Filter Media Simulation and Filter Processes Simulation Based on µCT Scans and SEM Images

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How can simulations help to improve a filter?

Step 1: Understand the existing filter material

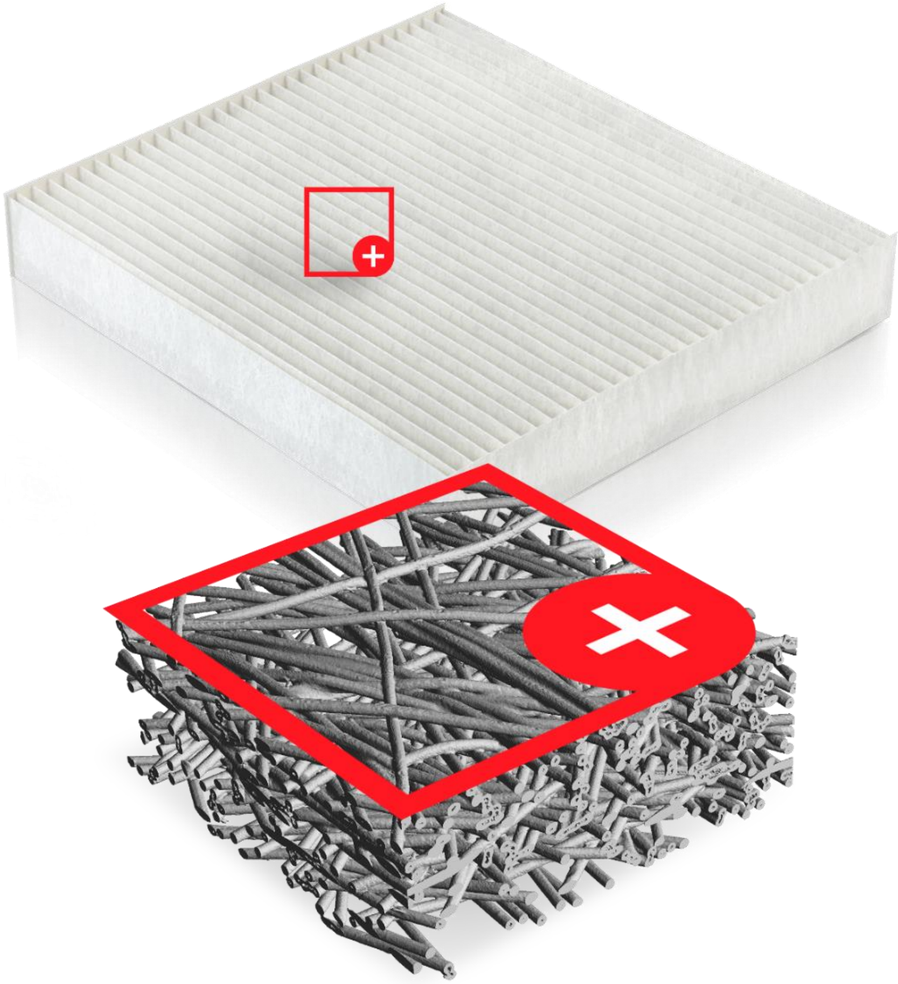
- CT Scan
- Simulations on CT Scan

Step 2: Create a model of the existing material

- Analyze CT Scan
- Create structure model
- Simulations on Structure model

Step 3: Modify the structure model

Sample Structure: Cabin Air Filter



- Commercially available filter
- CT scan by service provider RJL Micro&Analytic

Step 1:

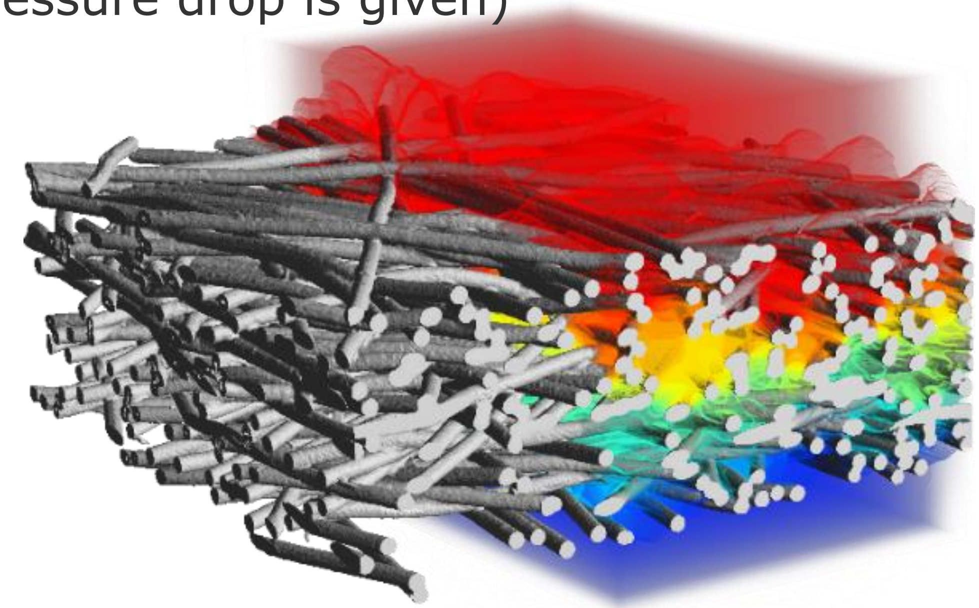
Understand the existing filter material

Determine Flow Rate or Pressure Drop

Stationary Navier-Stokes flow:

$-\mu\Delta\vec{u} + \rho(\vec{u}\cdot\nabla)\vec{u} + \nabla p = 0$ (momentum balance)
$\nabla\cdot\vec{u} = 0$ (mass conservation)

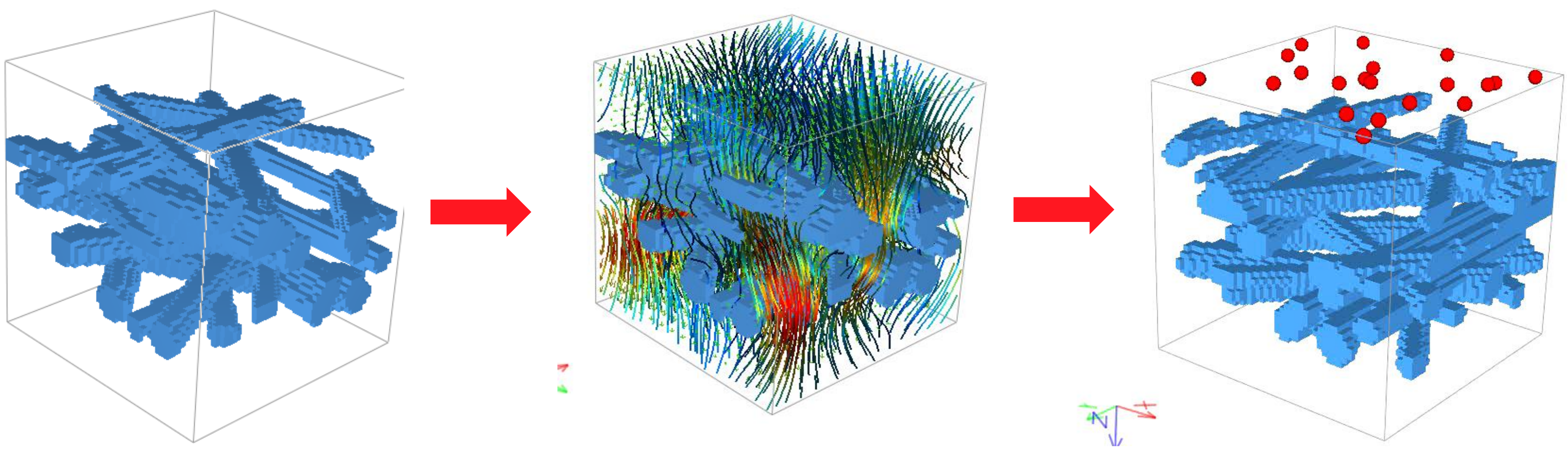
$\vec{u} = 0$ on Γ (no-slip on surface)
$P_{in} = P_{out} + const$ (pressure drop is given)



