



# Design of Emerging Engineered Material Systems

**Dr. Wei Chen**

**Wilson-Cook Professor in Engineering Design  
Director, Predictive Science & Engineering Design (PS&ED) Cluster  
Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Industrial Engineering & Management Science  
Chair of Research Council, Segal Design Institute**

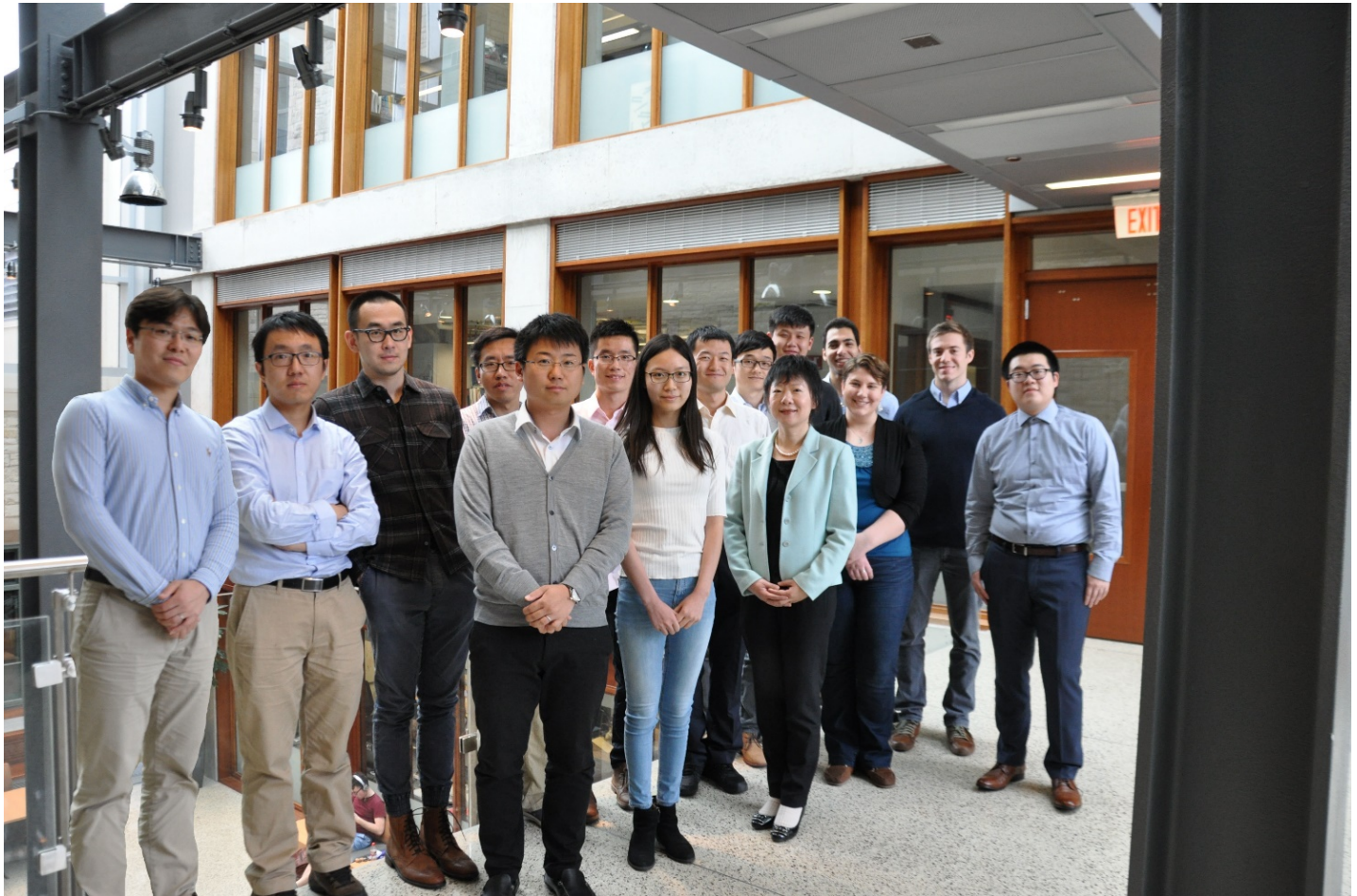
**Integrated **D**esign **A**utomation **L**aboratory (*IDEAL*)**

<http://ideal.mech.northwestern.edu/>

# Integrated DDesign Automation Laboratory (IDEAL)



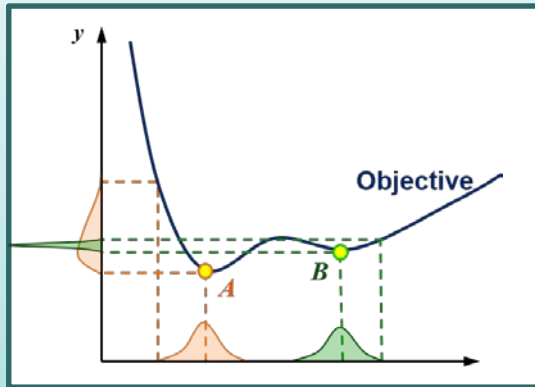
Develop advanced **computational** and **statistical techniques** to support engineering design, manufacturing, and product realization.



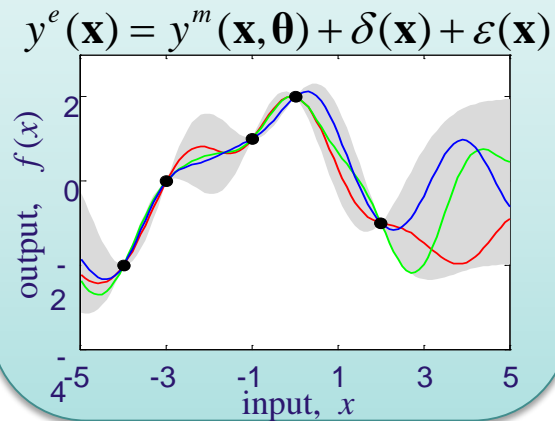
# Major Research Areas



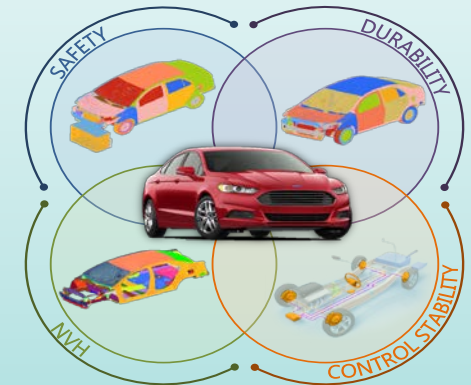
## Design under Uncertainty



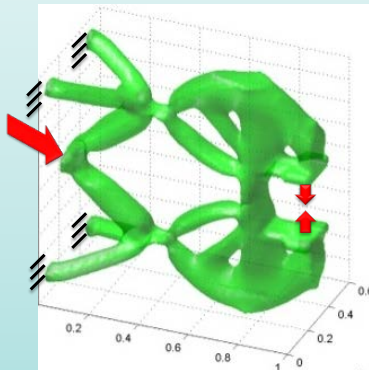
## Uncertainty Quantification



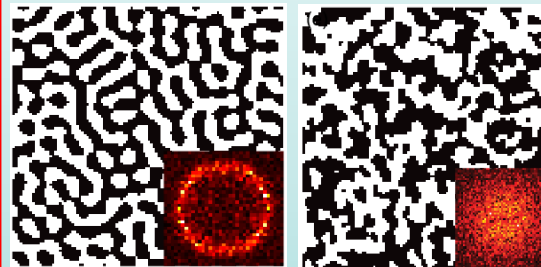
## Multidisciplinary Design Optimization



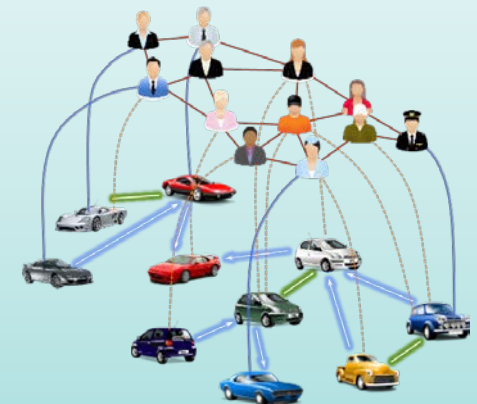
## Robust Shape & Topology Optimization



## Design of Emerging Material Systems



## Enterprise-Driven Decision Based Design

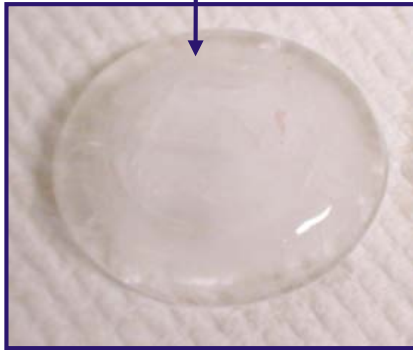




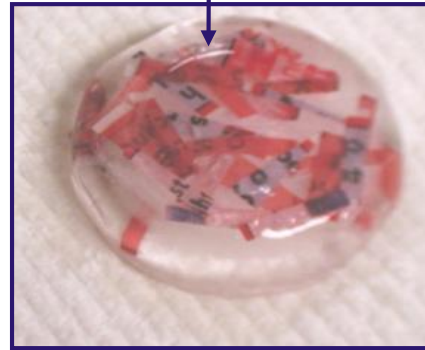
# Opportunity in Materials Design



Ice



“Reinforced” Ice



Dropped



Dropped



## Advanced Materials System

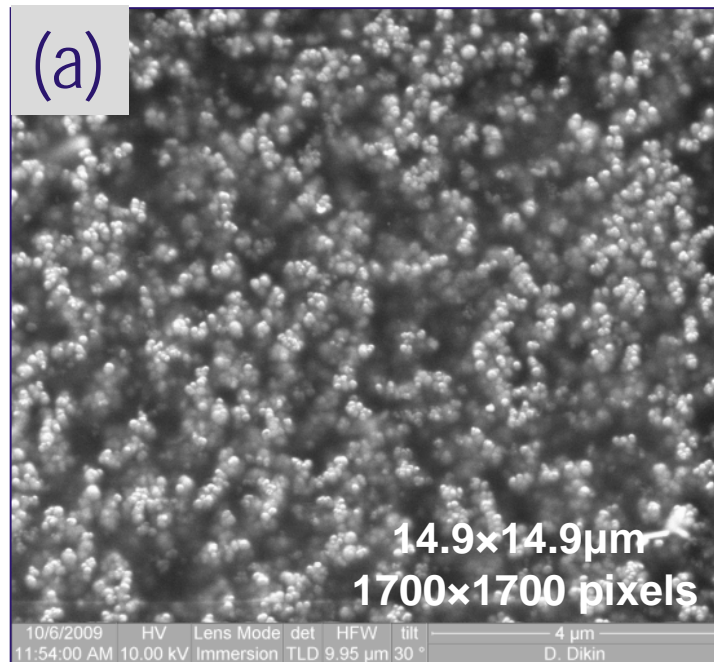
- New materials
- Multiple material constituents
- Superior properties

Courtesy of Y-H Chung

# Two Types of Nanostructured Materials Design

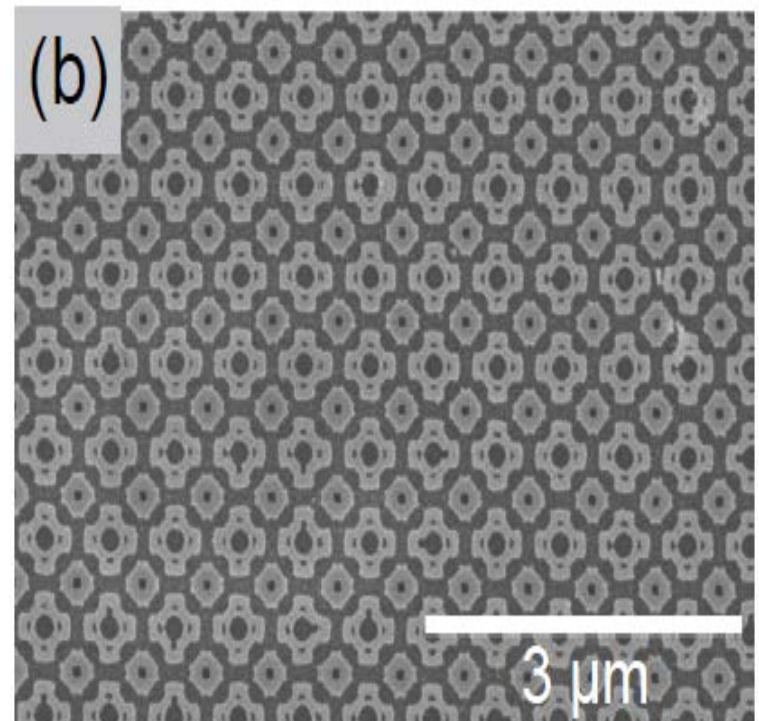


## Microstructural Morphology



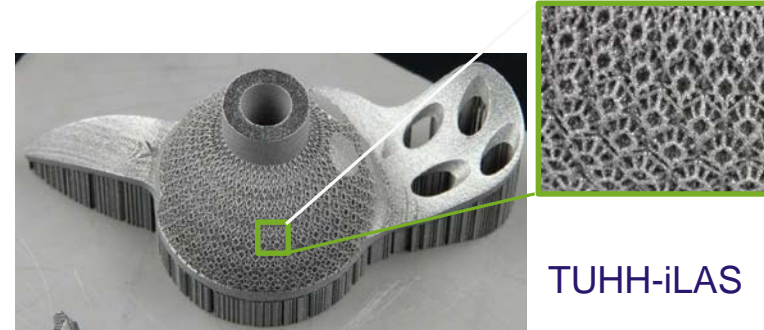
**Polymer  
Nanocomposites**

## Metamaterial Topology



**Thin-Film Solar Cell**

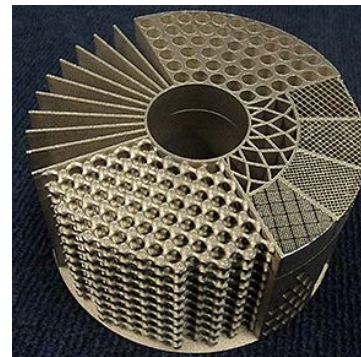
# Multiscale Structures from Additive Manufacturing



Sophisticated macro structures enabled by additive manufacturing

## Benefits of multiscale latticed structures:

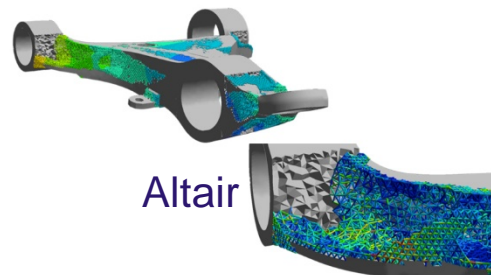
- ❖ Additional weight reduction
- ❖ Increased surface area
- ❖ Desired permeability
- ❖ Another design dimension



Lockheed Martin



Lattice materials by additive manufacturing

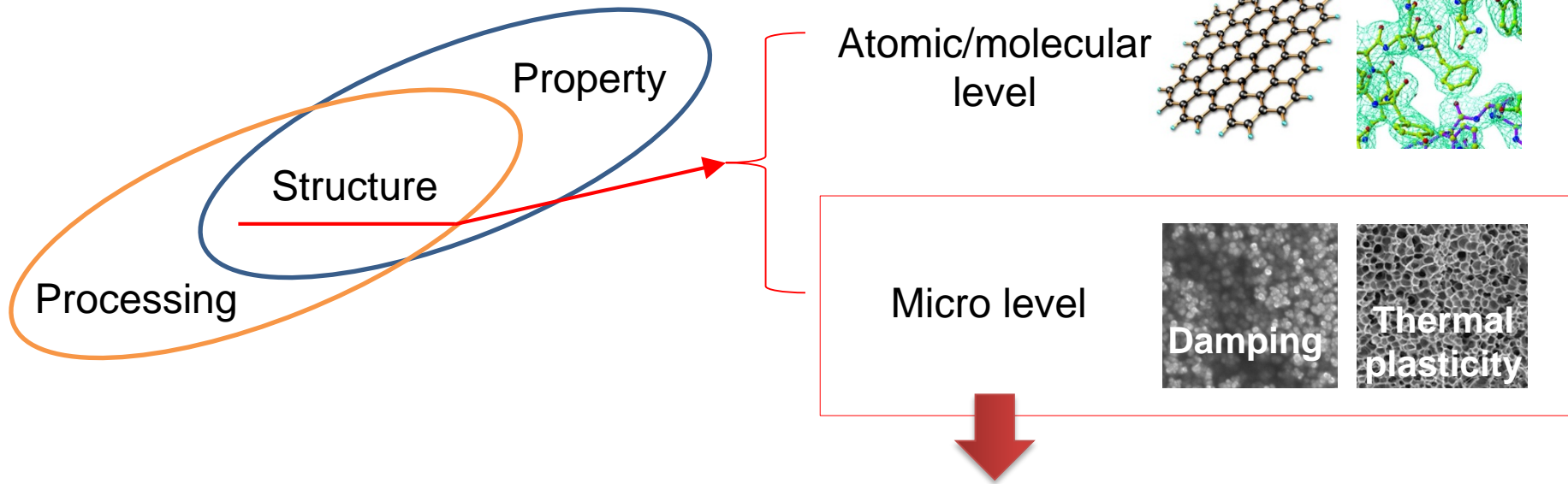




# Paradigm Shift: Microstructure-Mediated Design

## Microstructural Materials:

Spatial arrangement of local microstructure features at various constituent length scales highly influence overall properties



**Computational “Microstructure-mediated” design**  
(McDowell, D. L., Olson, G., B., 2008)

Advanced simulation

Material Informatics

System Design Methodologies



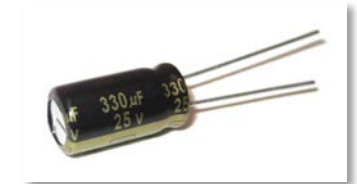
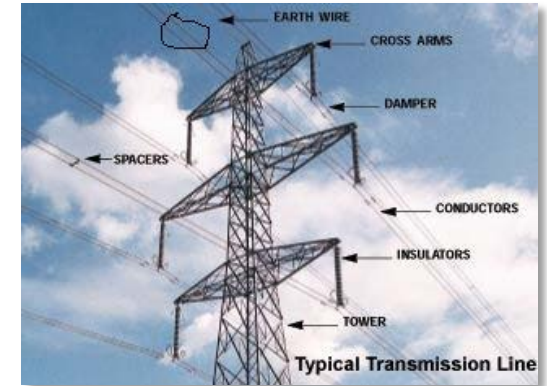
# Design of Polymer Nanodielectric Systems (NSF/DEMS, Chen-Brinson-Schadler)

