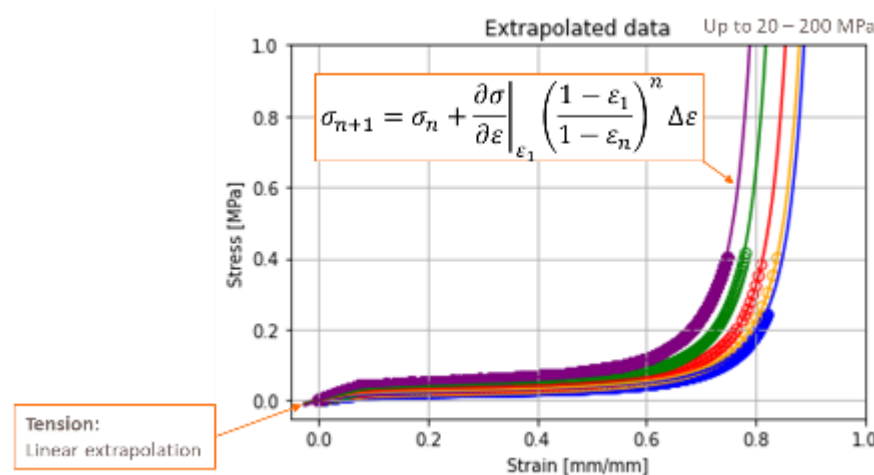
For more details about this work, please visit
<https://www.knowmats.com/Post/View/1206>