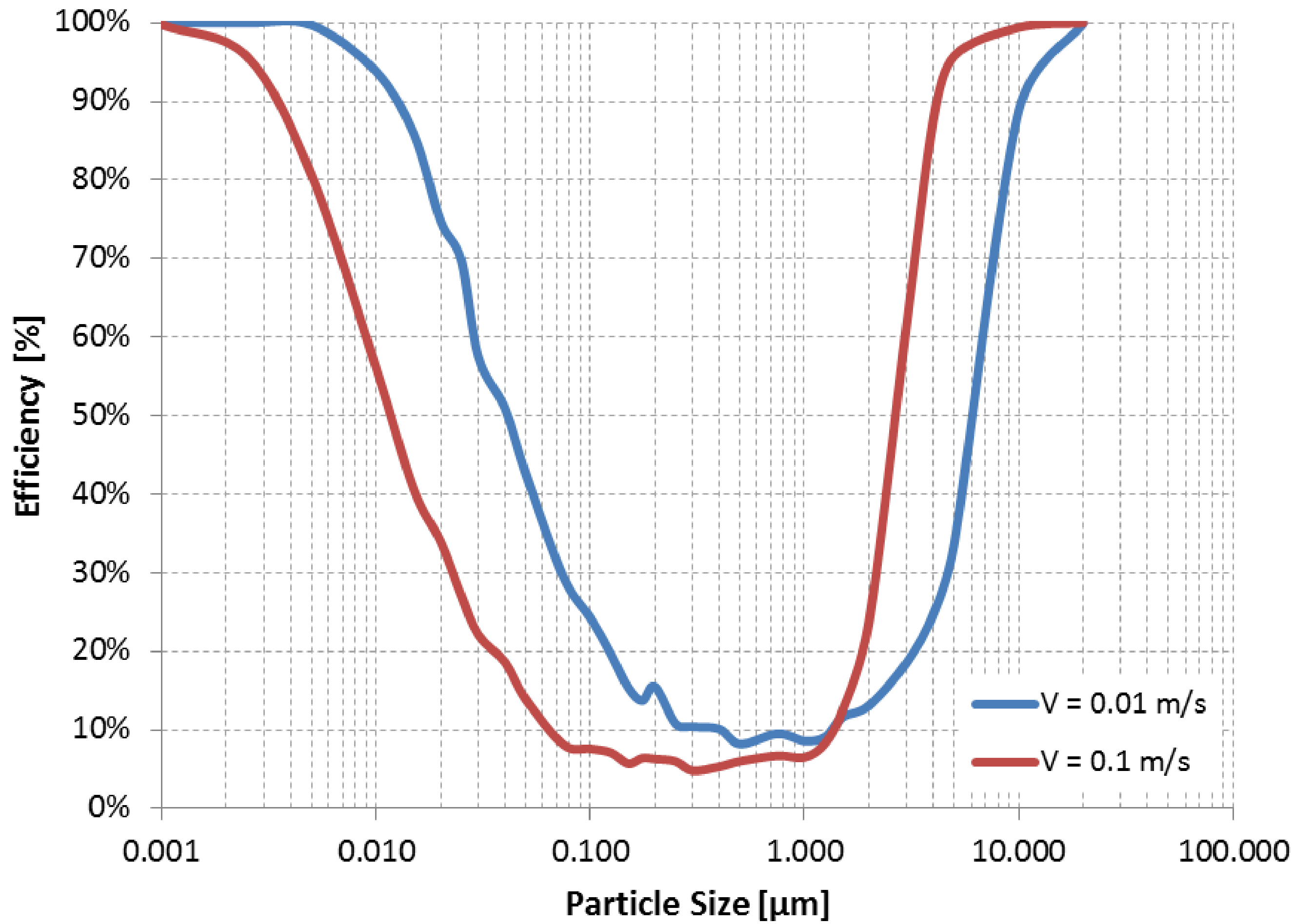
$\vec{u}$: velocity
p: pressure
μ: dynamic viscosity
ρ: fluid density

Efficiency of Clean Filter Media: Method

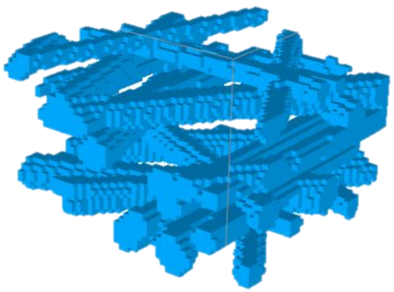
1. Filter media model
2. Determine flow field
3. Track particles (filtered or not?)
4. Result: percentage of filtered particles of each size



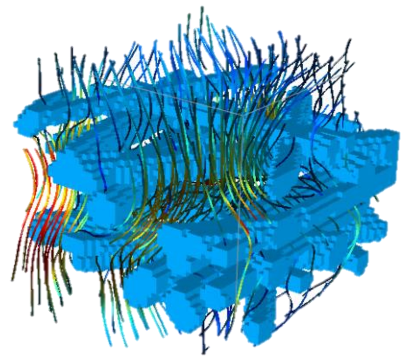
Cabin Air Filter
Fractional Efficiency (w/o Electrostatic Attraction)