## Application of Dielectric Material

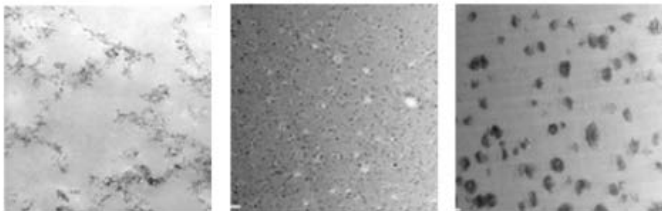
- Wires and cables that carry electrical current
- Insulation in heavy machinery
- Insulation material in capacitors

## Design Criteria

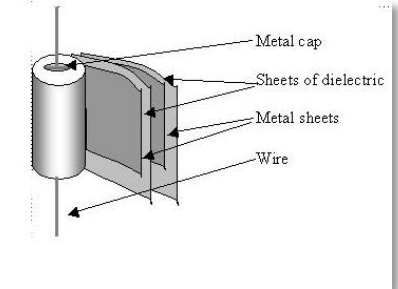
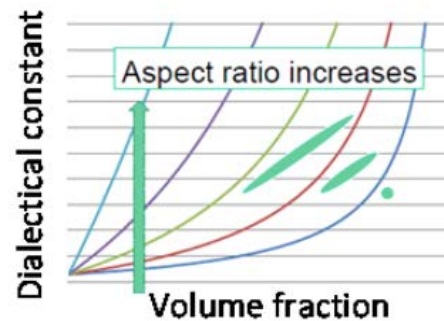
- High dielectric constant, low dielectric loss
- High breakdown strength (complicated physical model)
- High strength endurance



### Predictable and tailorable nanofiller morphologies



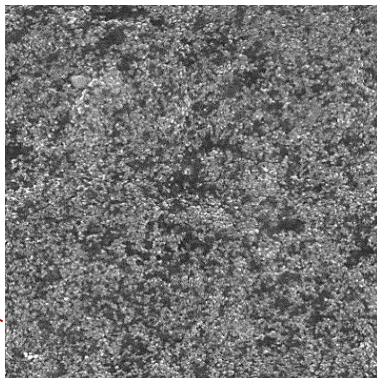
### Microstructure-property relation



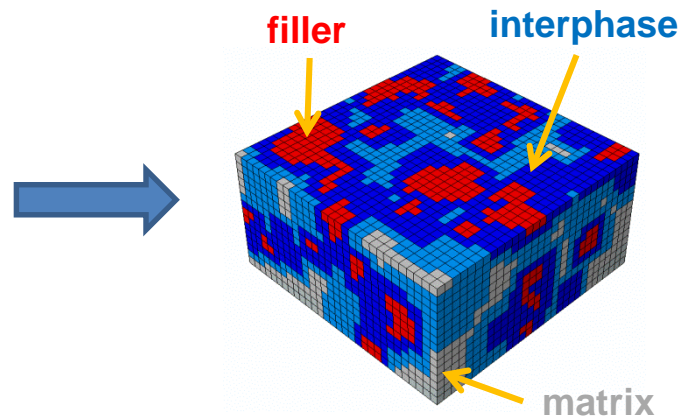




# Design of Tire Polymer Nanocomposite (Goodyear)

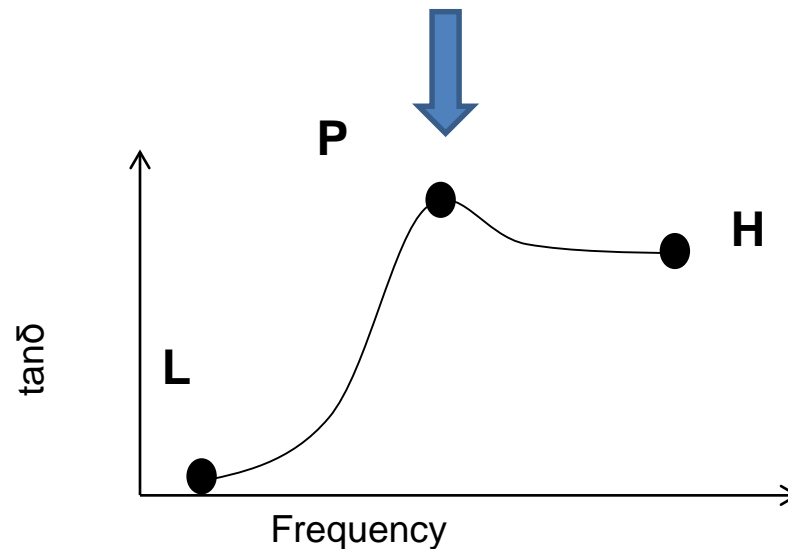


## FEA Model



## Design Objective

- Min L (Min wear)
- Max P (Max wet traction)
- Max H (Min rolling resistance)





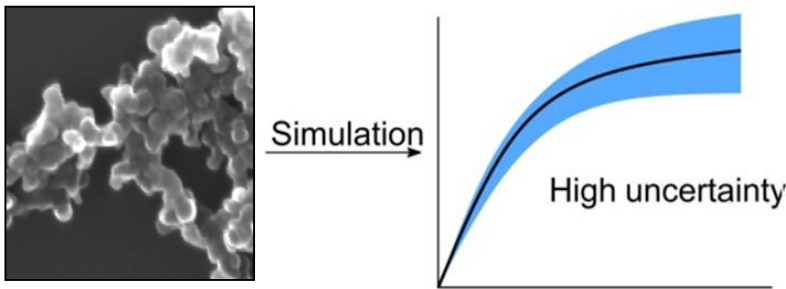
# Design Challenges

- **Complexity**: multidisciplinary, multiscale materials-structure system, expensive simulations
- **Stochasticity**: uncertainties induced by materials structural heterogeneity, manufacturing imperfection, and lacking of knowledge
- **Manufacturability**: mapping between processing and structure; manufacturability constraints; top-down vs bottom-up processes
- **Material Informatics**: exploration of vast materials database & computational models

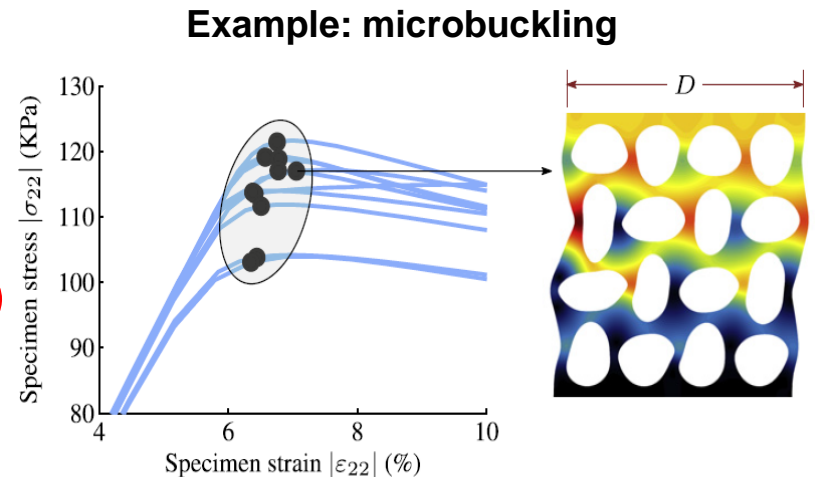
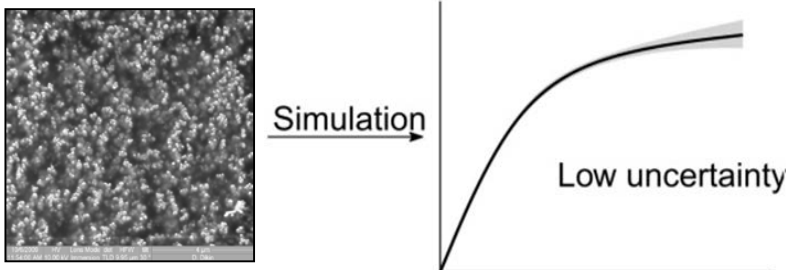
- ❖ Smaller volume element → larger uncertainty in constitutive relations

- ❖ The uncertainty of certain behavior (fracture, failure, fatigue, etc.) is large.
- ❖ Cell averaging is not applicable.

## Statistical Volume Element (SVE)



## Representative Volume Element (RVE)



Greene, M. S., **Xu, H.**, Tang, S., Chen, W., Liu, W. K., "A generalized uncertainty propagation criterion from benchmark studies of microstructured material systems", *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 254, pp 271-291, 2012.

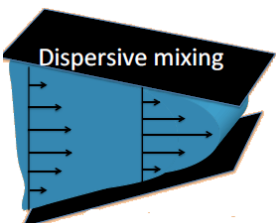




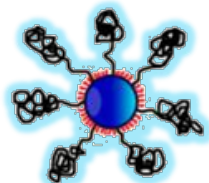
# Processing-Structure-Property Relation Chain

## Processing

Process Conditions

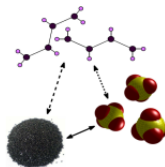


Interfacial Chemistry



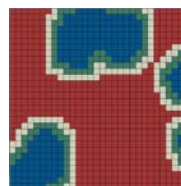
## Structure

Constituents



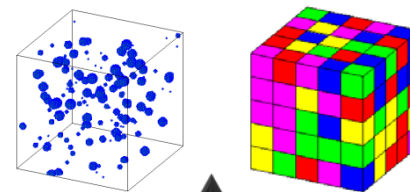
Interactions

- Interphase Properties

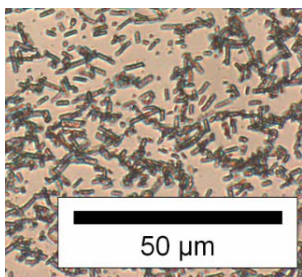


## Property

3D Mosaic Simulation

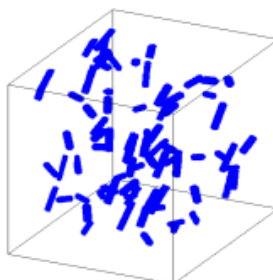


Morphology

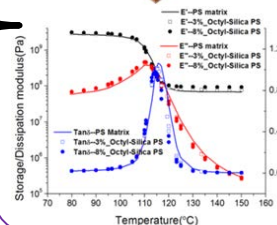
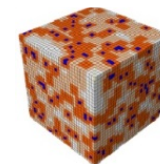


Microstructure reconstruction

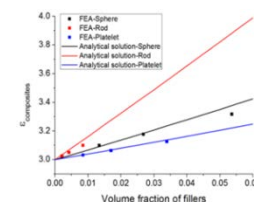
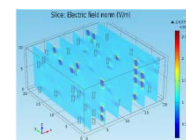
Conformation



T<sub>g</sub>

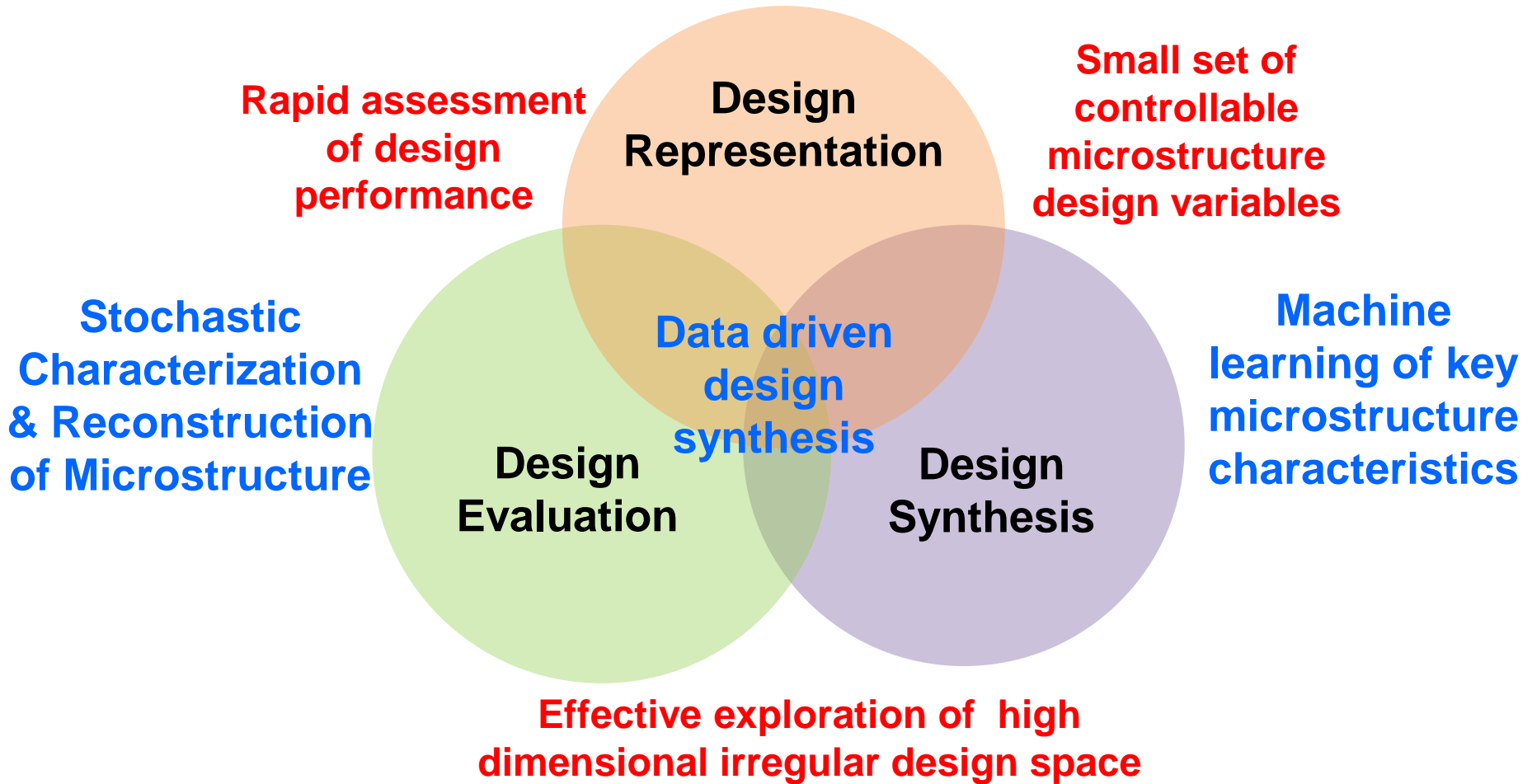


Dielectric constant





# Research Issues in Microstructure Design



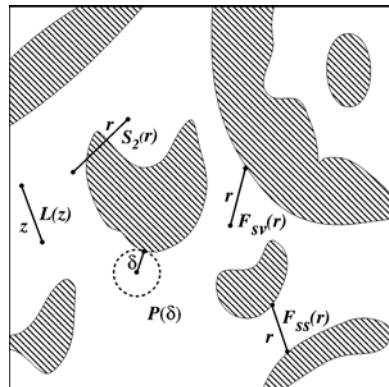
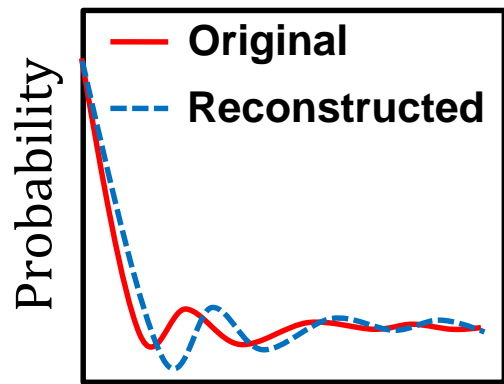


# Statistical Characterization and Reconstruction

## Correlation Functions:

Ch.: Morphology  $\rightarrow$  Probability space

Rec.: Matching via iterative pixel swapping

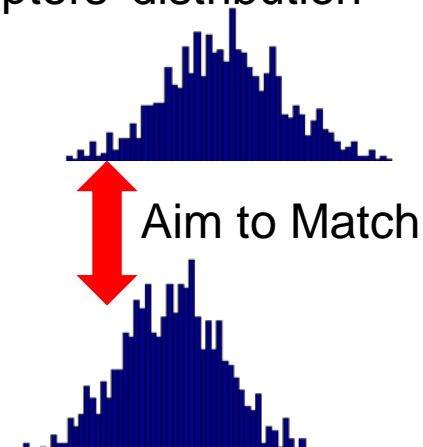
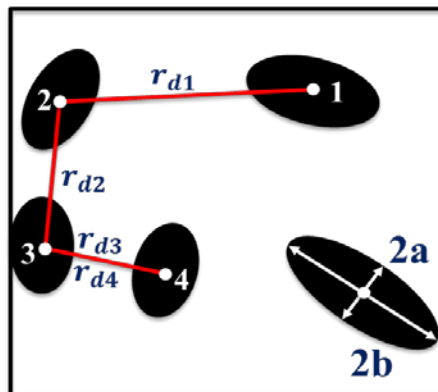


Yu et al., CAD, 2013

## Descriptor-Based:

Ch.: Distribution of physical descriptors

Rec.: Matching descriptors' distribution

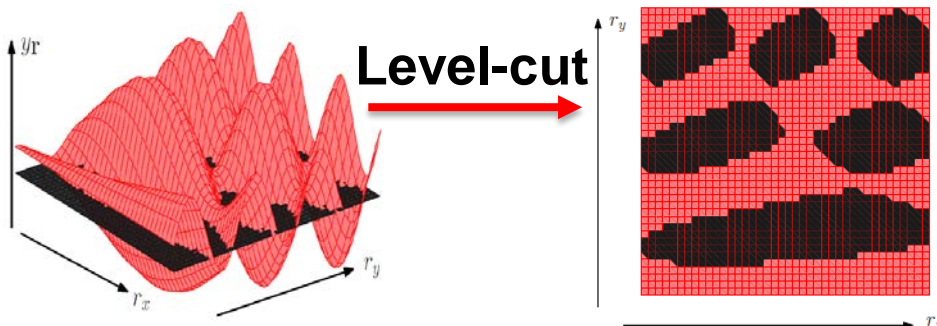


Xu, et al., JMD, 2014

## Random Field (RF):

Ch.: Modeling the RF of the morphology

Rec.: Level-cutting the RF

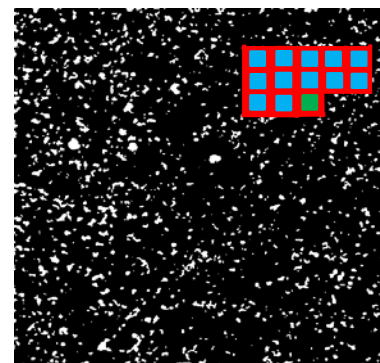


Integrated DDesign Automation Laboratory Jiang et al, J. Microscop, 2014

## Supervised Learning:

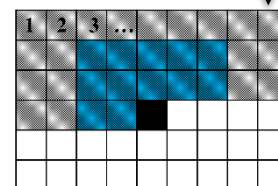
Ch.: Morphology  $\rightarrow$  Conditional probability