Calibration workflow: Foams

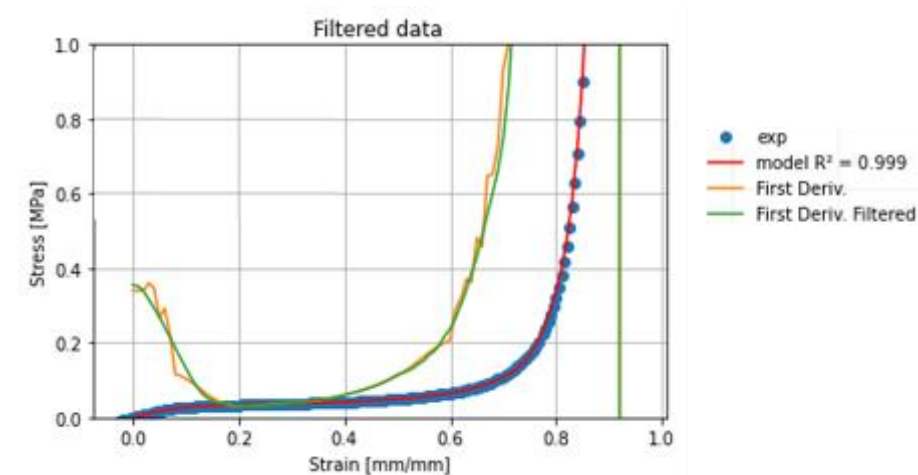
Reduce the data



Extrapolation



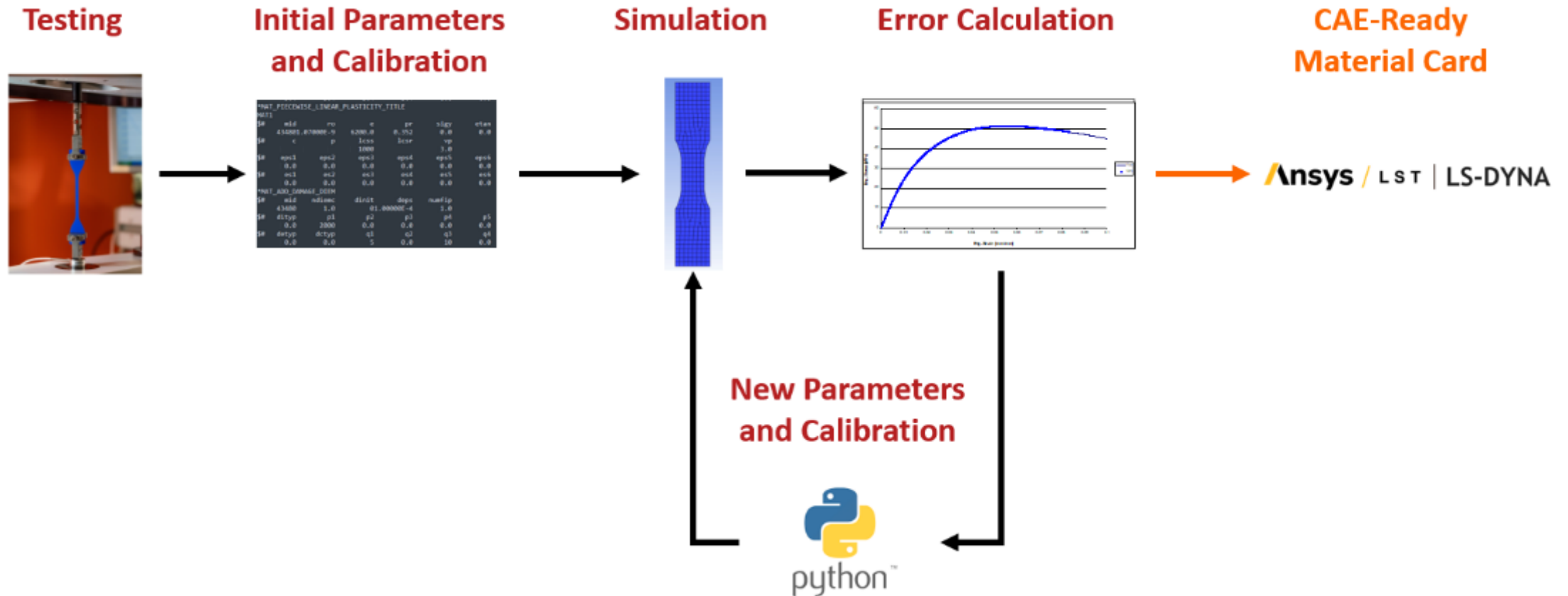
Filtering the first derivative



For more details about this work, please visit
<https://www.knowmats.com/Post/View/1201>

Calibration workflow: Composites

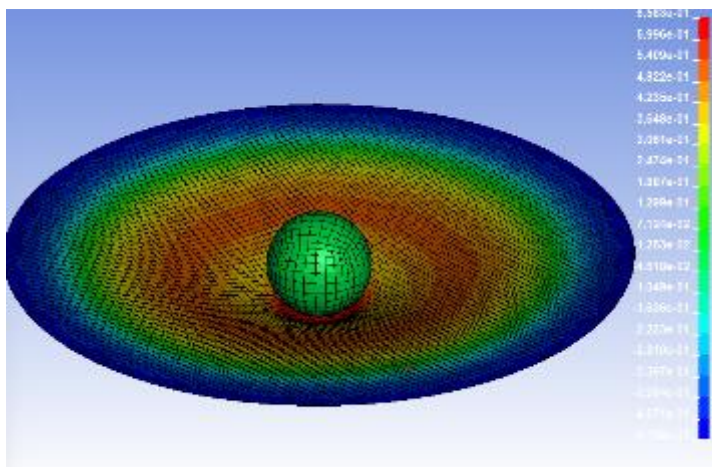
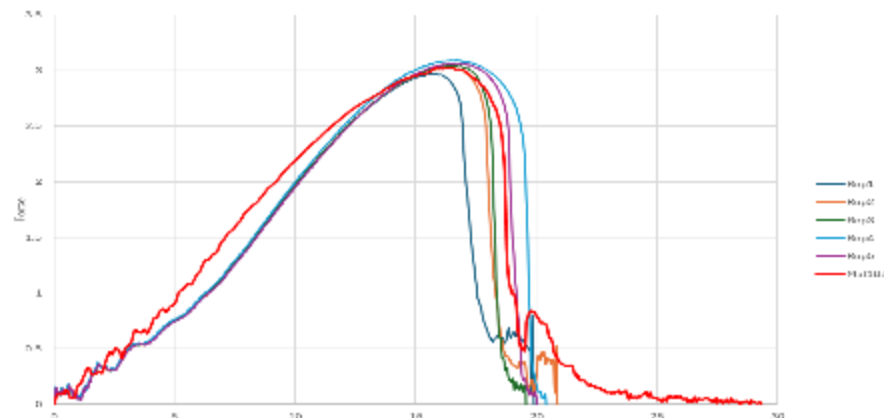
Optimization process required