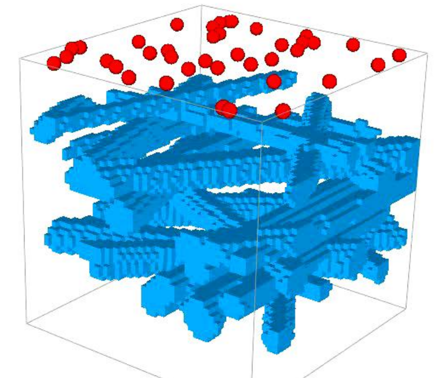
Filter Life Time Simulation - Method



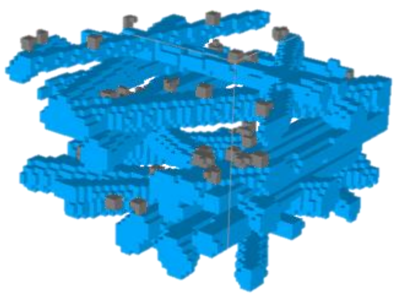
1. Filter Model



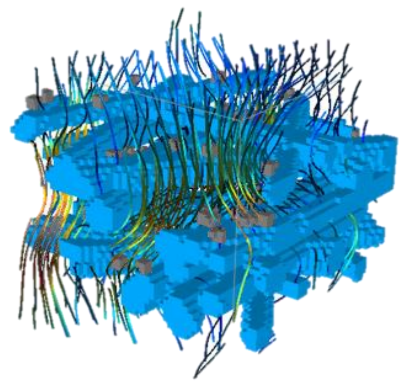
2. Flow Field



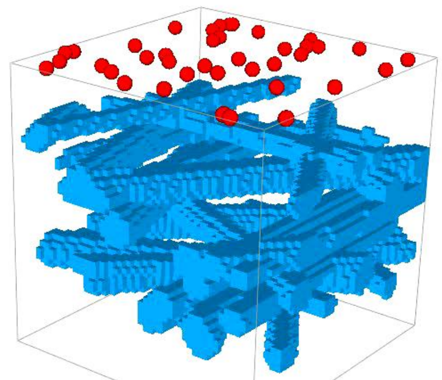
3. Track Particles



4. Deposit Particles



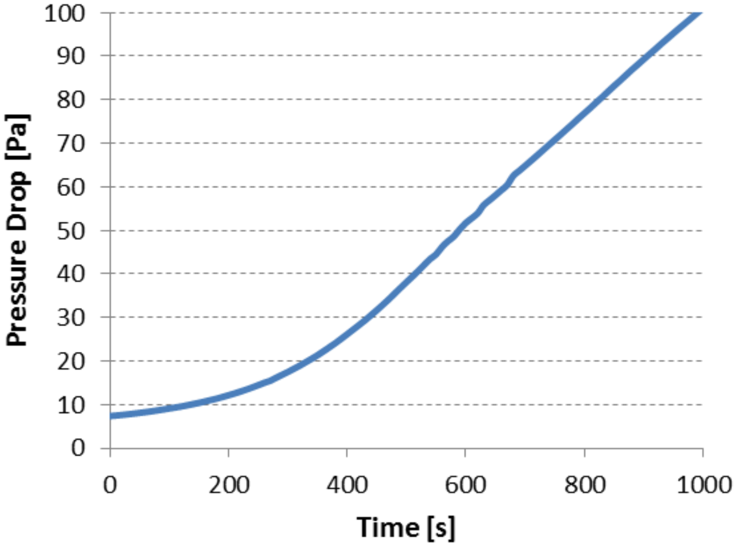
5. Recompute Flow

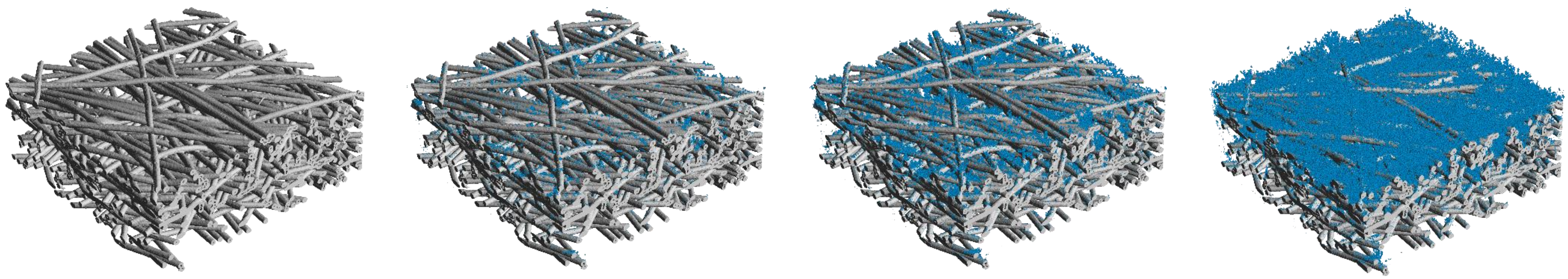


6. Repeat …

Cabin Air Filter - Life Time Simulation

Initial pressure drop	7 Pa
Pressure drop after 1000s	101 Pa
Total deposited dust after 1000s	93 g/m²
Total filter efficiency	93% (weigth)





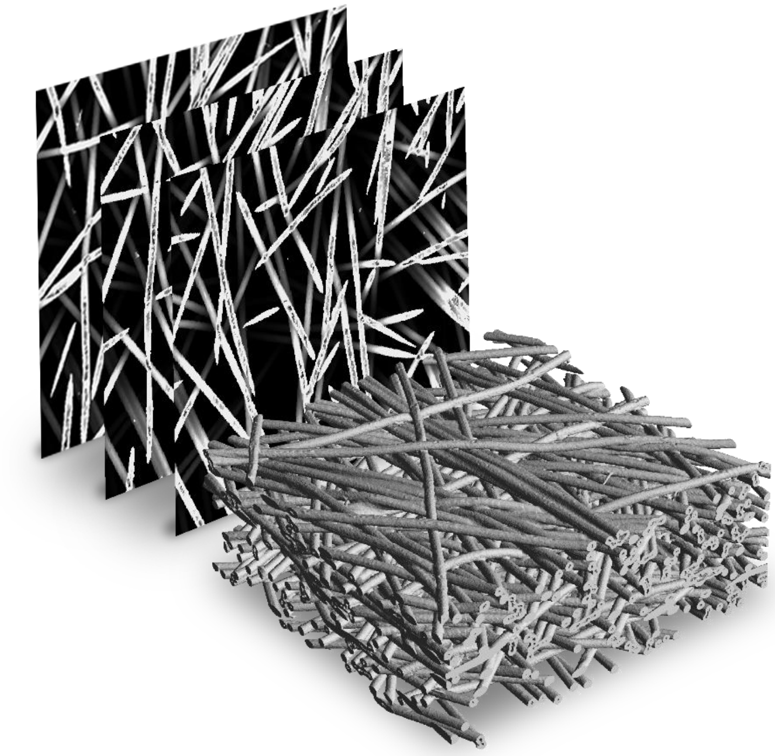
Step 2:

Create a model of the existing material

Creating a filter model

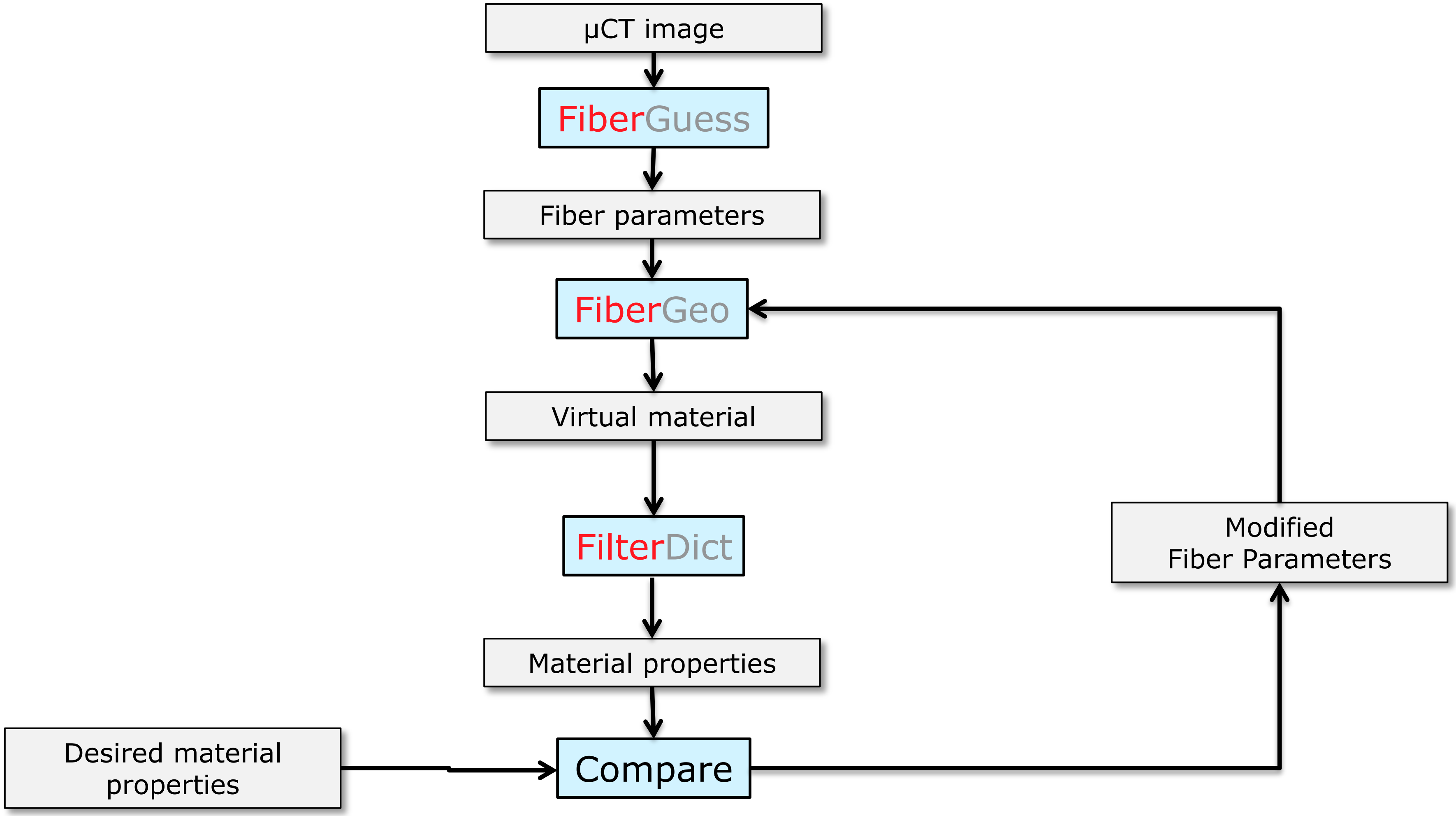
Why create a filter model?