Rec.: Sampling from the conditionals



$$P(y|X) \rightarrow P(y|N)$$

Reconstruction  $\downarrow$



Original Image (X) Bostanabad, et al, 2015

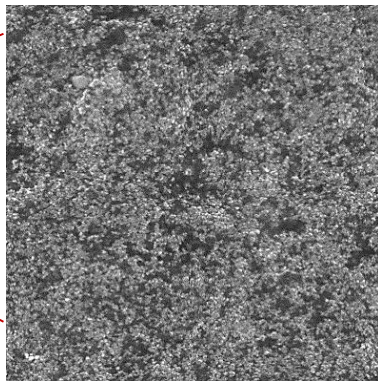




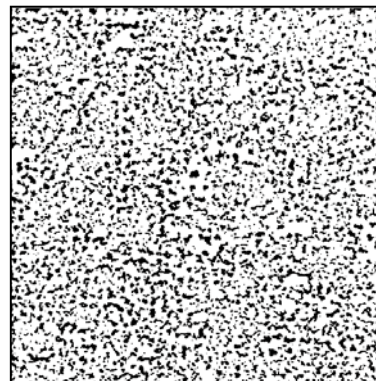
# Correlation Function-based Characterization



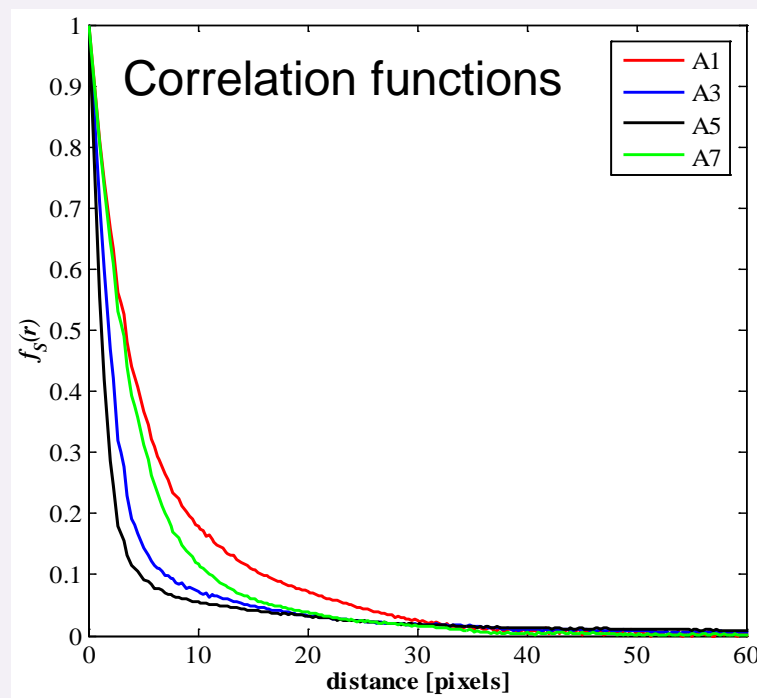
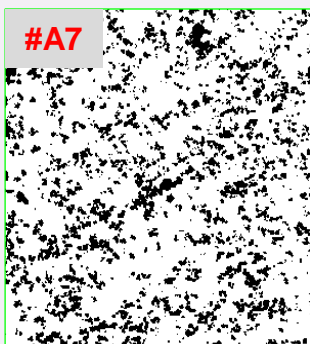
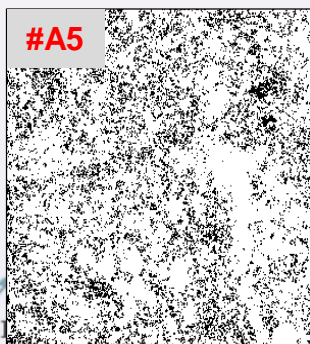
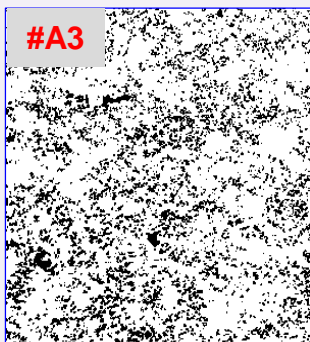
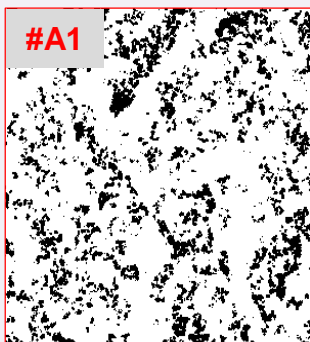
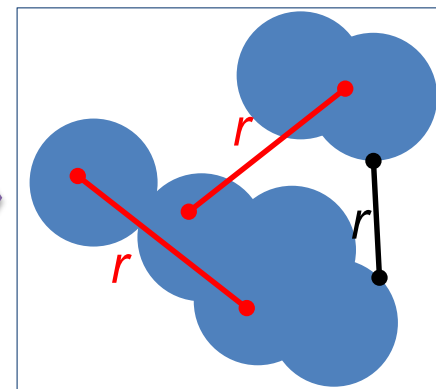
Original Image



Binarization

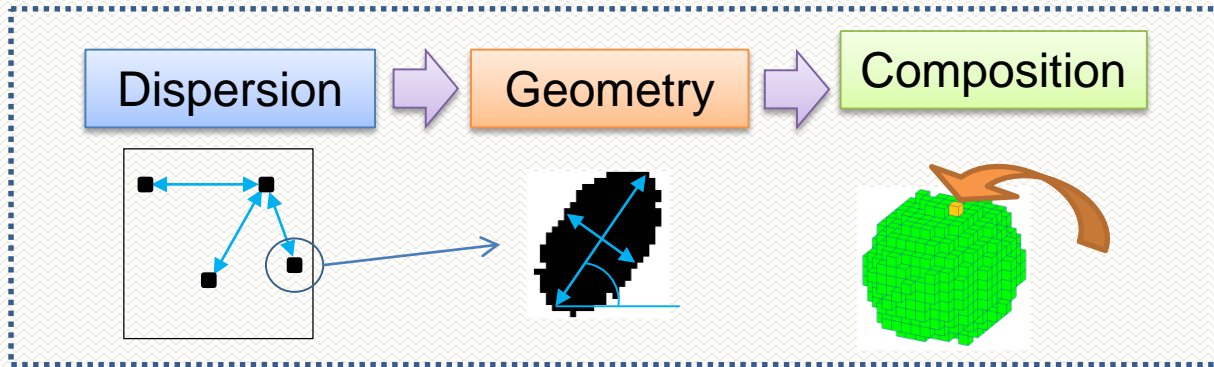


Characterization





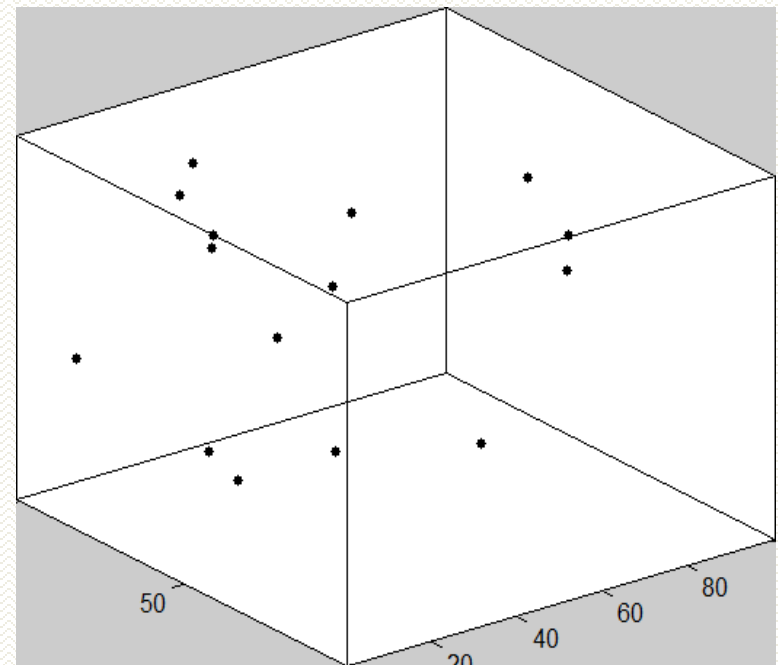
# Descriptor-based Reconstruction



## Computational Cost Comparison

Size (voxel)	Correlation Function	Descriptor
$100^3$	170 hr	< 3 min
$300^3$	Memory issue	< 2 hr

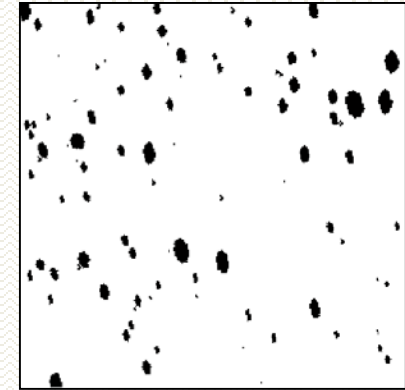
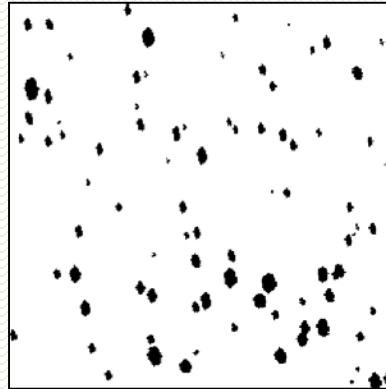
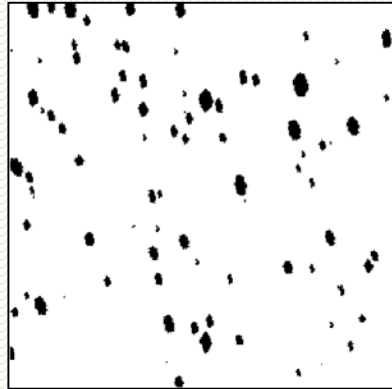
- Low computational cost
- High accuracy
- Clear physical meaning



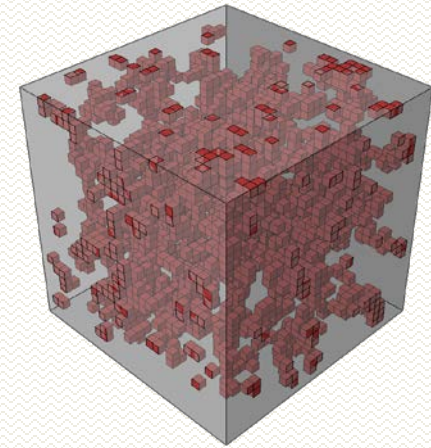
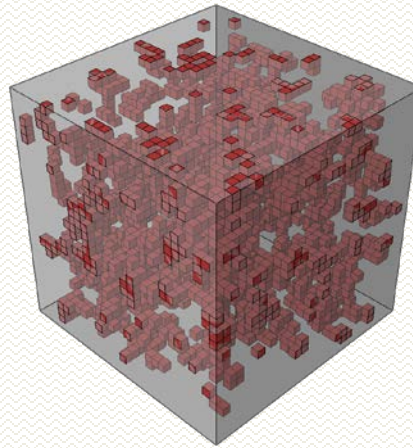
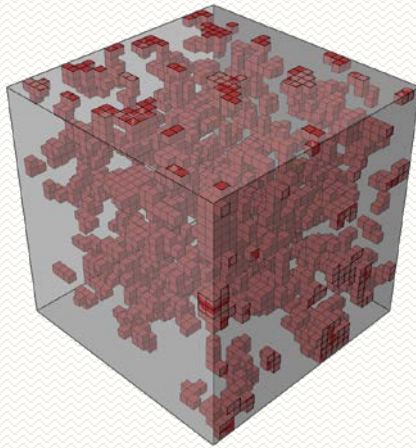


# Statistically Equivalent Microstructures

## ❖ Stochastic reconstruction of 2D isotropic structure



## ❖ Stochastic reconstruction of 3D isotropic structure





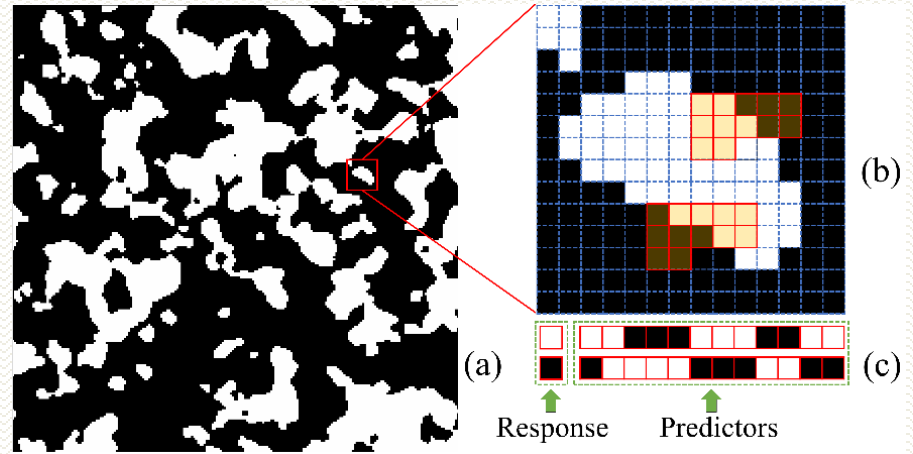


# Characterization and Reconstruction (C&R) via Supervised Learning

## GOAL: Development of a Generic and Model-based C&R Method

Bostanabad R., et al. *Acta Materialia*, DOI:  
10.1016/j.actamat.2015.09.044, 2015.

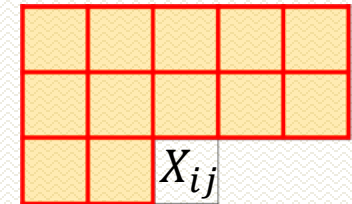
- **Characterize** by learning the full joint distribution of the constituents
- **Reconstruct** by sampling from the learned distribution



$$f(\mathbf{X}) = f(X_{11})f(X_{12}|X_{11})f(X_{13}|X_{11}, X_{12}) \cdots f(X_{n_1 n_2} | X_{11}, X_{12}, \dots, X_{n_1(n_2-1)})$$

$$= f(X_{11} | \mathbf{X}^{(<11)}) f(X_{12} | \mathbf{X}^{(<12)}) f(X_{13} | \mathbf{X}^{(<13)}) \cdots f(X_{n_1 n_2} | \mathbf{X}^{(<n_1 n_2)})$$

Where  $\mathbf{X}^{(<ij)}$  is the set of all the pixels in  $\mathbf{X}$  ordered before  $X_{ij}$ .



$M_{ij}$ : Neighborhood of  $X_{ij}$

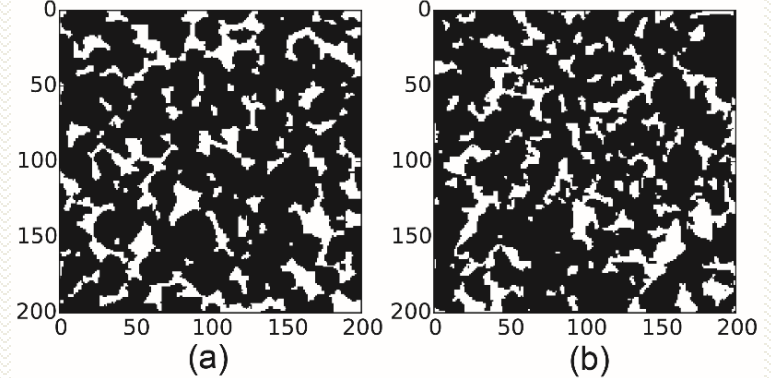
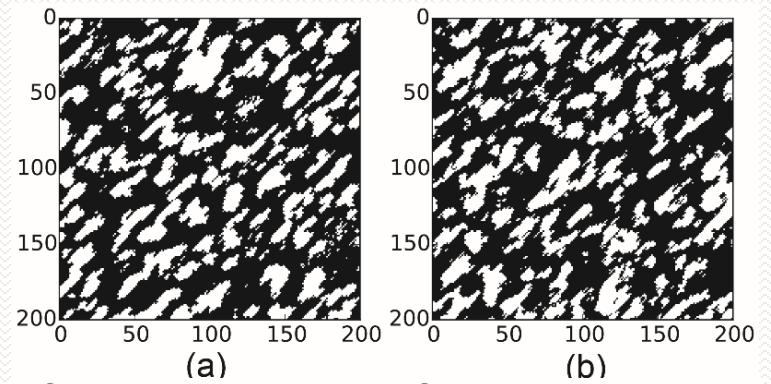
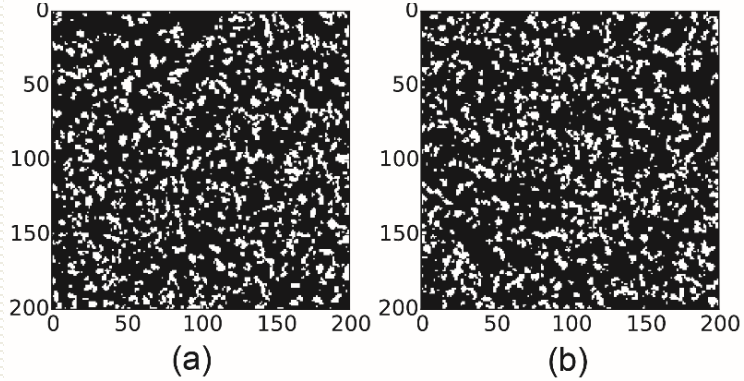
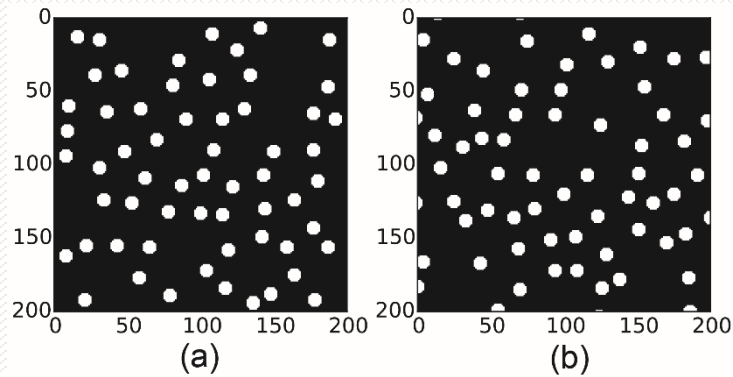
To make the approximation of  $f(\mathbf{X})$  tractable,  $\mathbf{X}$  is assumed to be a form of stationary Markov random field (MRF):

- **Locality:**  $f(X_{ij} | \mathbf{X}^{(<ij)}) = f(X_{ij} | M_{ij})$  for a sufficiently large (causal) neighborhood  $M_{ij}$ .
- **Stationarity:**  $f(X_{ij} | M_{ij})$  does not depend on pixel location  $(i, j)$ .