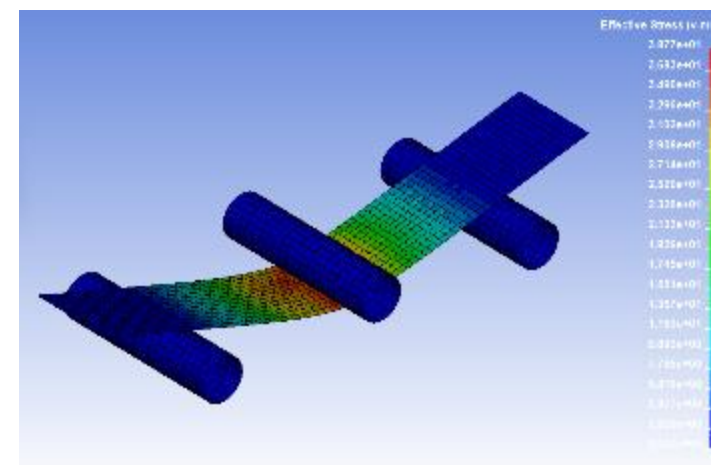
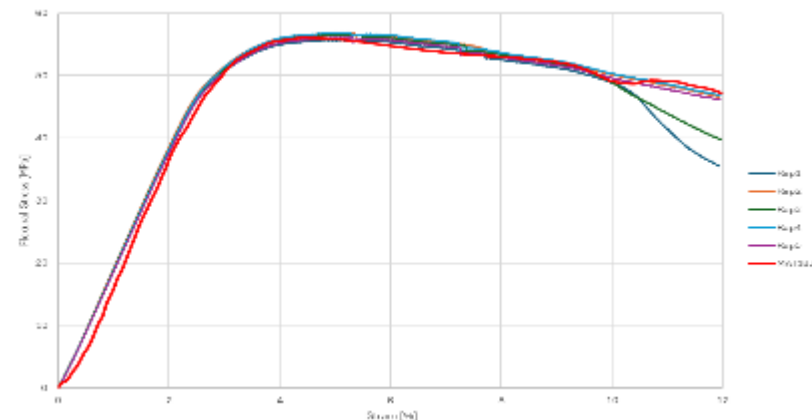
For more details about this work, please visit
<https://www.knowmats.com/Post/View/1204>