- A CT scan is an image!
  - It can only be changed voxel-by-voxel.
  - It is not possible to remove a fiber
  - It is not possible to change diameters or shape

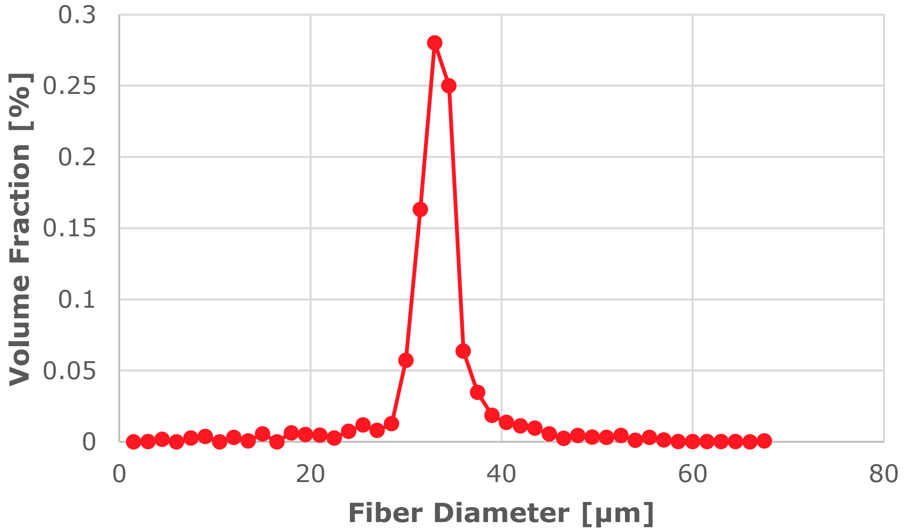


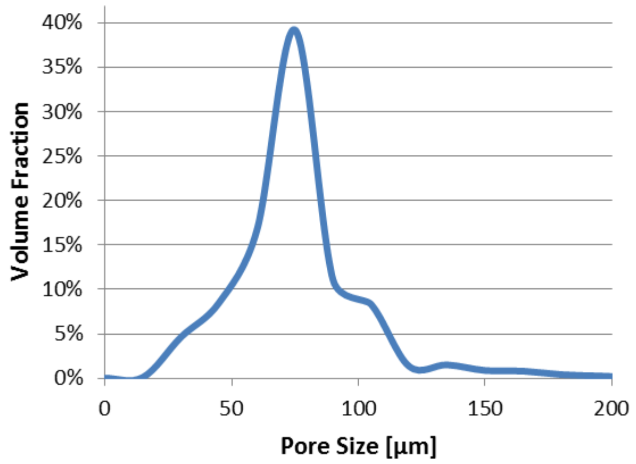
=> We need to "understand" the image!

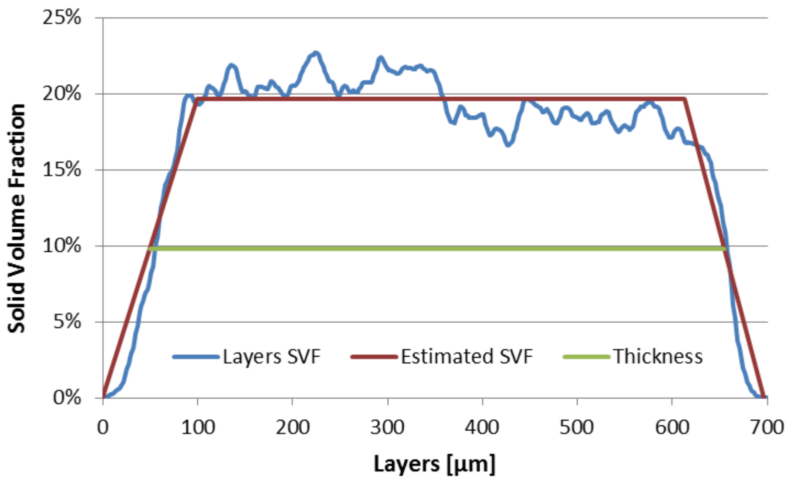
GeoDict Workflow



Geometric Analysis I:
Media Thickness, Porosity, Pore Sizes, Fiber Diameter



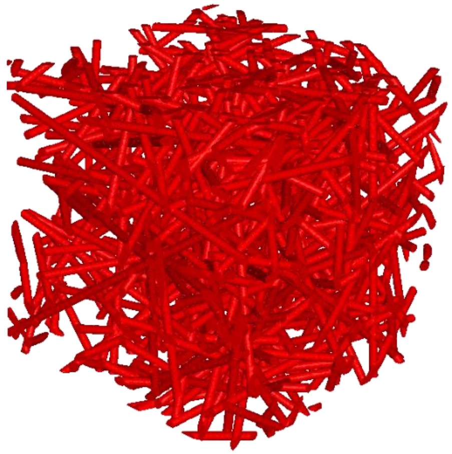




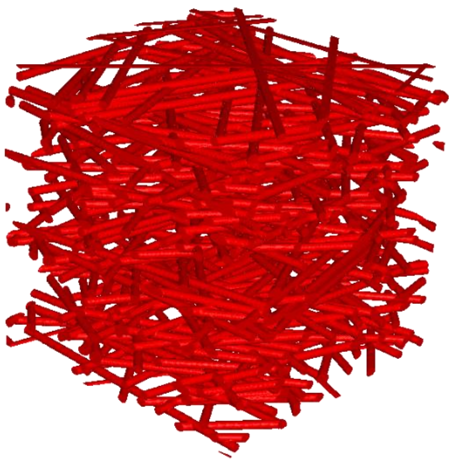
Average fiber diameter: 33.6 µm
Porosity: 80.4 %
Thickness: 605 µm

Geometric Analysis II: Fiber Orientation

How is fiber orientation measured?