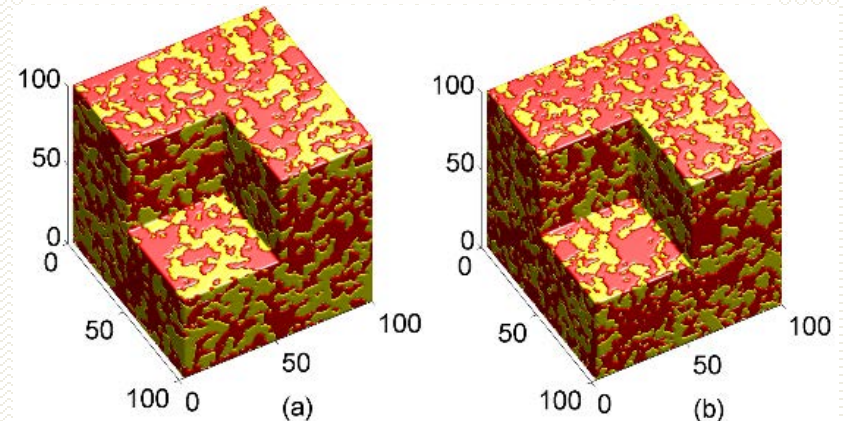
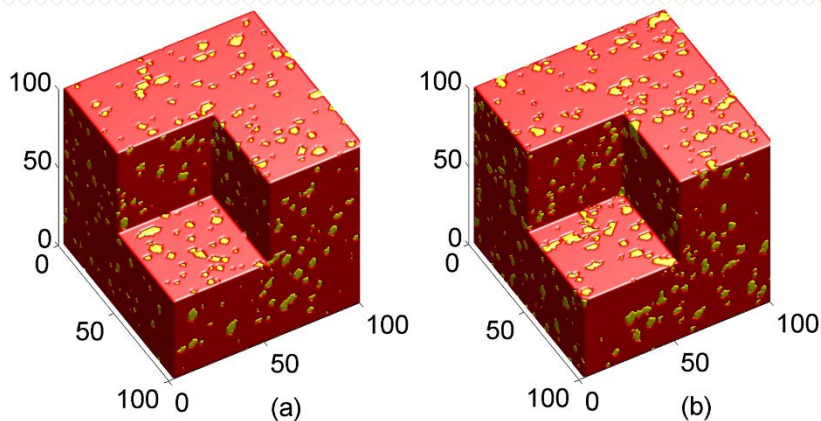


# Applications to Various Material Systems

2D



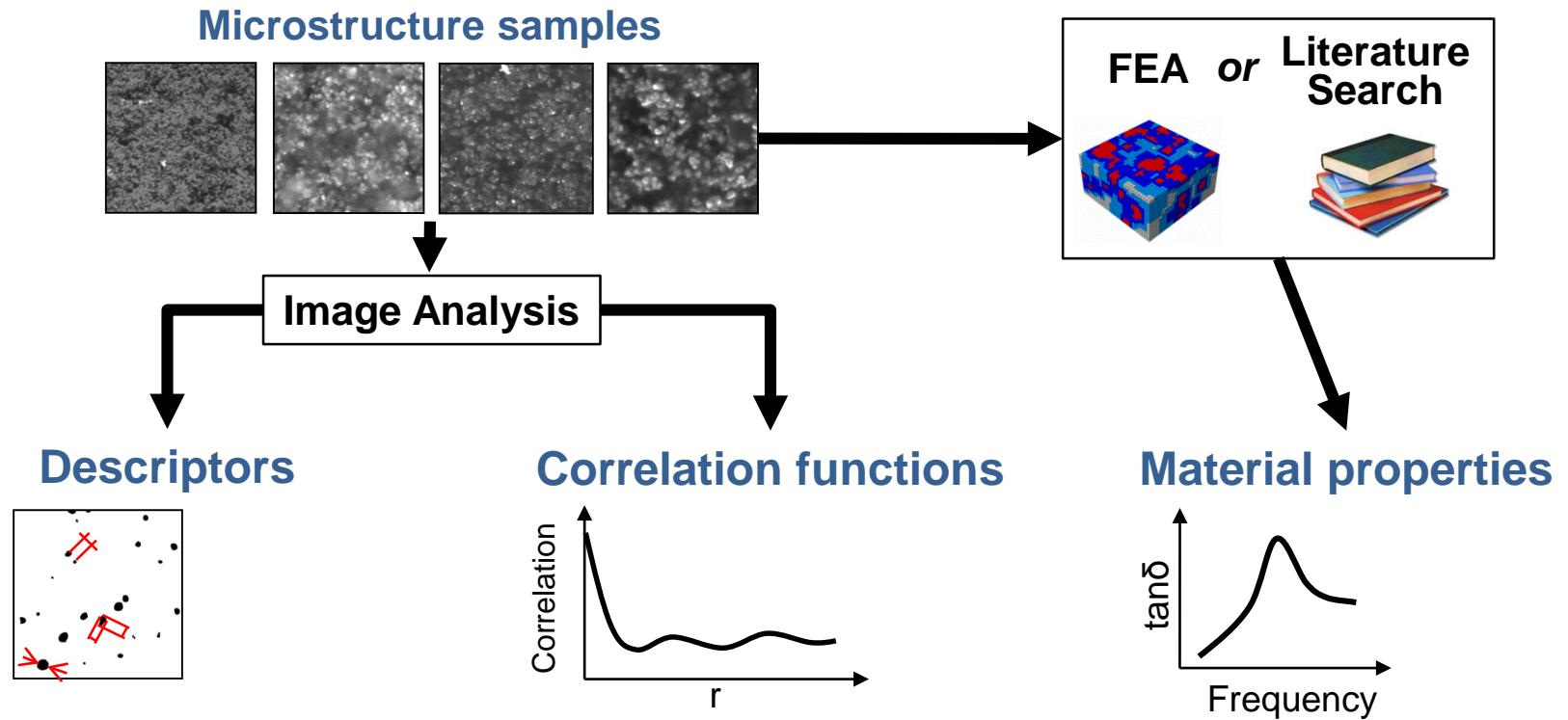
3D



(a) Original image, (b) Reconstructed



# Machine Learning for Identifying Key Descriptors



## Image-based Analysis

(1) Correlation-based feature selection: eliminate redundant descriptors by correlation analysis

(2) Correlation function-based supervised learning

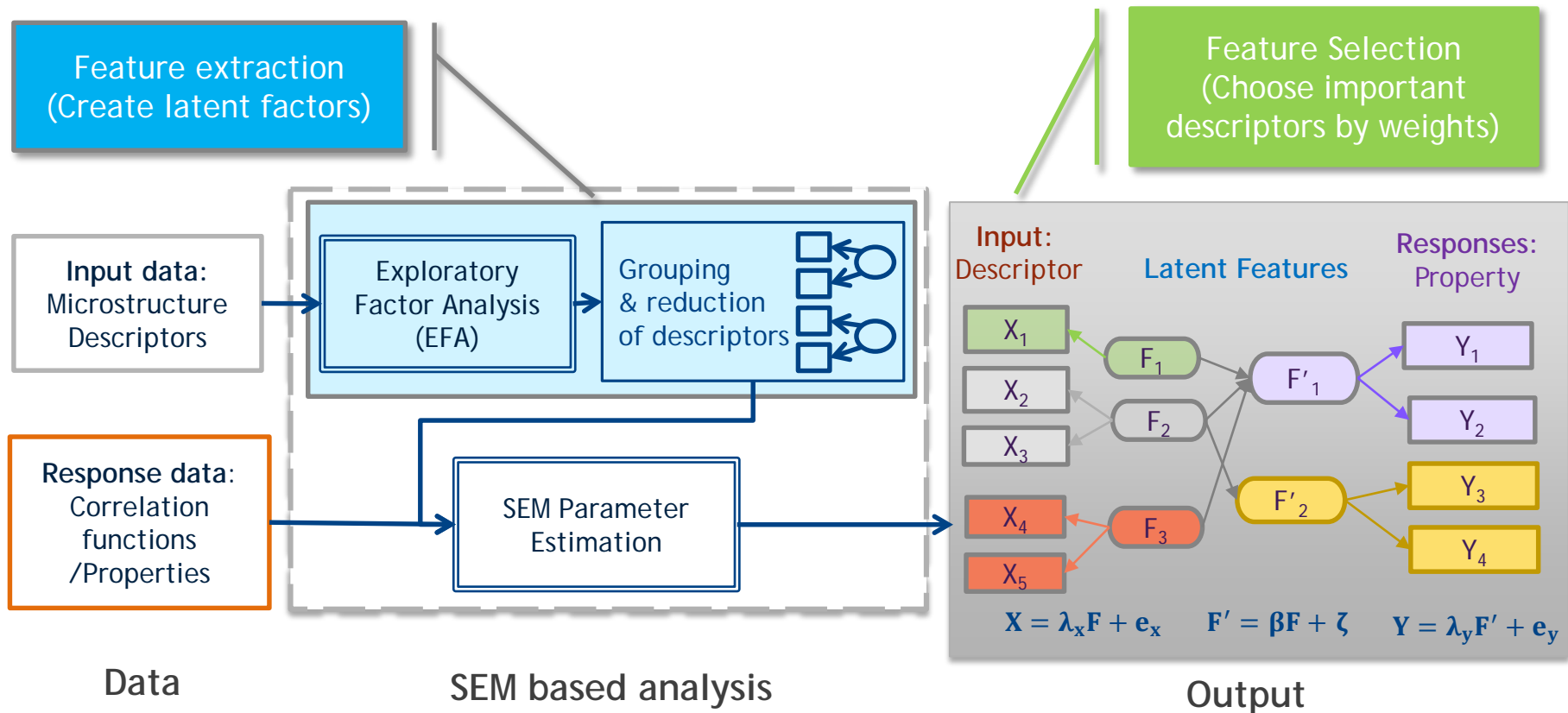
(3) Property-based supervised learning

*Supervised Learning*

Xu et al. JMD, 2014



- Reduce dimension by discovering **latent** microstructure features





# Reduced Descriptor Set for Tire Material

## Initial Statistical Descriptor Set (56)

**Composition**  VF

**Dispersion**

- Nearest boundary distance
- Nearest center distance
- Local VF of Voronoi cells
- Cluster number
- Filler Surface Area
- Matrix Surface Area
- Orientation

**Geometry**

- Pore size
- Area
- Equivalent Radius
- Compactness
- Aspect ratio
- Roundness
- Eccentricity
- Rectangularity
- Tortuosity

## Key Descriptor set



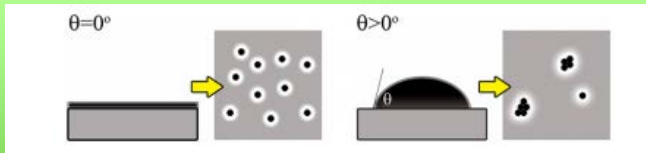
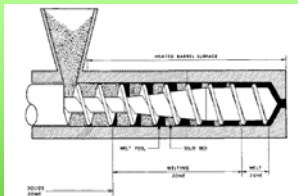
### Microstructure Design Variables:

- Cluster number  $N$
- Volume fraction  $VF$
- Elongation ratio  $e_l$
- Nearest distance  $r_d$



# Design Evaluation: Processing-Structure Mapping

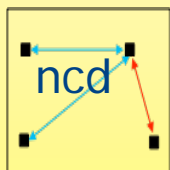
## Single Screw Extrusion



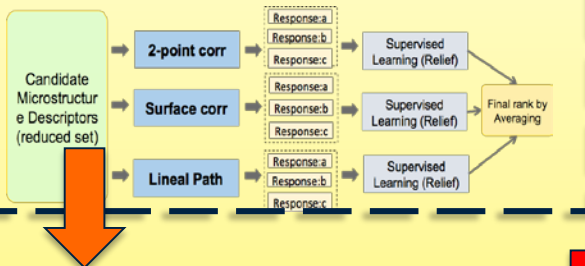
Descriptors: Processing energy  $E_Y$   
Interfacial energy  $W_{PF}/W_{FF}$

## Microstructure Dispersion

Physical Descriptors

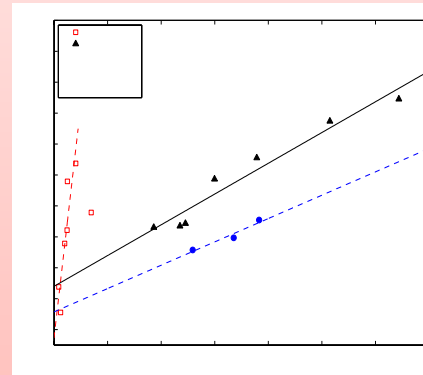


Key descriptors learnt via supervised learning

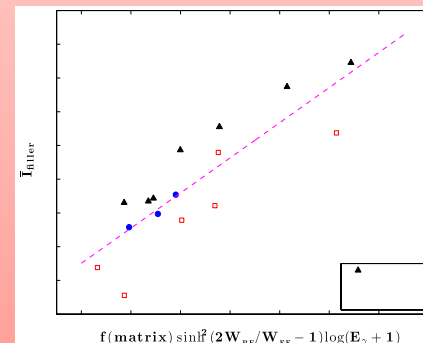


Descriptor: Normalized interfacial area  $I_{filler}$

## Processing-structure Relationship



Matrix-specific Model

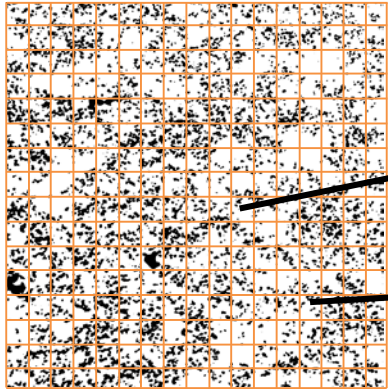


Generalized Model



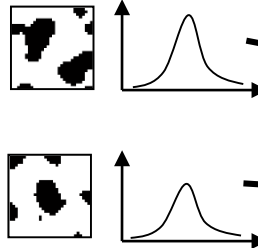
# Design Evaluation: Mosaic Approach for Structure-Property Evaluations

① Obtain SVE sub-grids from RVE

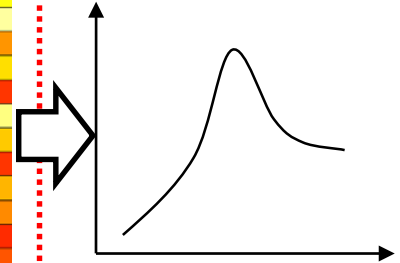
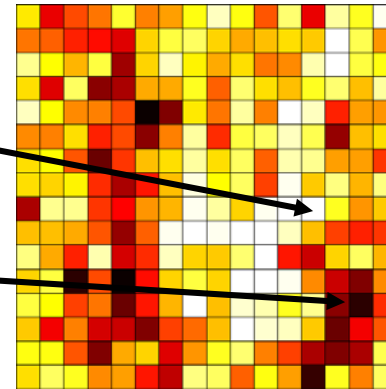


⑤ Predict RVE property

SVE property simulation

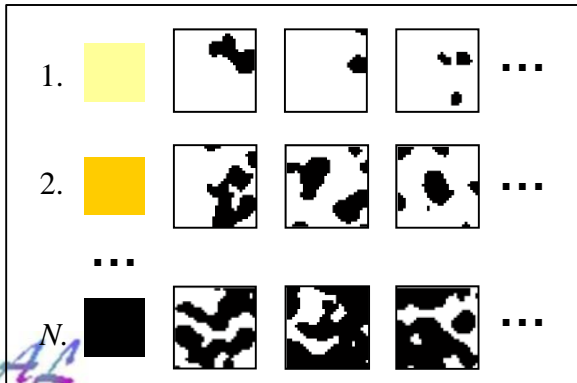


Coarsened RVE (mosaic)

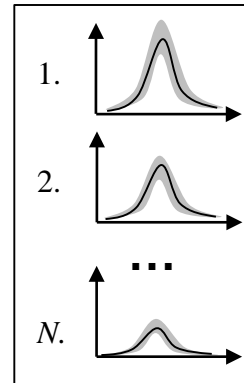


**SVE database**

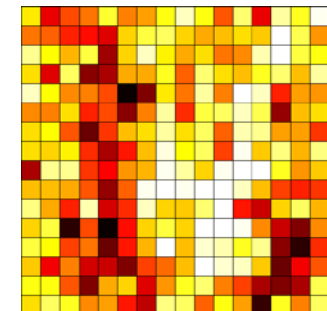
② Classify SVE sub-squares into  $N$  clusters



③ Determine stochastic SVE properties for each cluster



④ Create mosaic RVE based on SVE clusters



Xu, et al., JMD 2013.