Validation: Polymers

Impact Test



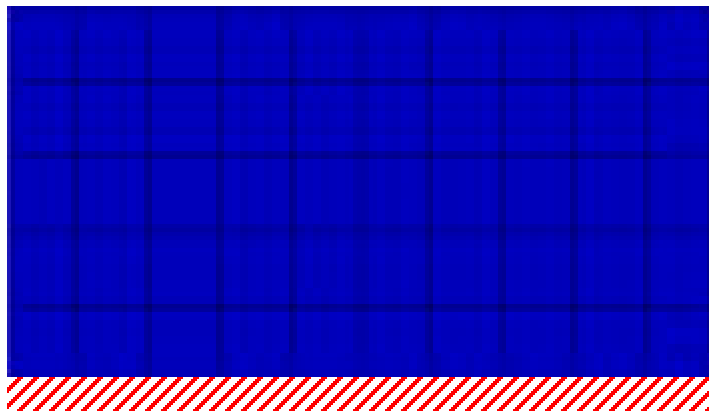
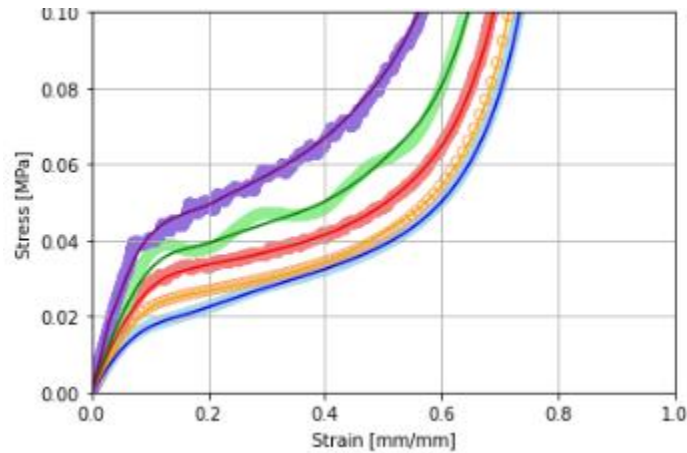
Flexural Test



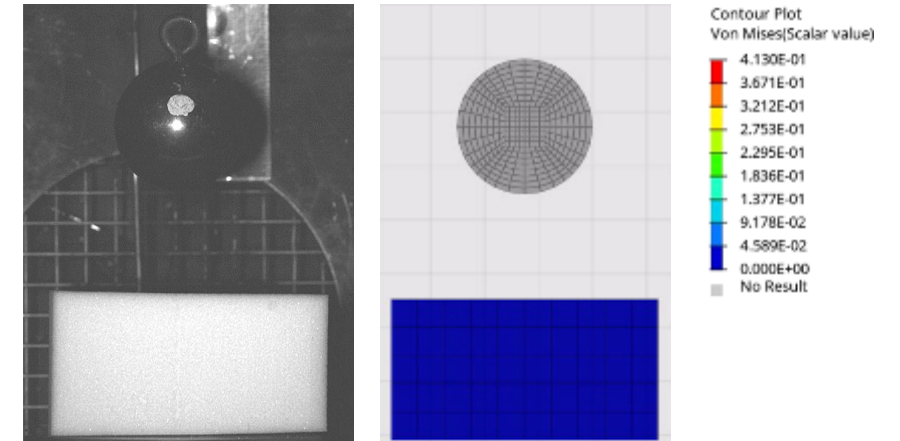
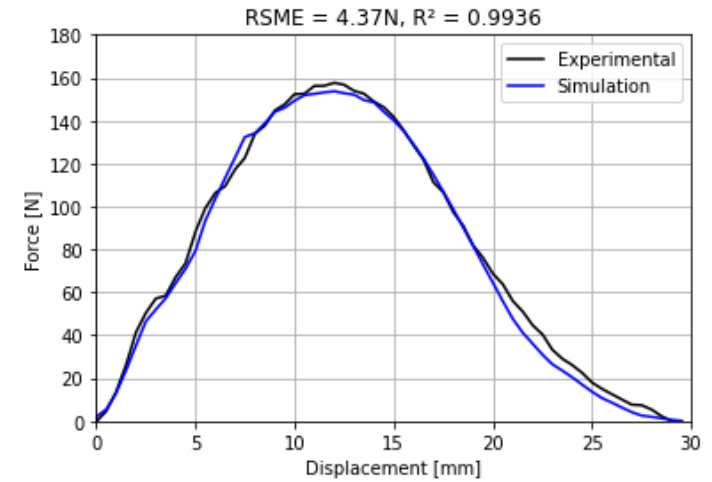
For more details about this work, please visit
<https://www.knowmats.com/Post/View/1206>