0.33	0	0
0	0.33	0
0	0	0.33



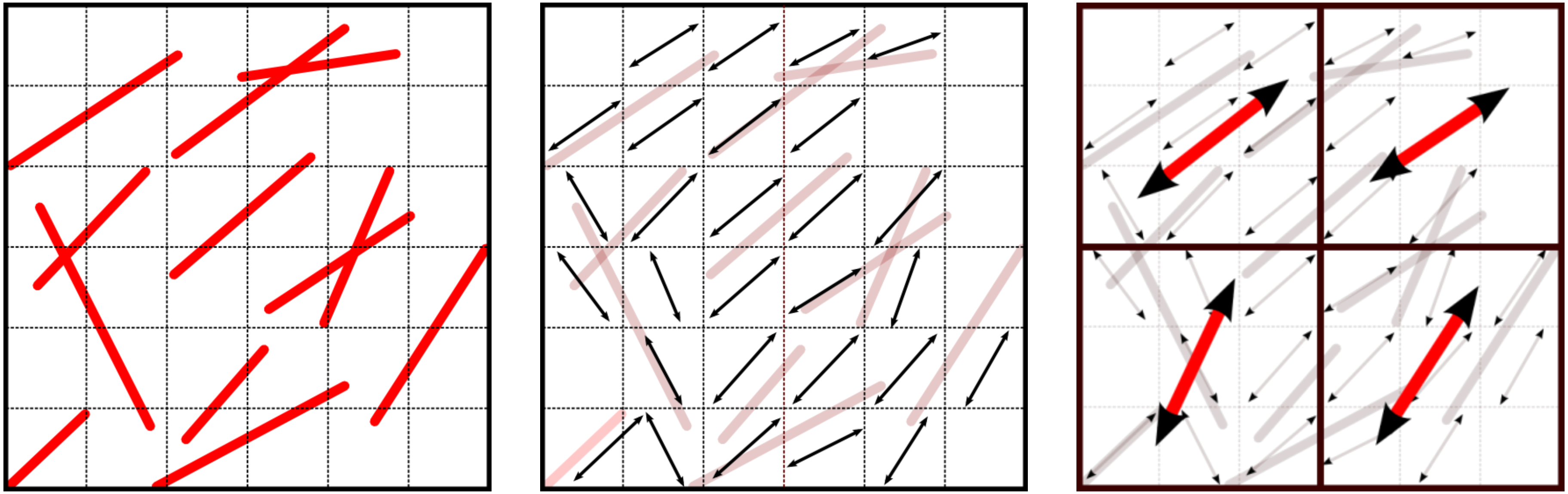
0.5	0	0
0	0.5	0
0	0	0

0.9	0	0
0	0.05	0
0	0	0.05

Orientation tensor describes probability of direction component.

Orientation analysis – Method 1: Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

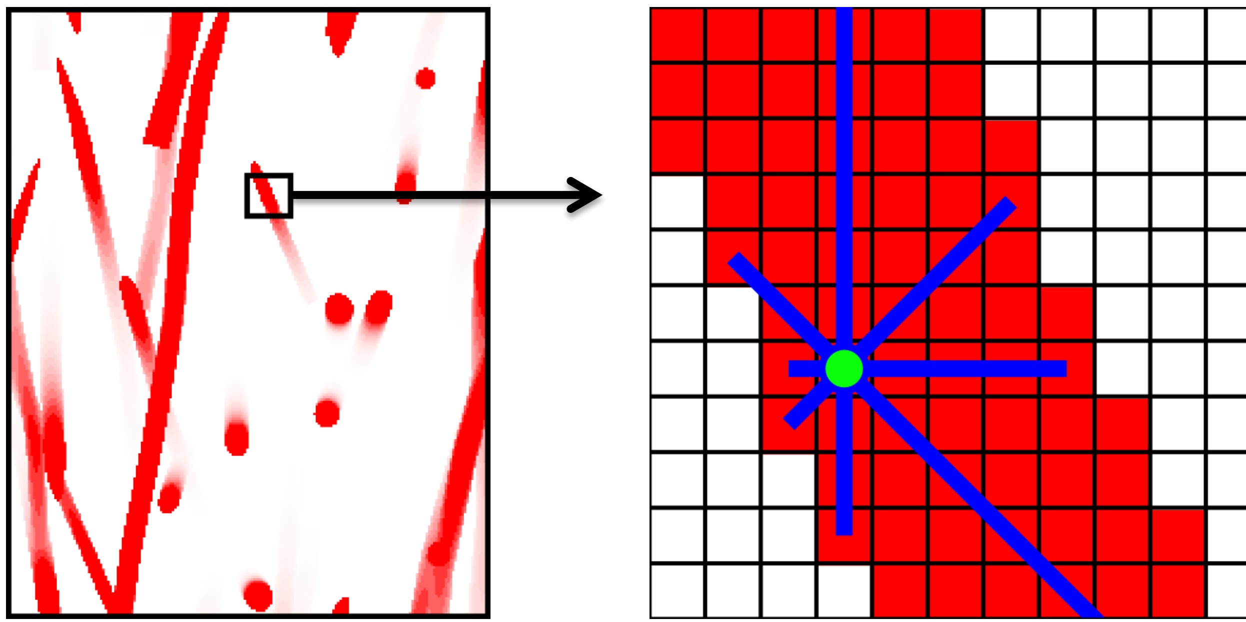
1. PCA subdivides domain into windows of given size
   - Automatic window size estimates about 2x fiber diameter
2. For each window, finds fiber fragments and analyzes direction tensor
3. For each block, averages direction tensors over windows in that block



Orientation analysis – Method 2: Star Length Distribution (SLD)

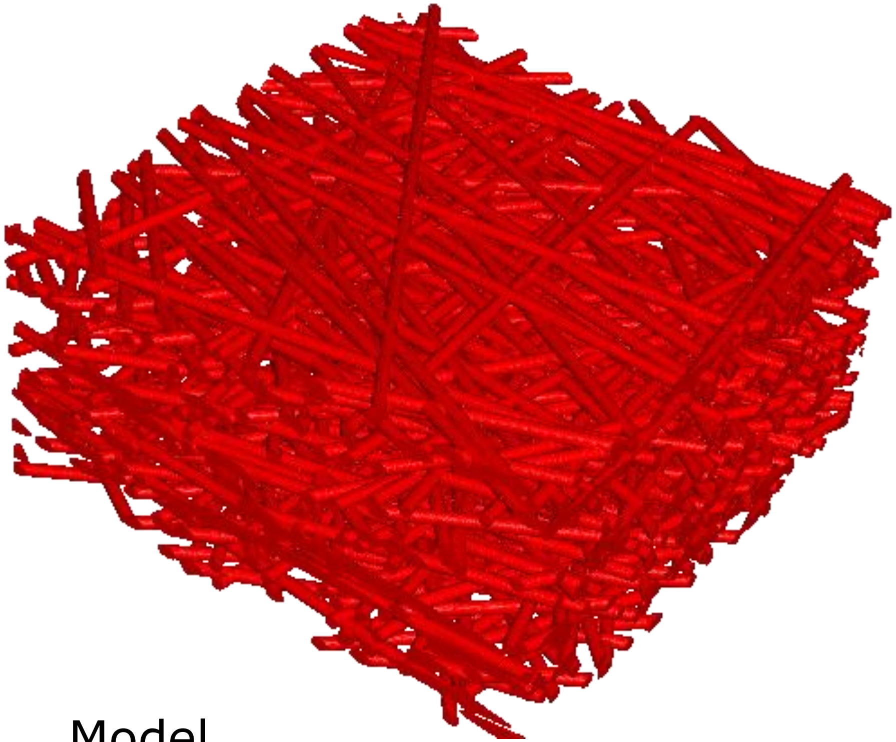
- For each voxel, SLD analyzes chord lengths through it for fixed set of directions
- The relative length of the chords gives per-voxel orientation tensor
- The tensors are averaged over all voxels in the block (similar to PCA)

Smit, Th H., E. Schneider, and A. Odgaard. "Star length distribution: a volume-based concept for the characterization of structural anisotropy." *Journal of microscopy* 191 (1998): 249-257.