# Data Driven Design Synthesis

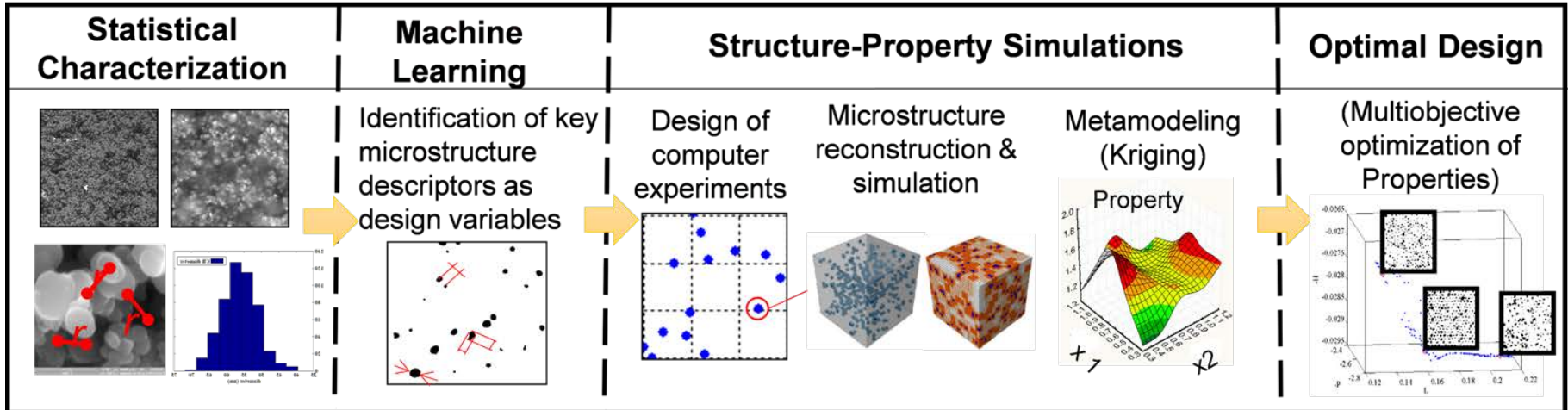
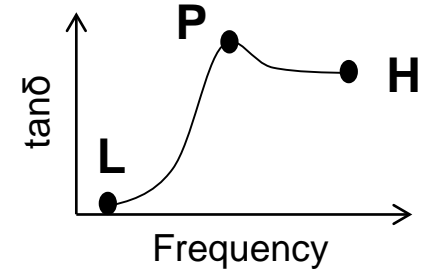
## Microstructure Design Variables:

- Cluster number  $N$
- Volume fraction  $VF$
- Elongation ratio  $e_l$
- Nearest distance  $r_d$



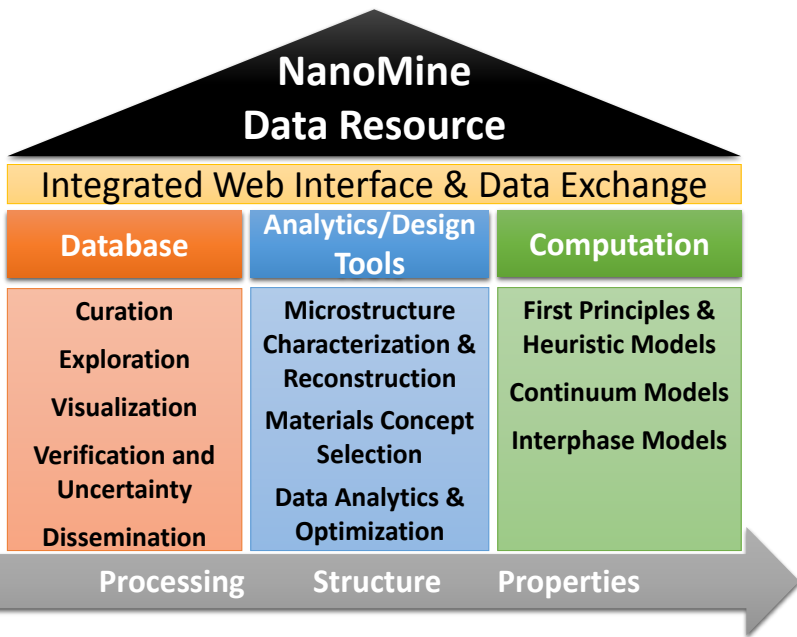
## Design Objective (multi-objective optimization):

- Min L (Min wear)
- Max P (Max wet traction)
- Max H (Min rolling resistance)

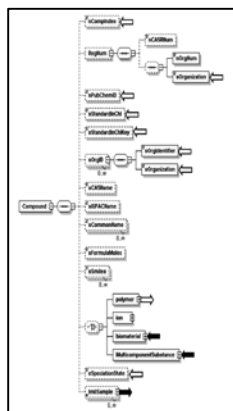
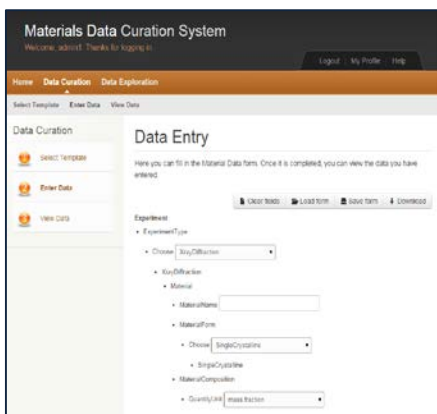




# NanoMine: Polymer Nanocomposite Data Resource



## Using NIST Material Data Curator



## Database

- Curate and explore nanocomposite database with experimental and computation data
- Material Data Curator (NIST) with data template tailored for nanocomposites

## Analysis/Design Tools

- MCR toolkit to calculate physical descriptors and reconstruct 2D/3D microstructure
- Data mining tools for processing, structure and property correlation and material design

## Computation

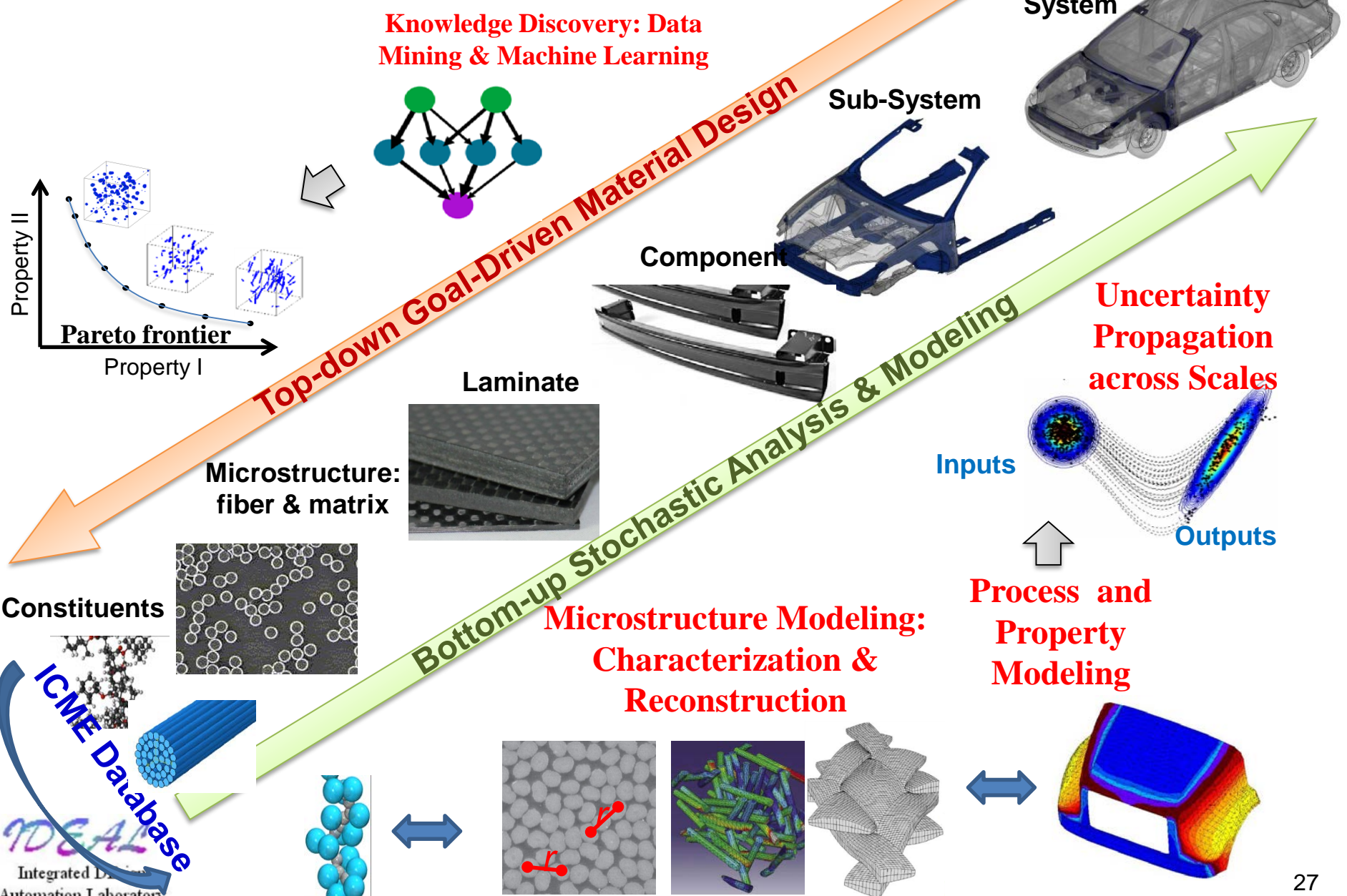
- Heuristic and DFT models for polymer and surface chemistry
- Finite element modeling on thermomechanical and dielectric properties

Zhao, et al., APL Materials, 2016<sub>26</sub>

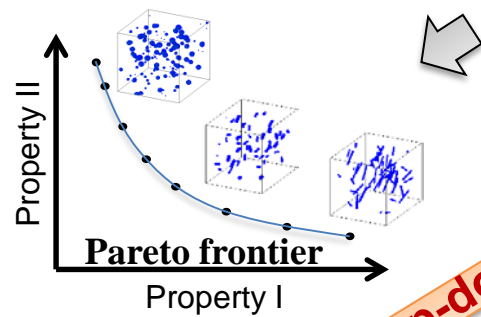


# Multiscale Design of Lightweight Carbon Fiber Composites (DOE/Ford)

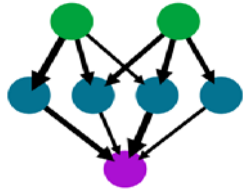
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



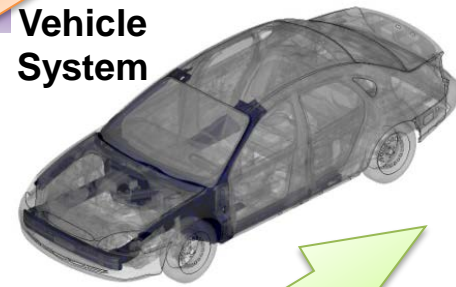
**Knowledge Discovery: Data Mining & Machine Learning**



**Top-down Goal-Driven Material Design**



**Vehicle System**

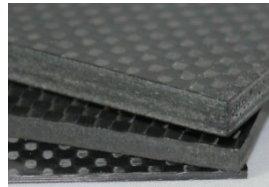


**Sub-System**

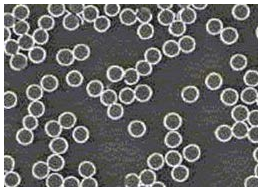


**Component**

**Laminate**

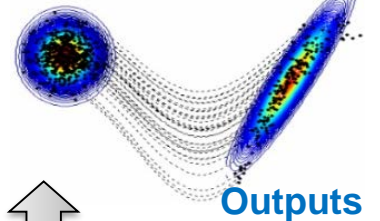


**Microstructure: fiber & matrix**



**Uncertainty Propagation across Scales**

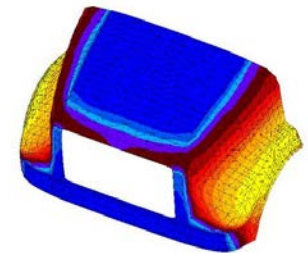
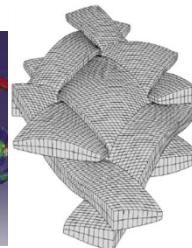
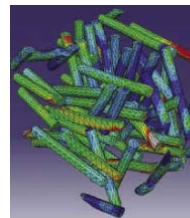
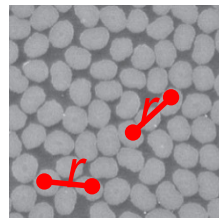
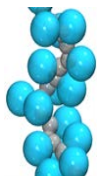
**Inputs**



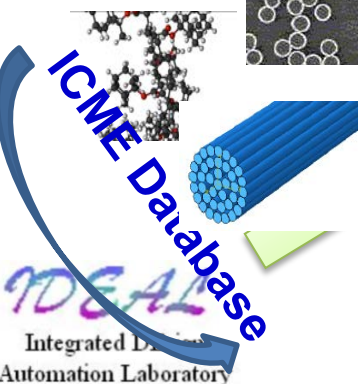
**Outputs**

**Process and Property Modeling**

**Microstructure Modeling: Characterization & Reconstruction**



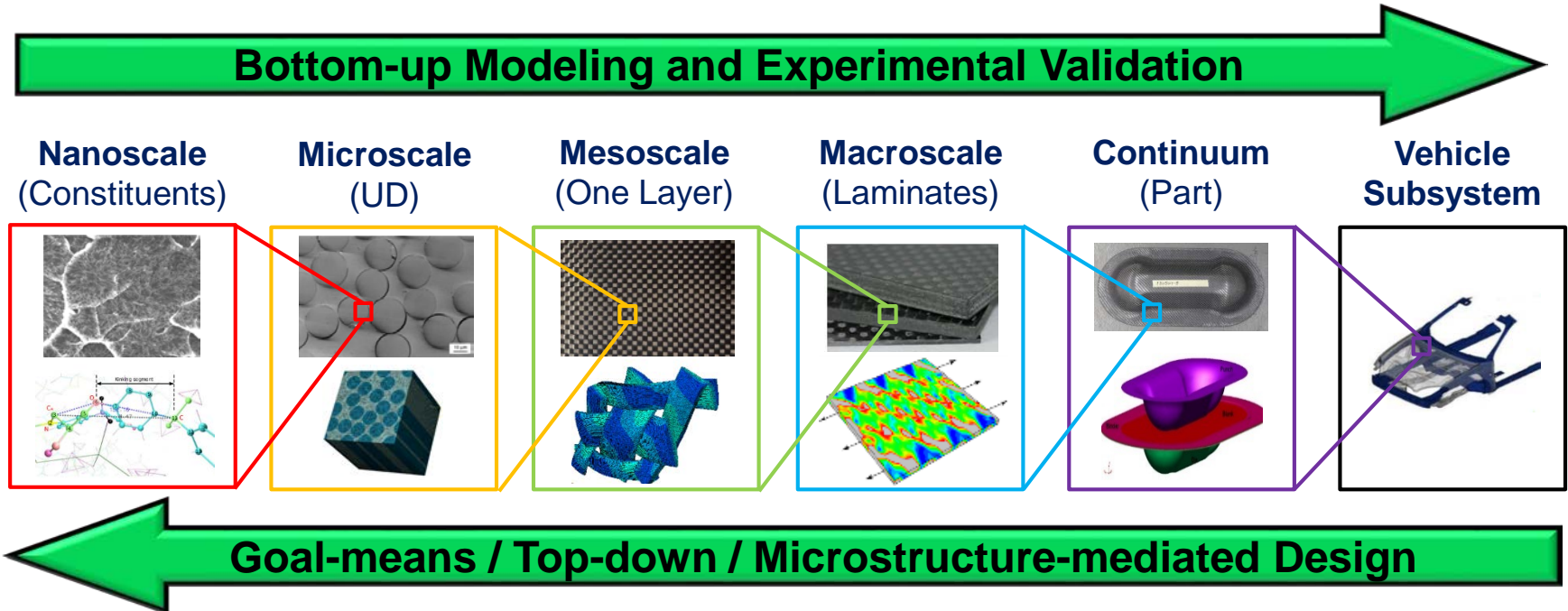
**Constituents**





# Stochastic Multiscale Analysis and Design

## GOAL: Multiscale Design of Material Systems with Targeted Properties

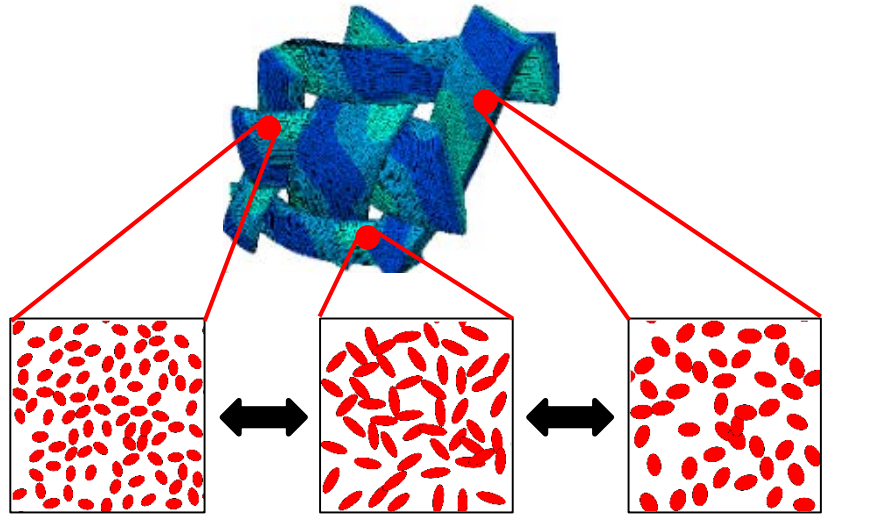


### Challenges:

- The bottom-up approach is not tailored for material design and requires much time and effort.
- Coupling the computational models in the top-down approach is not trivial - what information needs to be passed up from fine to coarse scales?