Validation: Foams

Compression Test



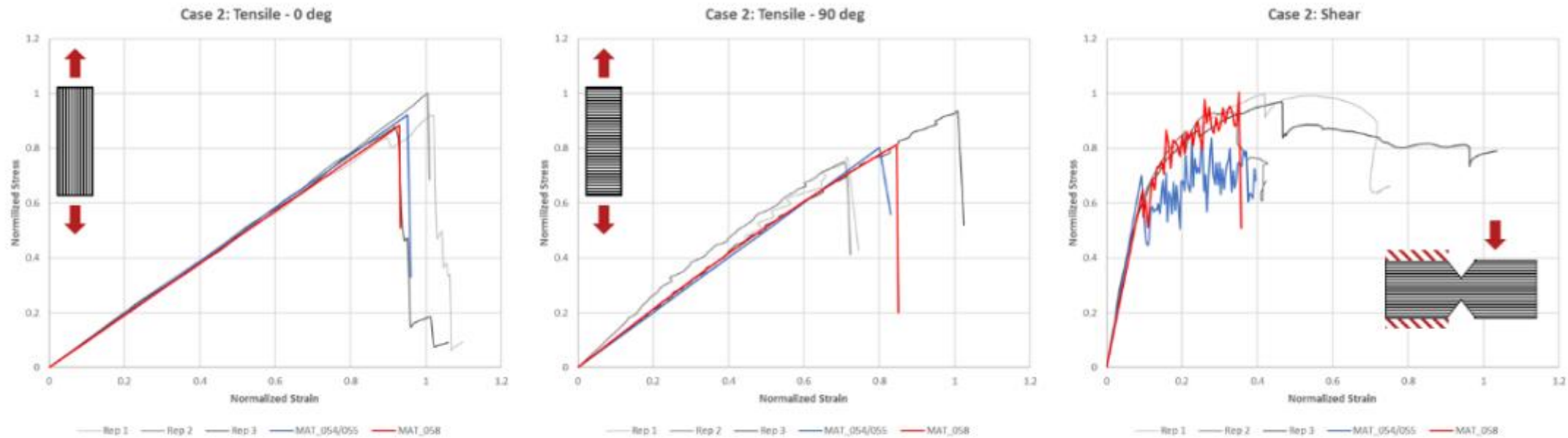
Impact Test



For more details about this work, please visit
<https://www.knowmats.com/Post/View/1201>

Validation: Composites

Pure modes validation for each orientation



For more details about this work, please visit
<https://www.knowmats.com/Post/View/1204>

Summary of findings

Material	Key Calibration Challenges	Best Practices & Lessons Learned
Polymers 	Strong strain-rate dependence Damage evolves progressively Yield surface needs multi-axial data	Use DIC + high-speed cameras to capture full-field strain under dynamic load Include notched tests to define hydrostatic stress behavior Iteratively refine yield surface using inverse modeling
Foams 	Large deformations and densification behavior Rate sensitivity varies non-linearly Difficult to extract tension data	Focus on compressive and impact testing Fit rate-dependence with power/exponential laws Use extrapolation methods Use the first derivative filtering technic
Composites 	Anisotropic properties require directional testing Complex failure modes (fiber, matrix, delamination) Model needs ply-level & laminate-level accuracy	Perform tests in 0° , 90° , $\pm 45^\circ$ Use failure surface theories like Chang-Chang, Tsai-Wu Validate with impact & delamination-sensitive tests

Thank You!

Brian Croop

CEO & Laboratory director

brian.croop@applus.com

+1 607 266 0405

Barbara Leichtenstern

Customer Relations & Business
Development Manager – Europe

barbara.leichtenstern@applus.com

+353 86 898 0355

Daniel Campos Murcia

CAE Engineer

daniel.campos@applus.com

+34 687 117 967

Expert Material Testing

www.datapointlabs.com

www.knowmats.com

www.matereality.com

www.appluslaboratories.com