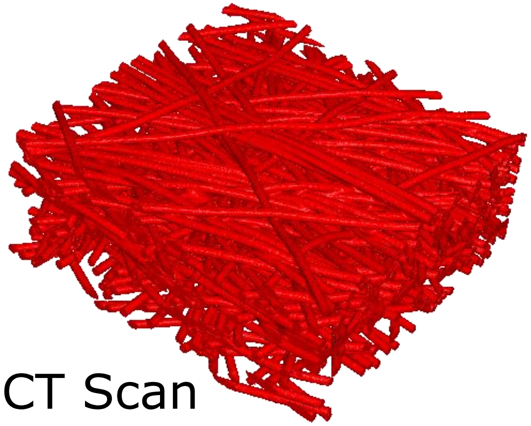
Comparison of CT Scan and Model

CT Scan

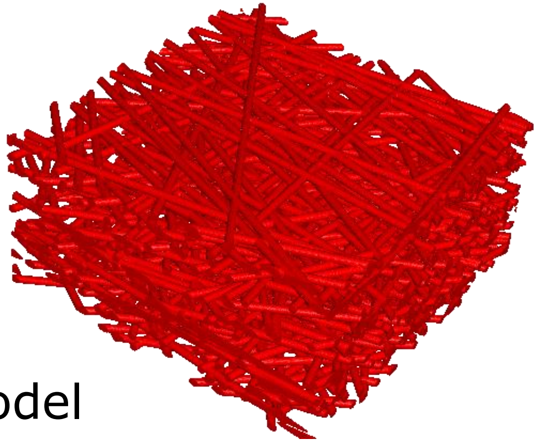


Model

Comparison of CT Scan and Model



CT Scan



Model

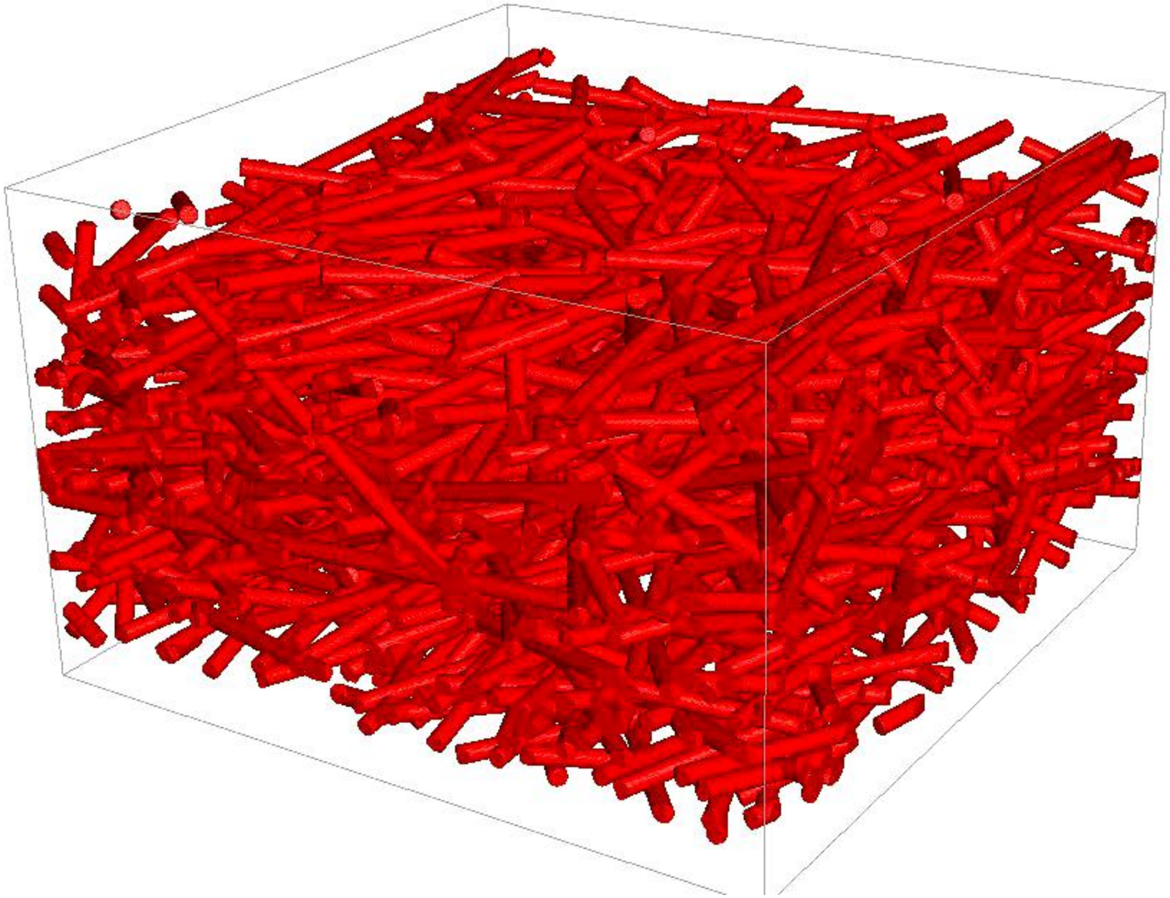
Input parameters found by CT-Scan analysis:

- media thickness
- porosity
- fiber diameter
- in-plane anisotropy

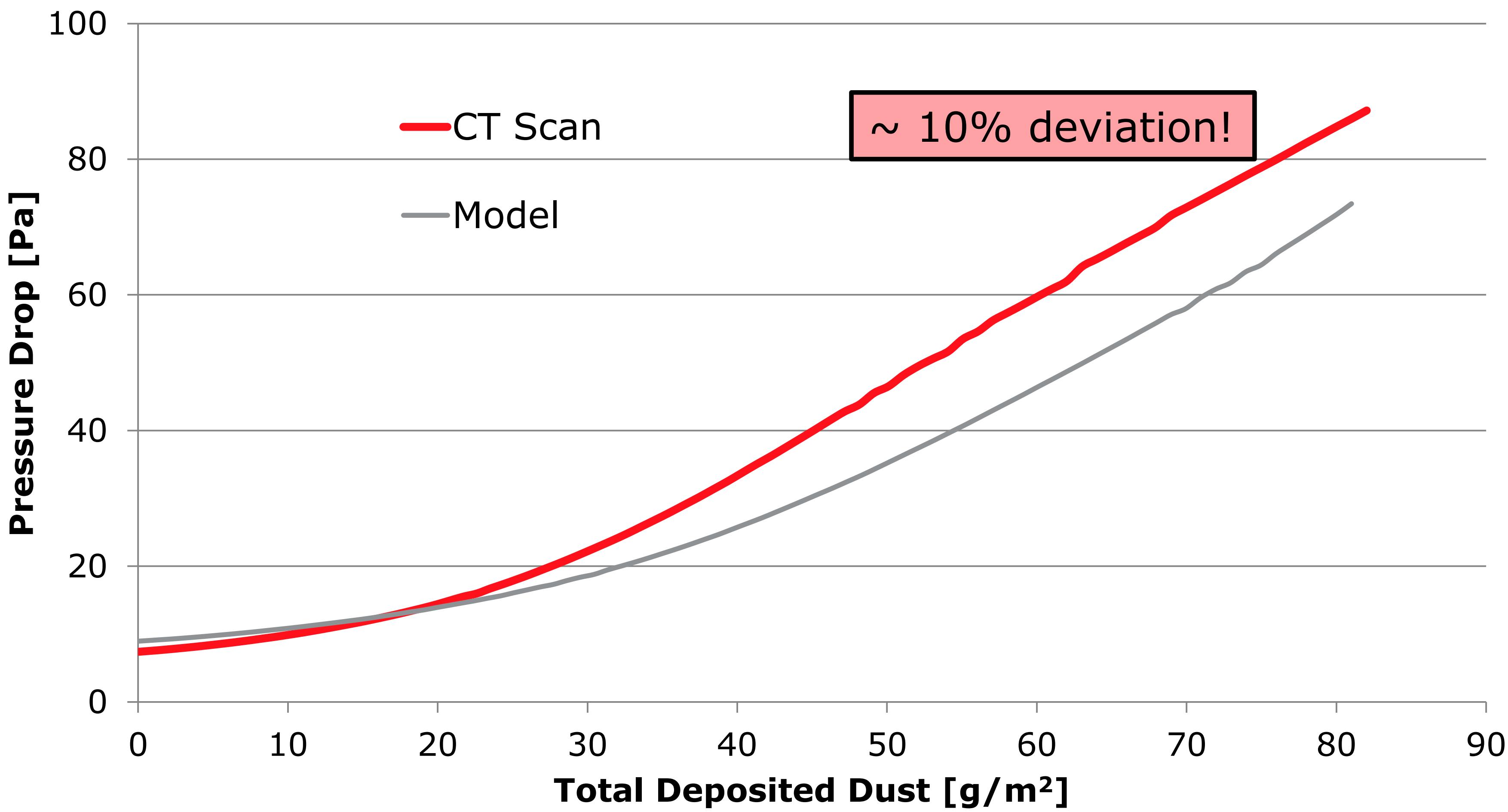
Input parameters taken from assumptions:

- straight fibers
- fibers oriented in-plane
- homogeneous distribution
- circular cross section

Filter Life Time



Filter Life Time Simulation
Comparison CT Scan vs Model

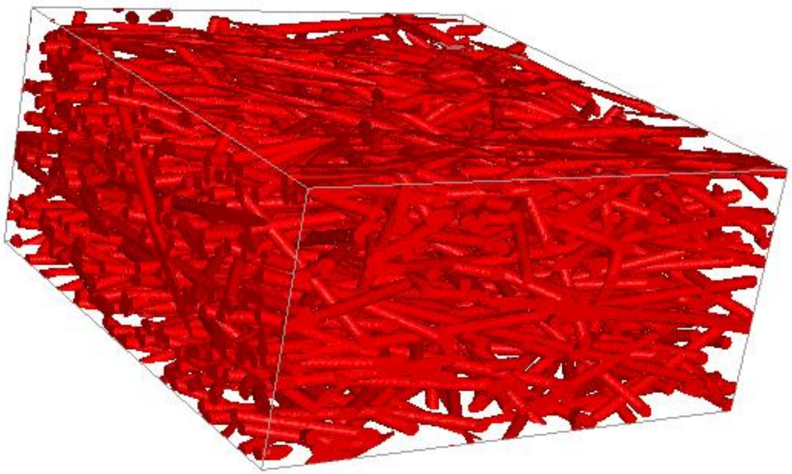


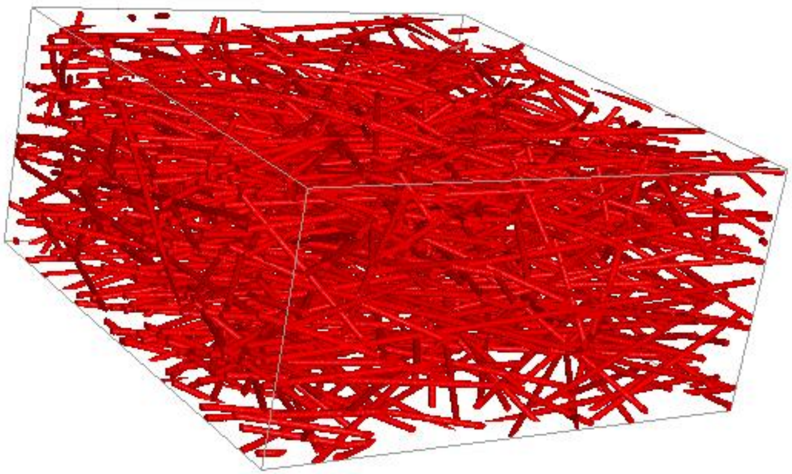
Step 3:

Modify the structure model

Possibilities in GeoDict to Vary the Structure Model

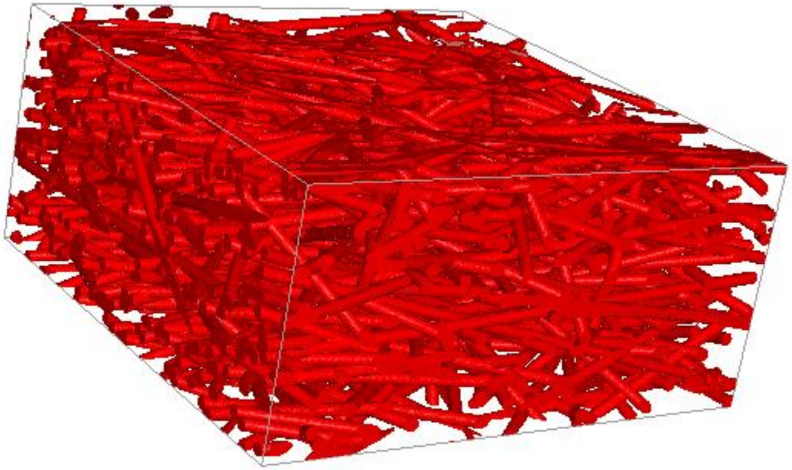
1. Fiber diameter

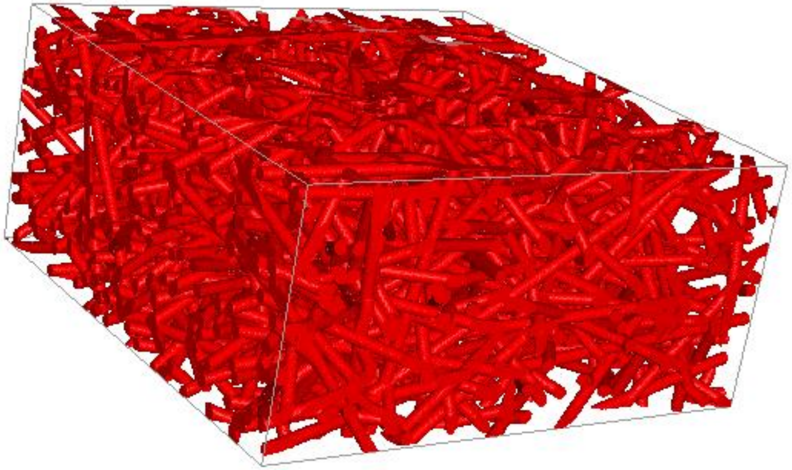




Possibilities in GeoDict to Vary the Structure Model

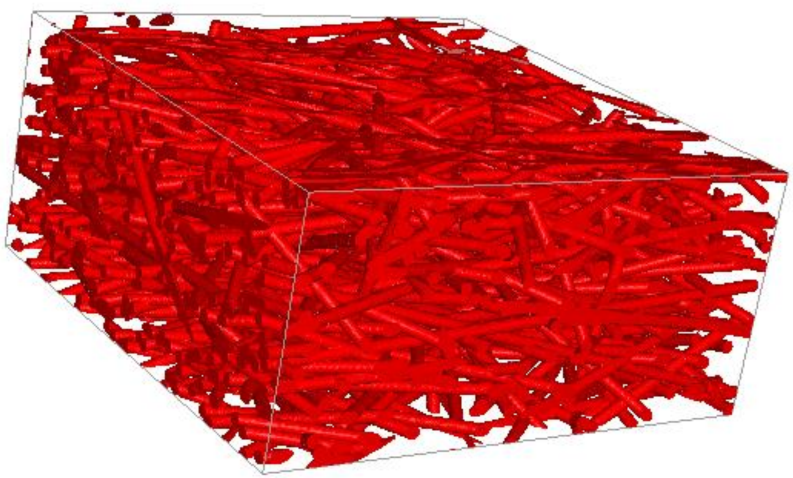
2. Fiber orientation

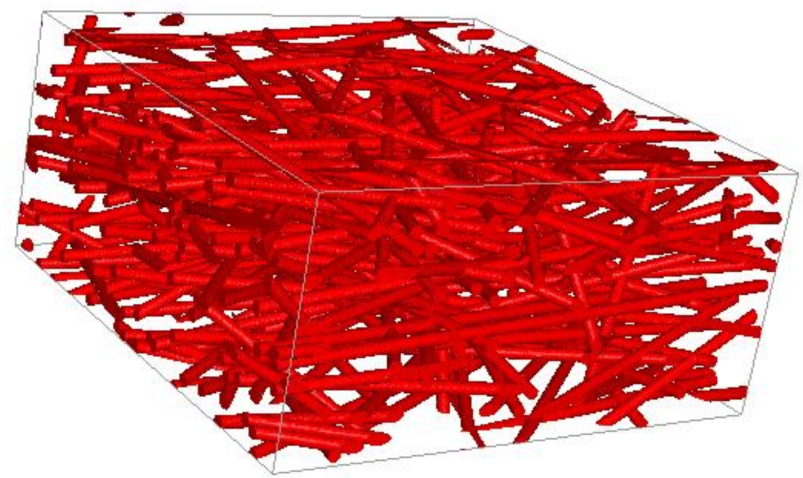




Possibilities in GeoDict to Vary the Structure Model

3. Porosity





Possibilities in GeoDict to Vary the Structure Model

4. Fiber cross sectional shape
5. Curved fibers instead of straight fibers
6. Density gradient in through-plane direction
7. Media thickness
8. ……

Summary and Outlook

Overall goal of this work:

- get from CT-Scan to Model structure automatically

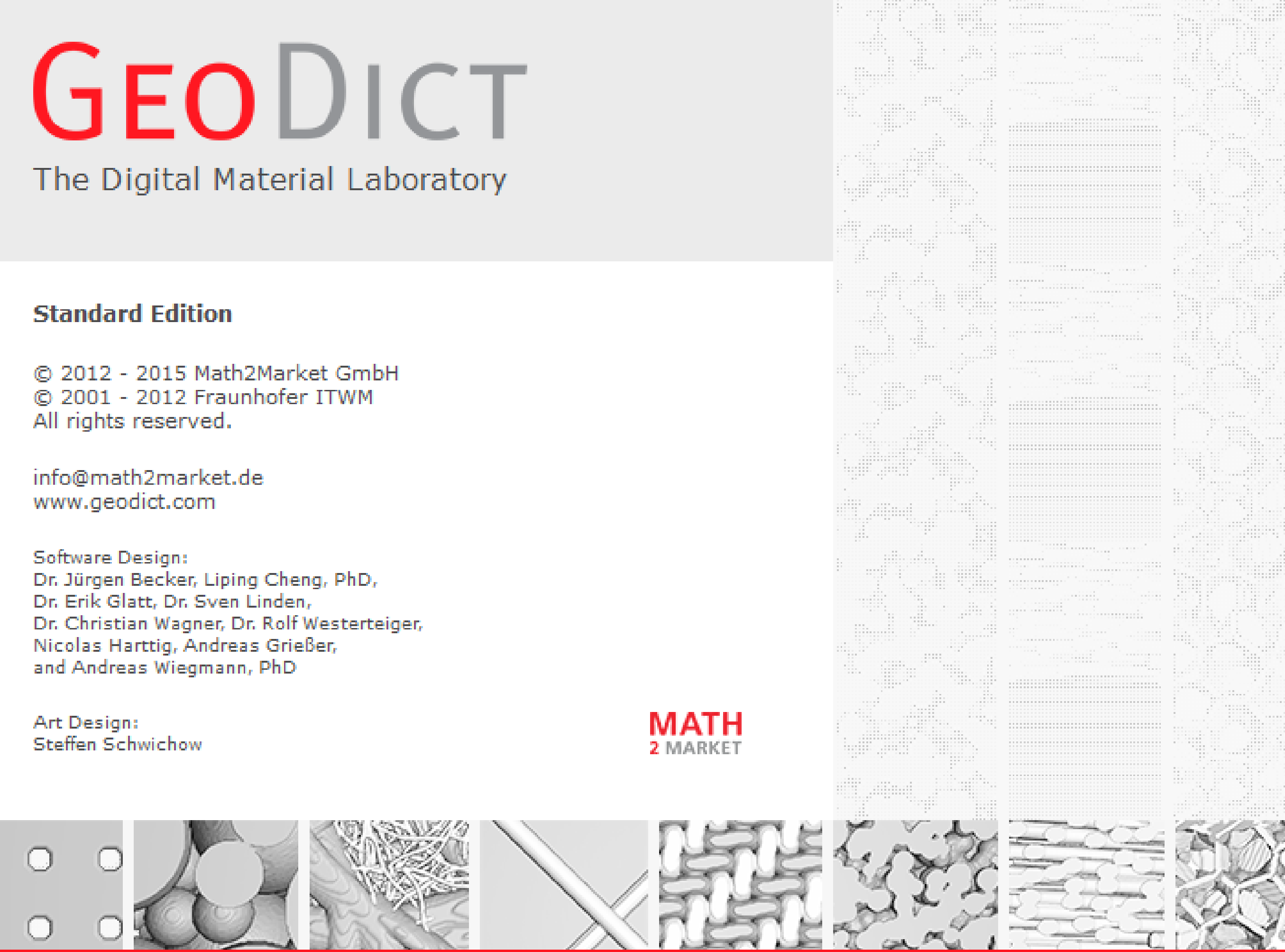
Current state:

- works for straight fibers with circular cross section

Work in progress: curved fibers with circular cross section

- Determine curvature distribution from CT
- Realize given curvature distribution in a model

Thank you!



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or

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