## Spatial Microstructural Correlation



$$S = f_1(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{P}_1) \quad S = f_2(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \mathbf{m}_2, \mathbf{P}_2) \quad S = f_3(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \mathbf{m}_3, \mathbf{P}_3)$$

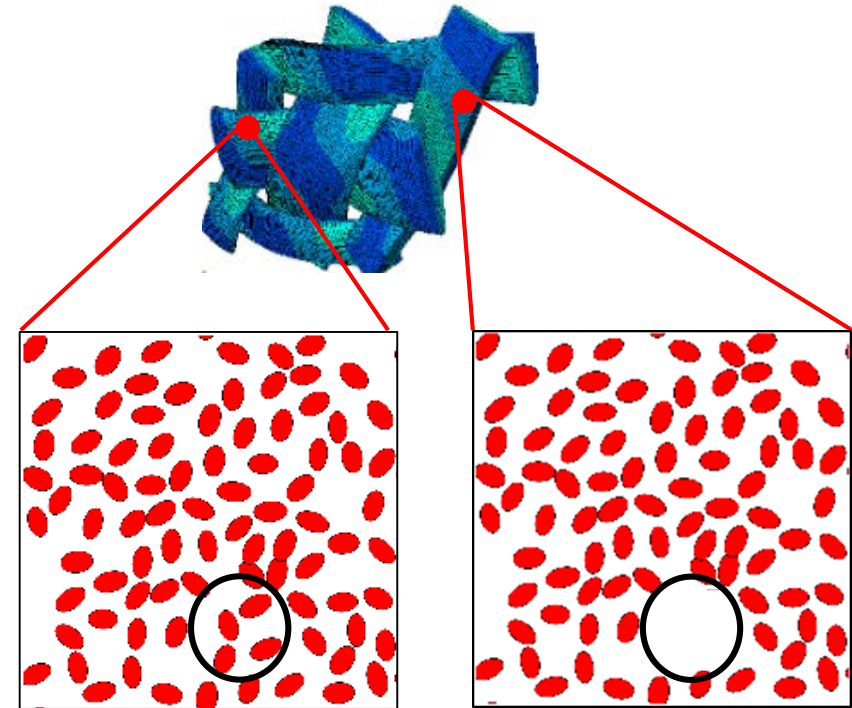
Realizations

Underlying Random Field for the General Constitutive Law :  $S = \mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{P})$

$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ : Boundary Condition       $\mathbf{P}$ : Constituents Properties

$\mathbf{m}$ : Microstructural Descriptors

## Defects and Anomalies



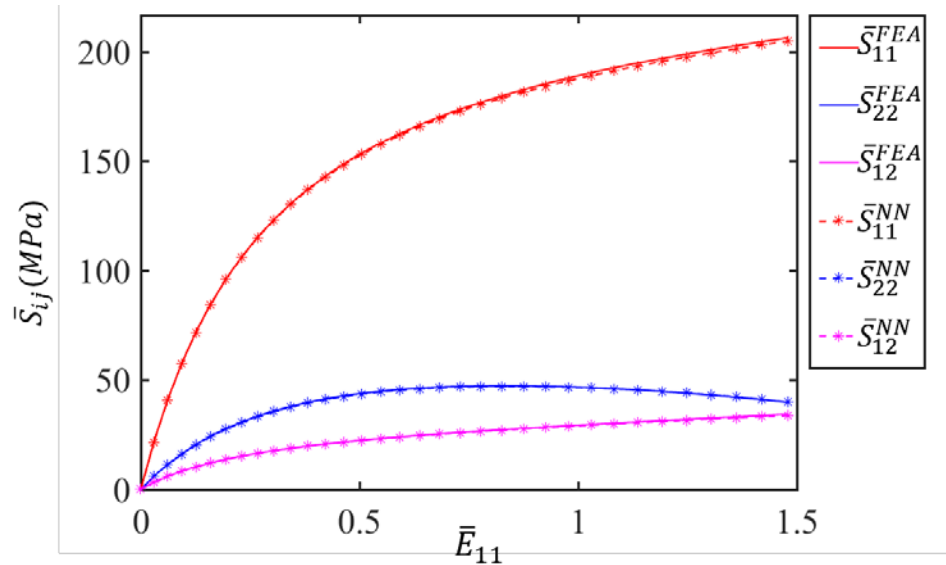
- Local morphological changes (such as volume fraction) can drastically affect the material performance.
- Monitoring local and global changes are essential to quality control.



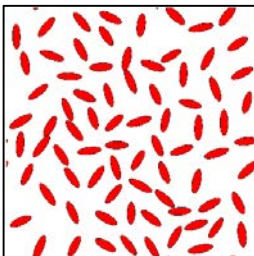
# Response Surface of Constitutive Relations for Hyperelasticity

**GOAL:** Learn the macroscopic constitutive law of a **class** of microstructures, i.e., find  $f$  in  $W = f(\bar{\mathbf{E}}, \mathbf{m})$ .

Descriptors	
$VF$	$[2, 45]\%$
$\mu_{nn}$	$[0.3, 0.5]mm$
$e$	$[1, 5]$
$N$	$[40, 100]$
$\bar{E}_{11}$	$[-10, 150]\%$
$\bar{E}_{22}$	$[-10, 150]\%$
$\bar{E}_{12}$	$[-40, 40]\%$



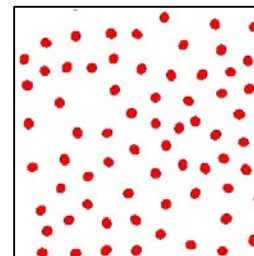
RVE 1



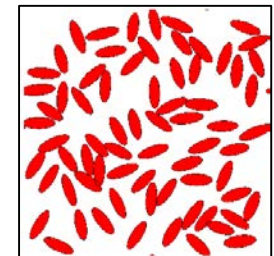
RVE 2



RVE 3



RVE 4



# Metamaterial Design: Light-trapping for thin-film solar cell

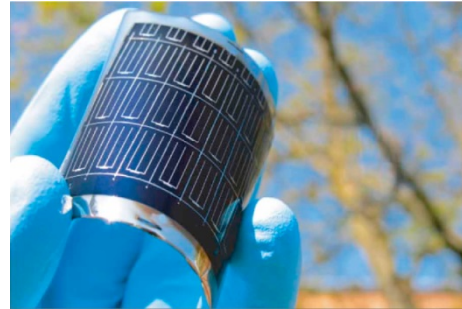
## Conventional bulk solar cell



Wikipedia

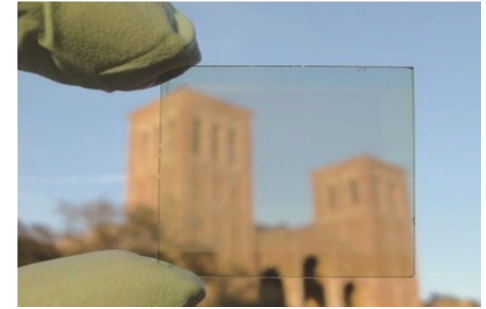
## Thin-film solar cell

### Flexible

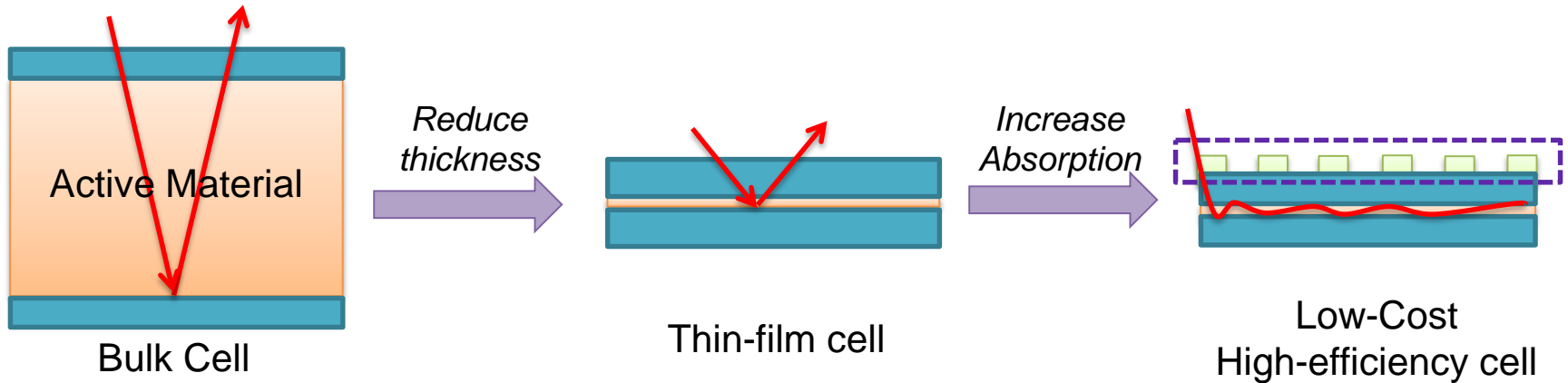


C. Adrian et. al,  
*Nature Materials*, 2011

### Transparent



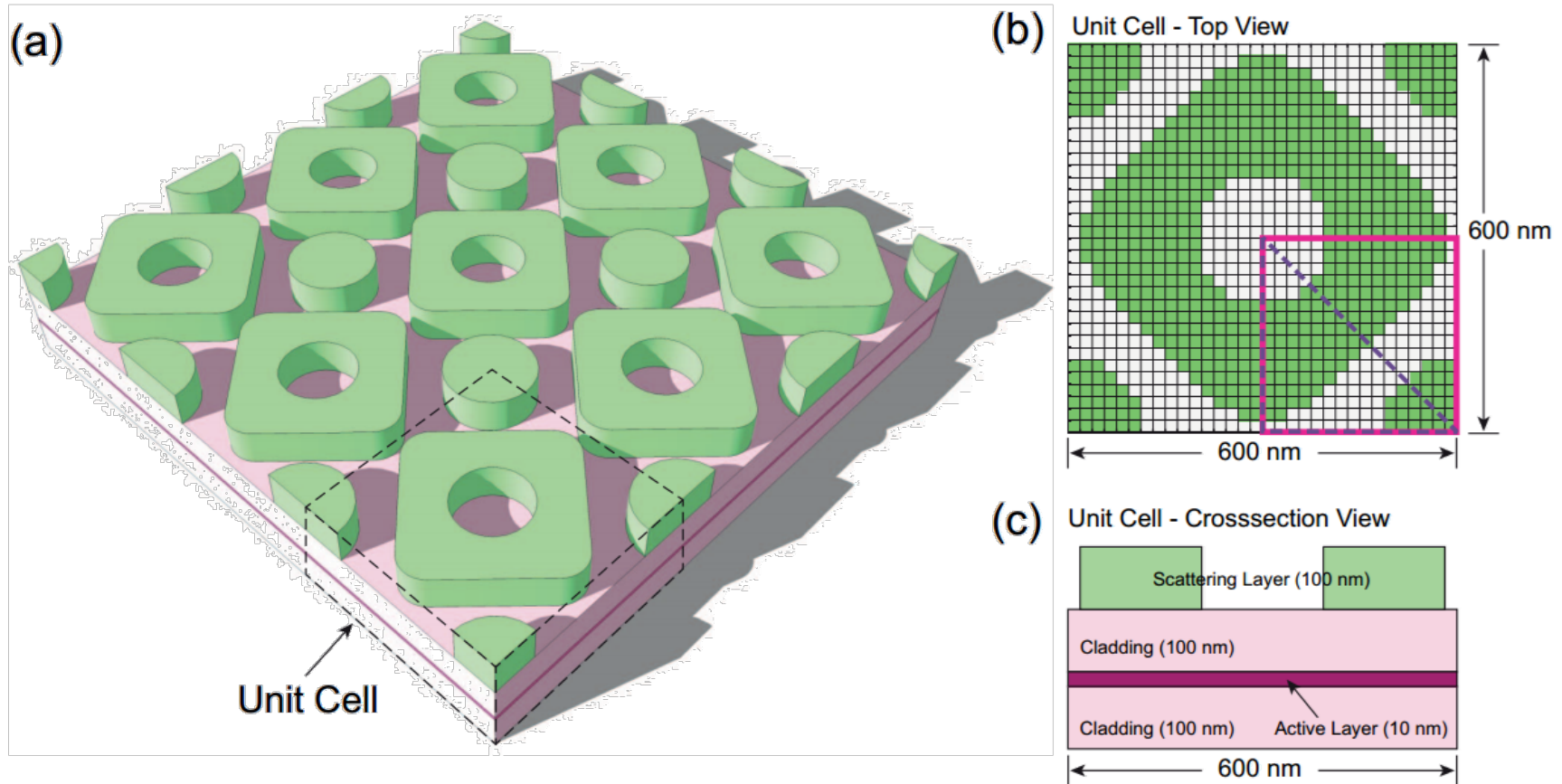
C.C. Chen et. al.,  
*ACS Nano*, 2012



# Topology optimization for highly-efficient nanophotonic light-trapping structure for thin-film solar cells

32

Optimizing the material distribution in elementised design space with periodicity constraint

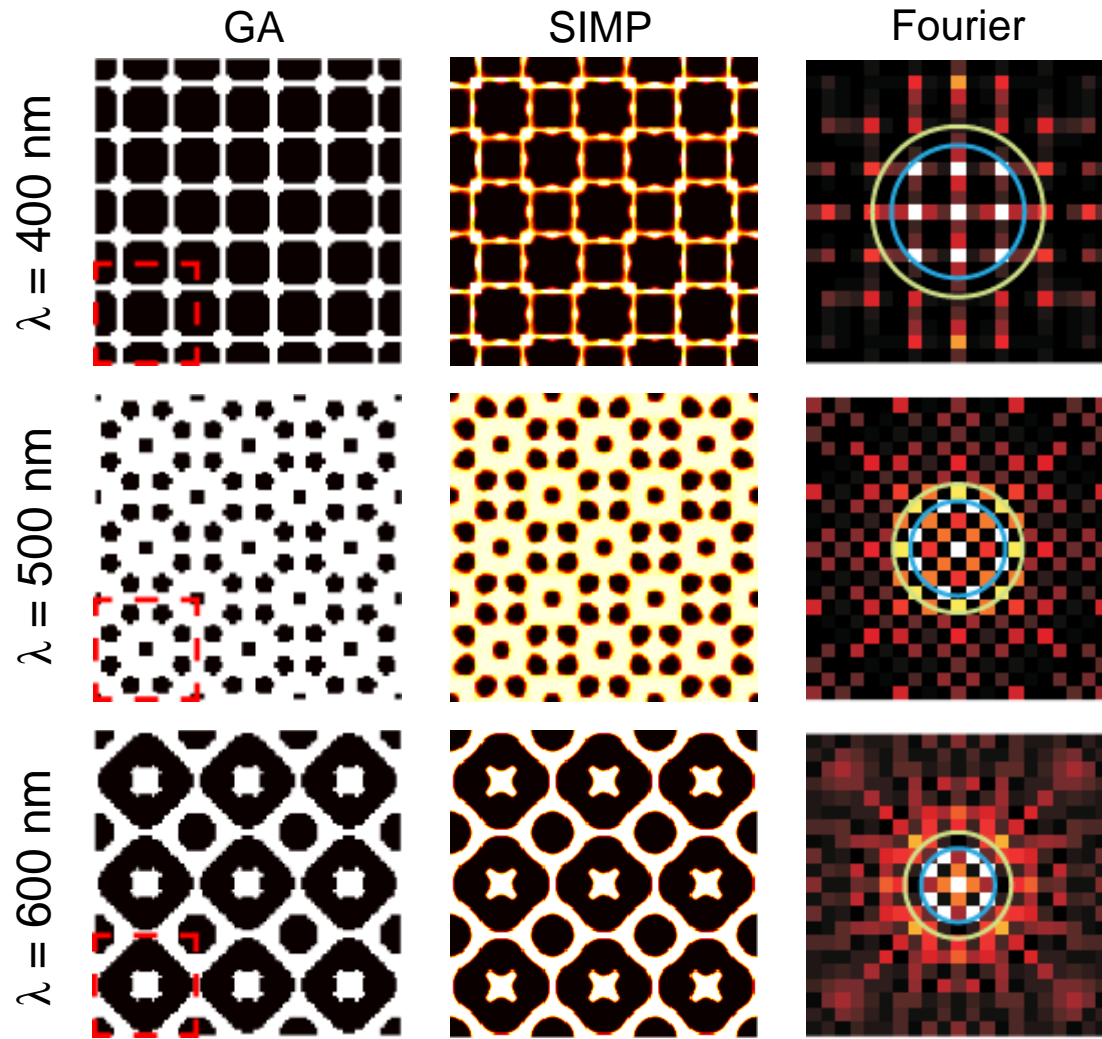


C. Wang, S. Yu, W. Chen, C. Sun, *Scientific Report*, 2013  
S. Yu, C. Wang, C. Sun, W. Chen, *Struct. Multidisc. Optim.*, 2014





# GA and SIMP based Topology Optimization of the Periodic Light-Trapping Structures



C. Wang, S. Yu, W. Chen, C. Sun, *Sci. Rep.*, 2013  
S. Yu, C. Wang, C. Sun, W. Chen, *Struct. Multidisc. Optim.*, 2014

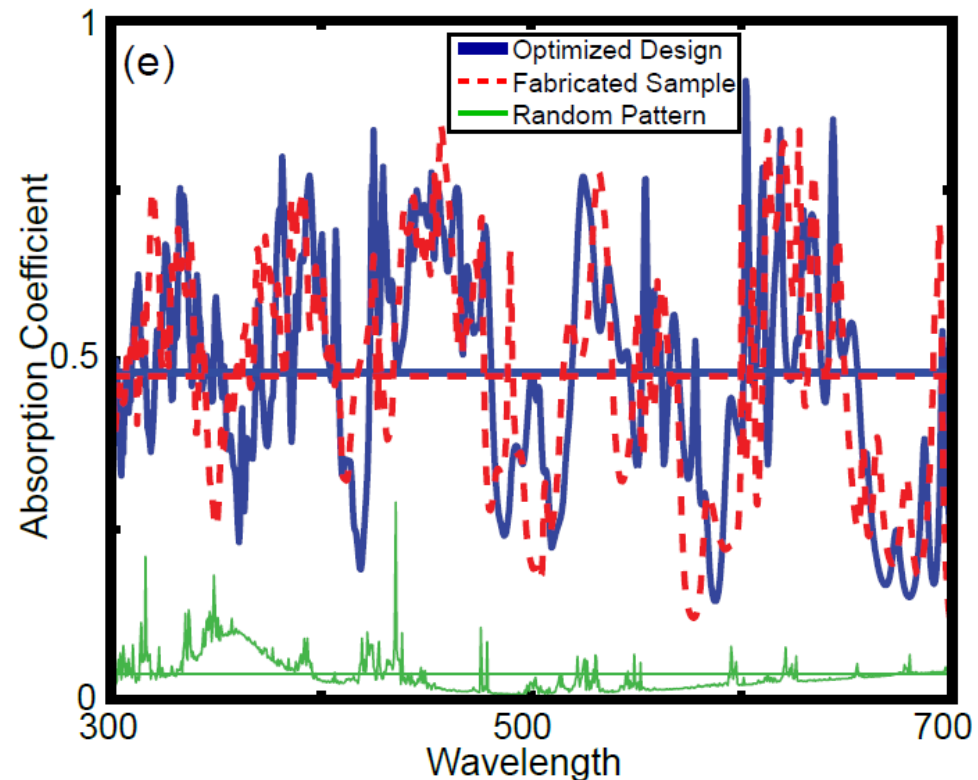
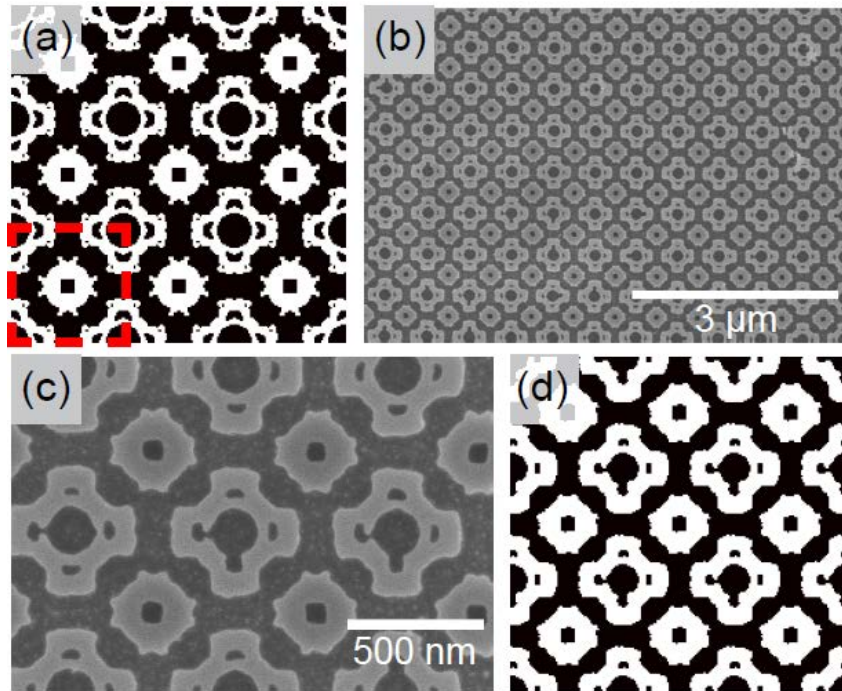
Topology optimization of the light-trapping structure at single incident wavelength using GA and SIMP



# Validation of cost-effective, high-performance nanophotonic structures for efficient light control

34

Significant enhancement in light absorption efficiency has been achieved in the optimized nanophotonic light-trapping structure



More than a **week** to **pattern** the optimal design on a **4 inch wafer** using the state-of-the-art e-beam lithography (EBL), costs **thousands of dollar** by accounting for the total cost of ownership (TCO)



C. Wang, S. Yu, W. Chen, C. Sun, *Sci. Rep.*, 2013

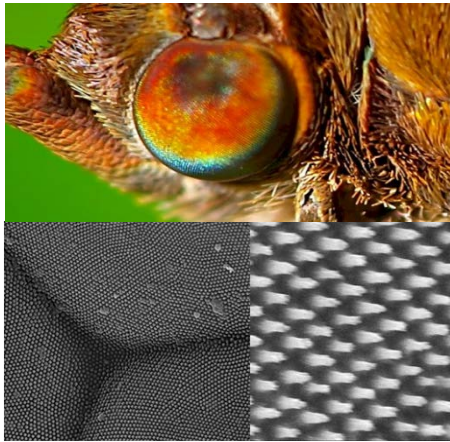
S. Yu, C. Wang, C. Sun, W. Chen, *Struct. Multidisc. Optim.*, 2014

**IDEAL**  
Integrated D<sub>E</sub>sign  
Automation Laboratory

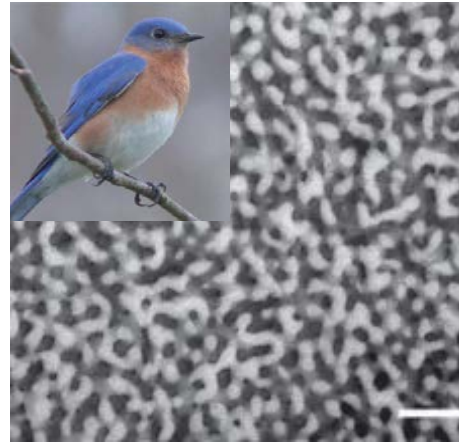
# Quasi-random Structures in Nature

## Nanophotonic structures in nature

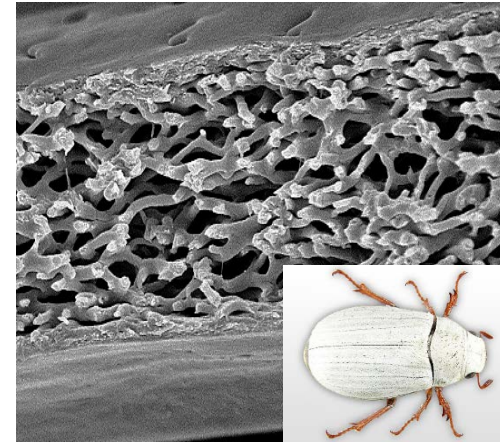
Moth-eye



Blue-bird feather barbs



Ultra-white beetle scale



Periodic



Quasi-random

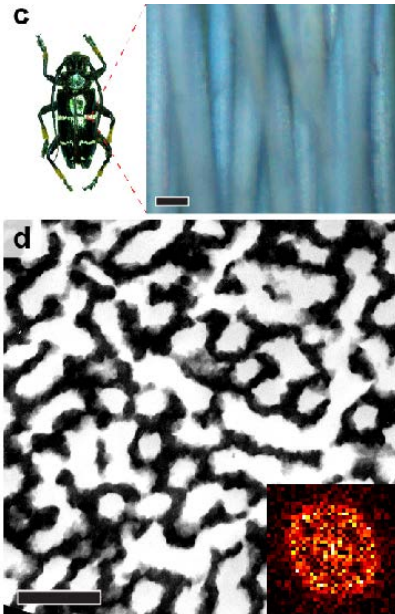


Random



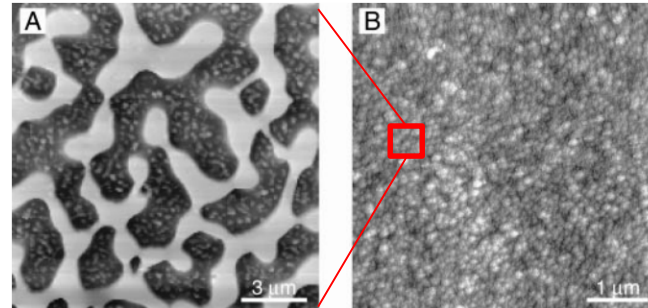
# Cost-Effective Bottom-up Fabrications

**Biological quasi-random nanostructures from self-assembly of biological medium**



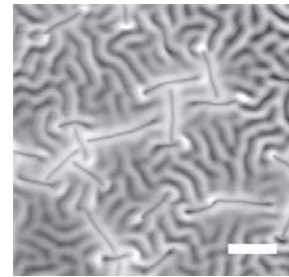
S. Yu, C. Wang, B. Dong, Z. Jiang, J. Zi, W. Chen, C. Sun, Submitted, 2015

Functional quasi-random nanostructures from **bottom-up processes**:



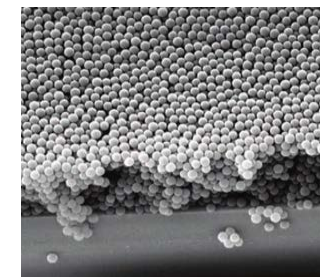
S. Walheim, et al, Science, 1999

**Polymer phase-separated anti-reflection coating**



W. H. Koo, et al., Nat. Pho., 2011

**Nano-wrinkled LED**



J. D. Forster, et al, Adv. Mat., 2010

**Particle assembling structural color**



# Spectral density function (SDF)

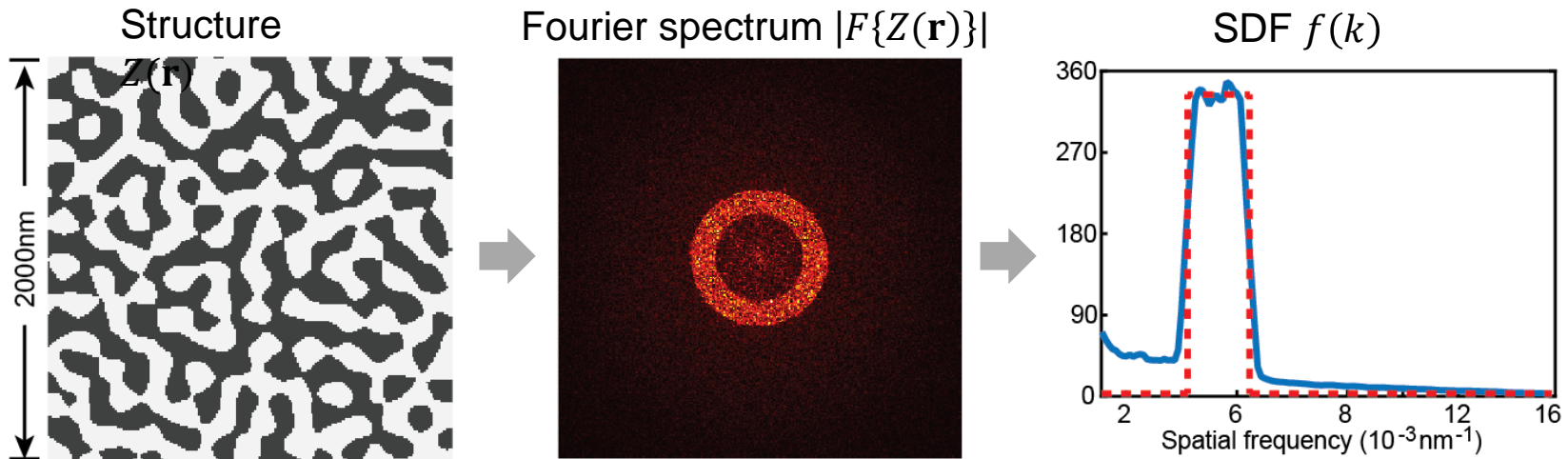
37

Fourier transformation of structure  $Z(\mathbf{r})$

$$F\{Z(\mathbf{r})\} = A_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot e^{i\phi_{\mathbf{k}}},$$

Spectral density function SDF calculation

$$f(k) = (A_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot e^{i\phi_{\mathbf{k}}}) \cdot (A_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot e^{-i\phi_{\mathbf{k}}}) / C$$



SDF describe the structure spatial correlation in frequency domain

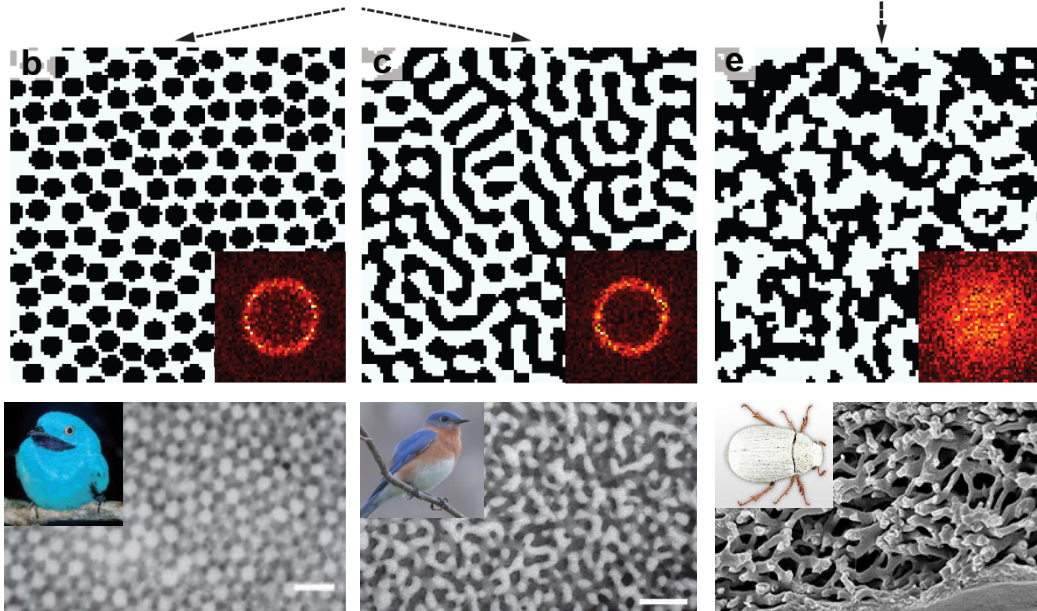
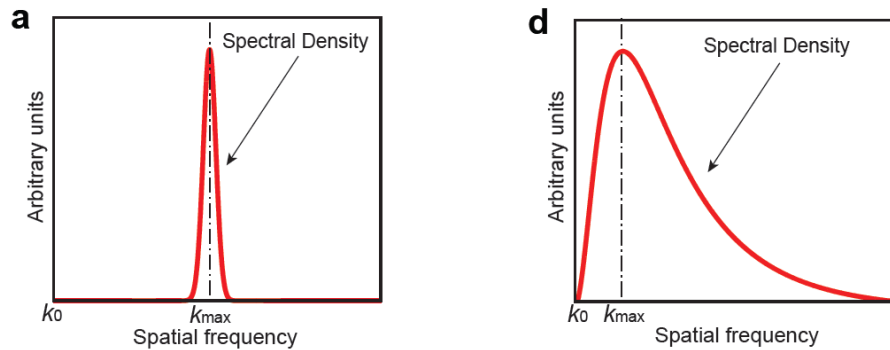
*Best Paper Award, 42th ASME Design Automation Conference, for paper Yu et al. "Characterization and Design of Functional Quasi-Random Nanostructured Materials using Spectral Density Function"*



# Spectral Density Function for Non-deterministic Quasi-Random Structure Representation

## Spectral density function (SDF):

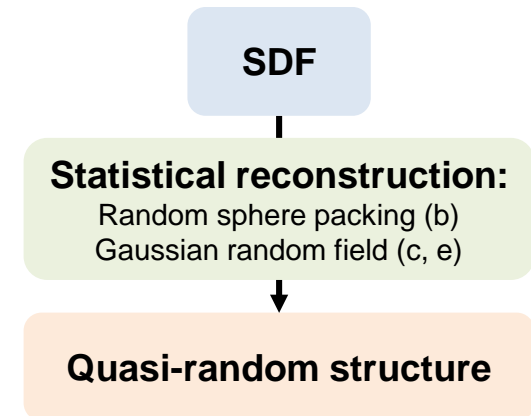
1D function of Fourier components distribution over spatial frequency



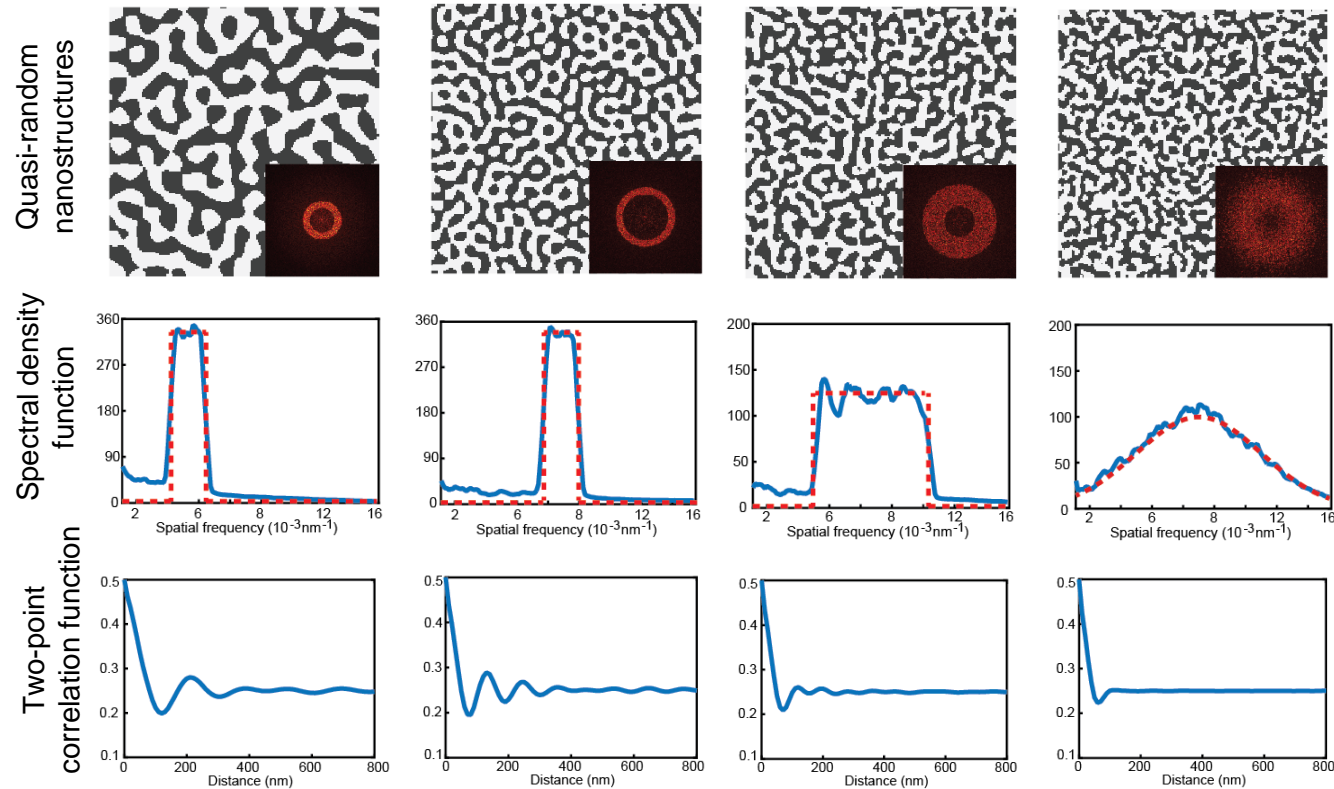
5: Dufresne E. R. et al, *Soft Matter*, 2009

6: Vukusic P. et al, *Science*, 2007

Yu, et al. IDETC, 2016



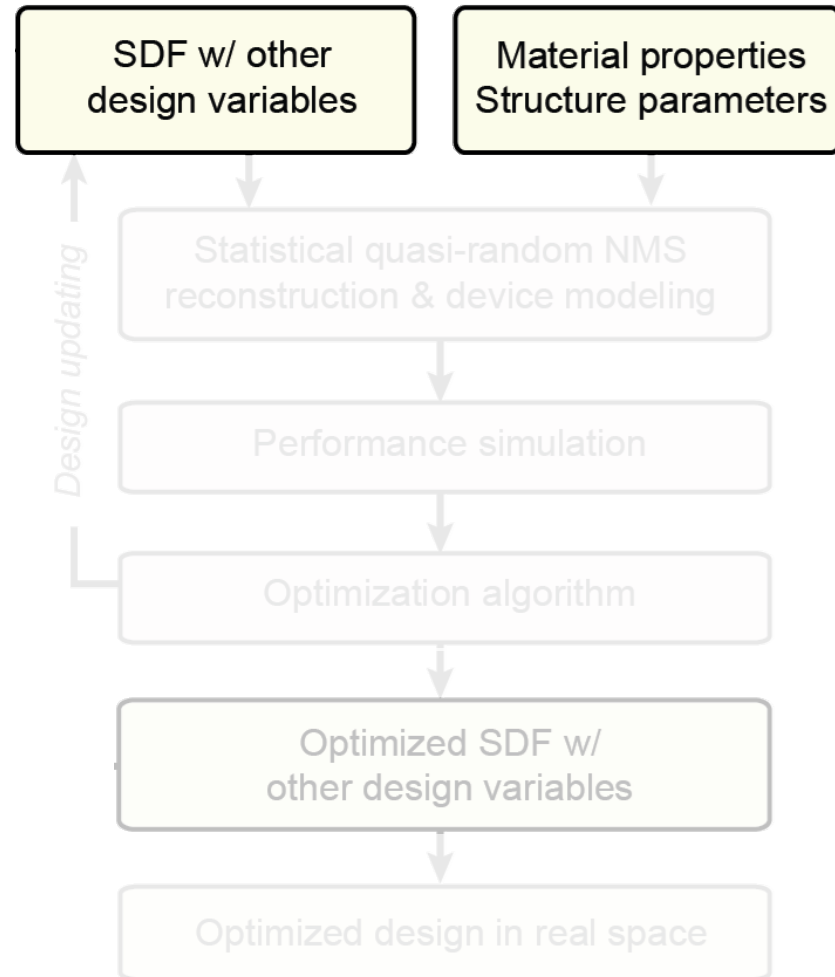
# Spectral Density Function vs Correlation Function



- SDF captures the differences between structures more clearly than the conventional 2-point correlation function.
- Smaller number of parameters and fast reconstruction enable rapid explorations of optimal fabricable nanostructures

# SDF based computational design methodology of quasi-random nanostructure materials

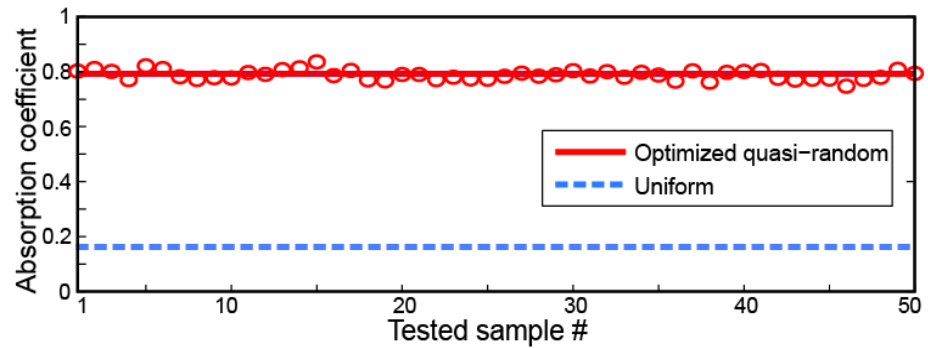
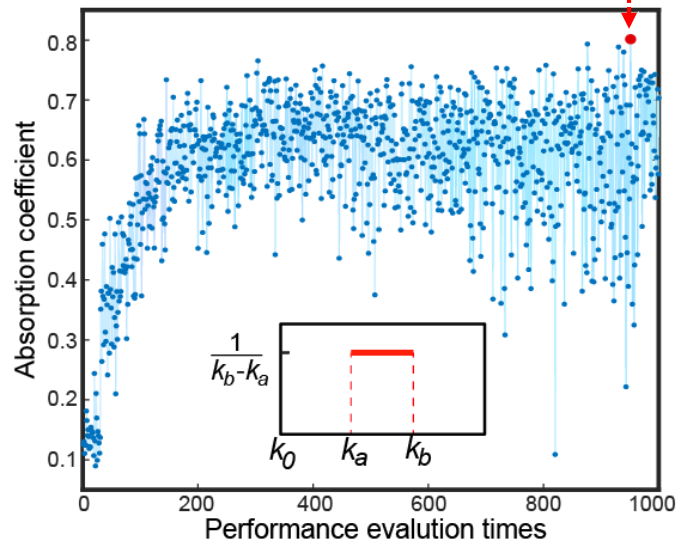
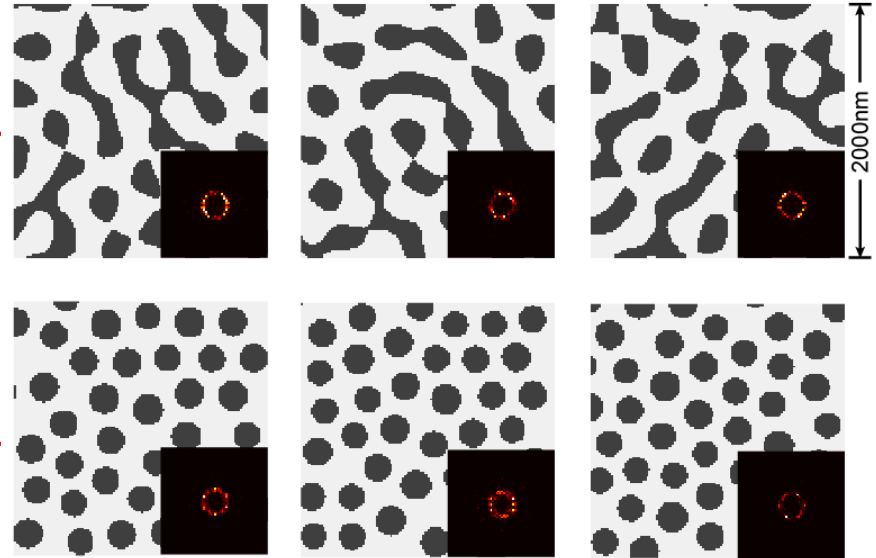
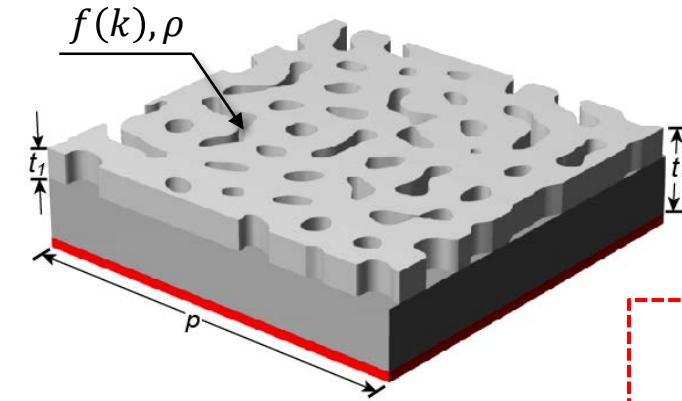
40





# Designing quasi-random light-trapping nanostructure assuming a step SDF (single-wavelength)

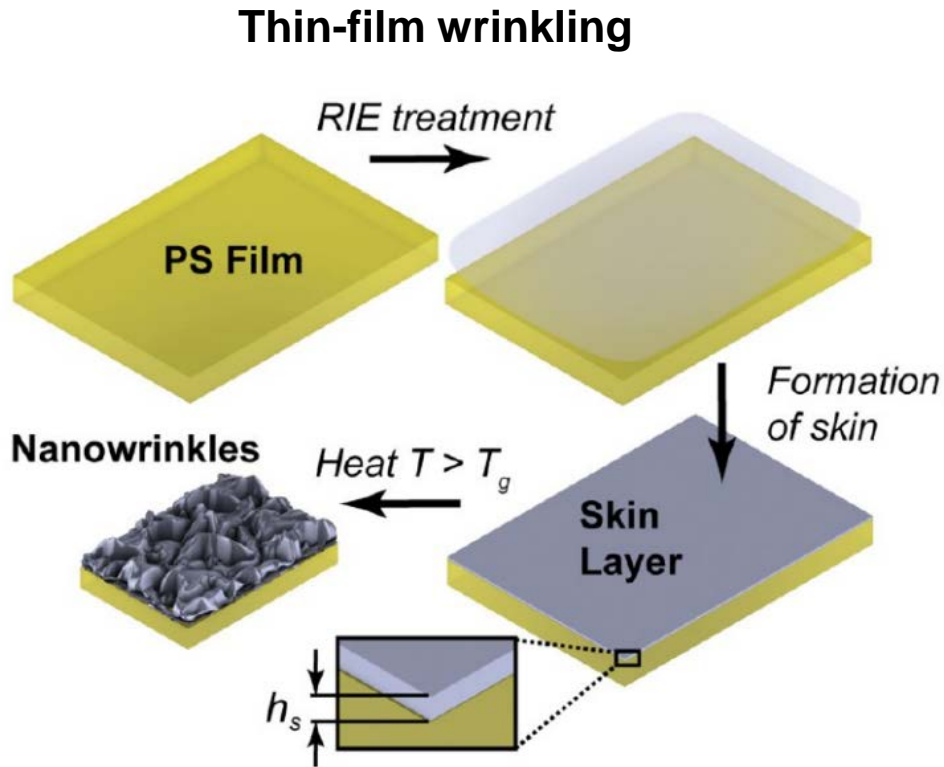
41



$$k_a^* = 0.0029\text{nm}^{-1}, k_b^* = 0.0030\text{nm}^{-1}, \rho^* = 62\%, t_1^* = 75\text{nm}$$

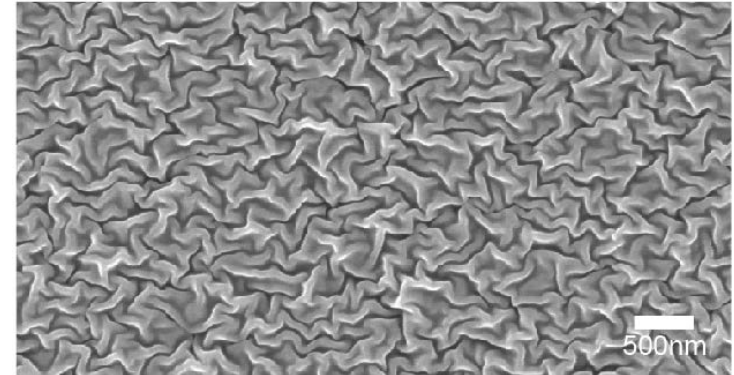


# Scalable fabrication of quasi-random nanostructure using wrinkle lithography and the corresponding SDF

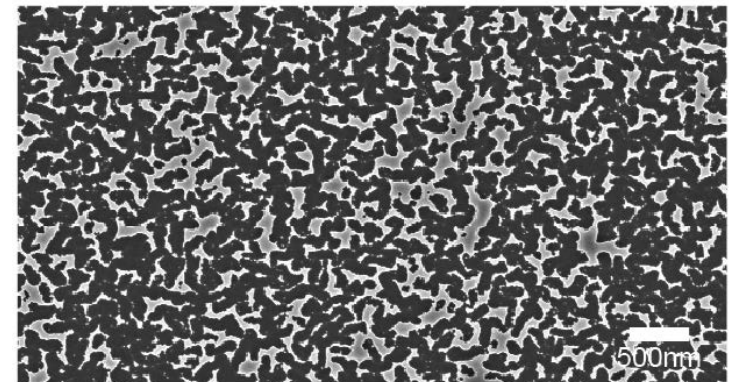


Prof. Teri W. Odom Group

Control wrinkle wavelength  $\lambda_w$

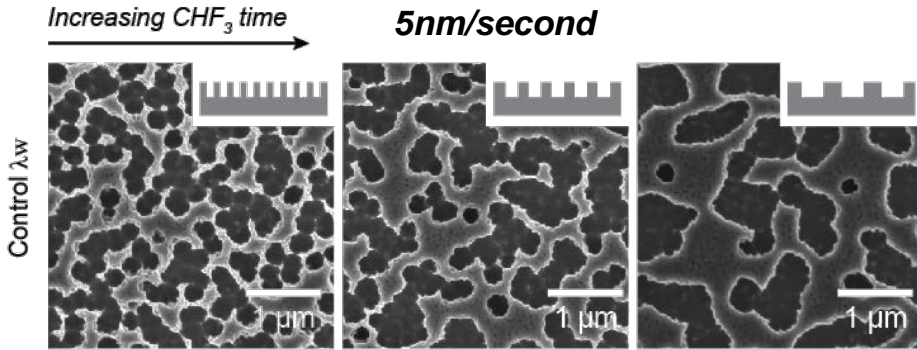


Wrinkle ↓ patterning

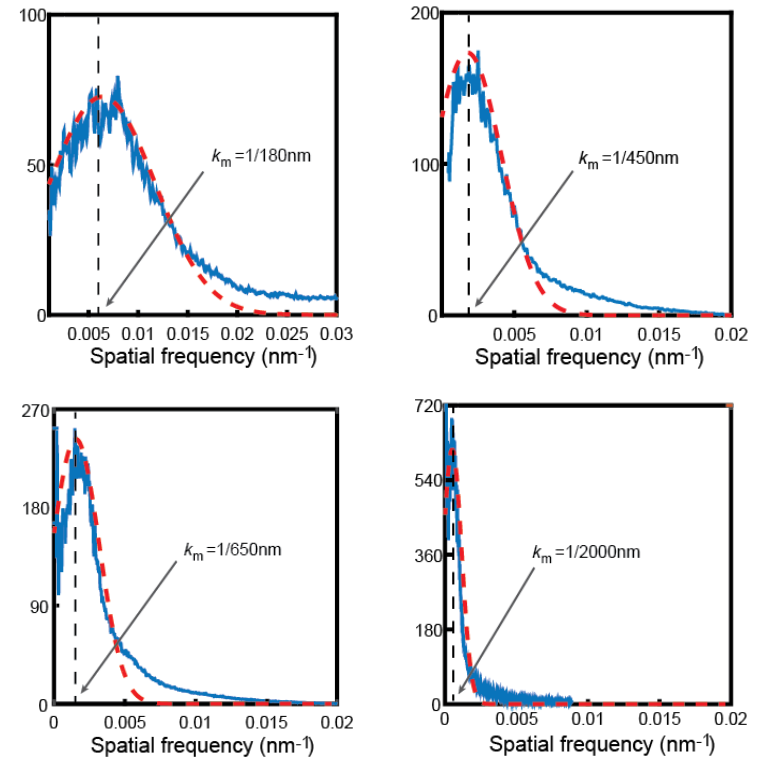


Control filling ratio  $\rho$  and depth  $t_1$

# Processing-structure mapping and SDF derivation for wrinkle pattern



## SDF derivation for wrinkle pattern

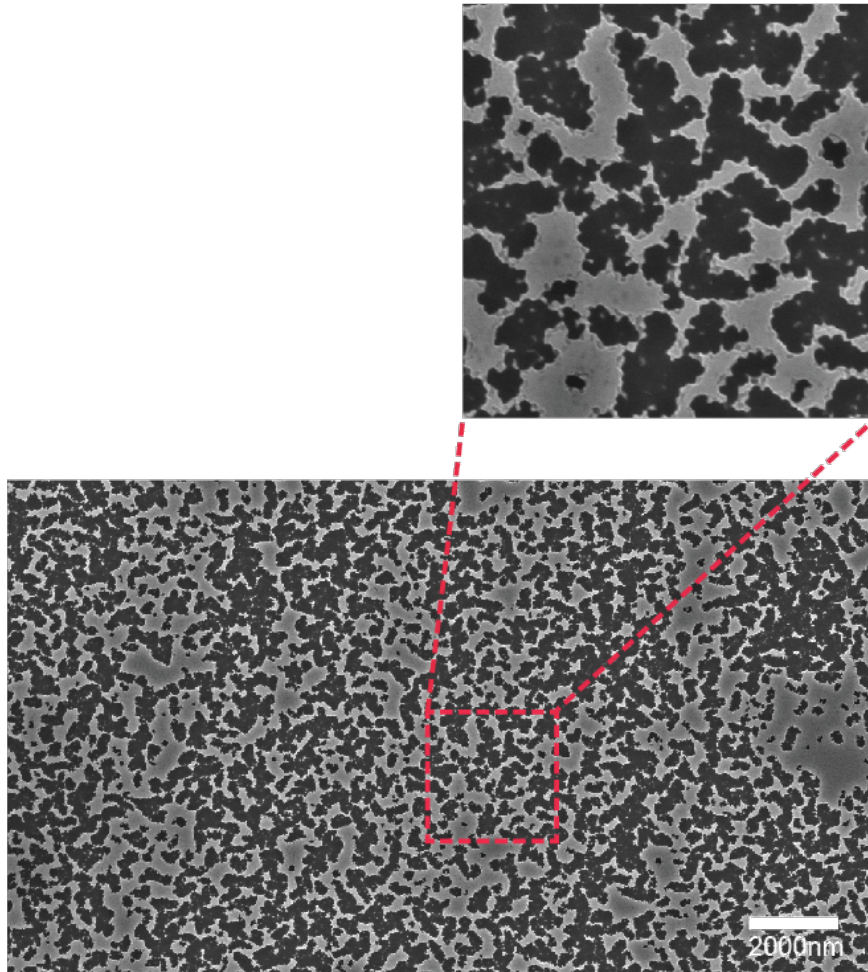


$$\text{SDF} \sim N(\mu, \sigma);$$

$$\mu = k_m = 1/\lambda_w, \quad \sigma = 0.958/\lambda + 0.00017$$

# Concurrent design of quasi-random light-trapping nanostructure fabricated by wrinkle lithography

44



$$\max_Z A(Z(k_m, \rho, t_1), t, \lambda);$$

$$k_m^* = 0.0018\text{nm}^{-1}, \rho^* = 52\%, \text{ and } t_1^* = 210\text{nm}$$





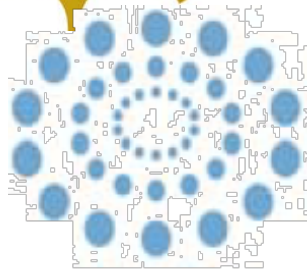
# Closure

- Materials system is a complex engineered system that can benefit from state-of-the-art computational design methods.
- Stochasticity plays a critical role in material behavior prediction.
- Design and manufacturability are highly coupled in materials design.
- Big data and lack of data co-exist in materials informatics.



# Acknowledgements

46



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY  
*Northwestern University*

**NU Collaborators:** Cate Brinson, Cheng Sun, Teri Odem,  
Jian Cao, Wing Kam Liu, Sinan Keten

