

DEVELOPMENT OF AN AI-BASED WORKFLOW FOR OBJECT RECOGNITION IN COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY DATA USING THE EXAMPLE OF FIBER-PLASTIC COMPOSITES

Development of an AI-based workflow for generation of structure models from CT-Data by using object detection on gray-scale data and the prediction of composite properties

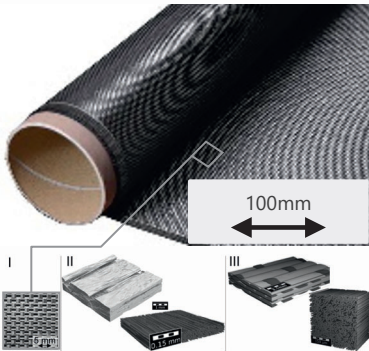
- Close the gap between CT-Data and geometry model
- Improve the Object detection based on unsegmented CT-images
- Create large high-resolution geometry models for the prediction of processing properties based on prior known structure and scan information

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Our project partners:



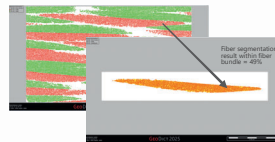
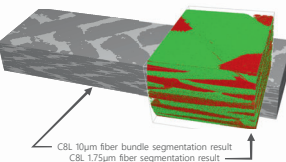
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Typical carbon fiber fabrics for FRP production (I), μCT-generated images of a fiber structure (II, top) & a fiber bundle section (II, bottom), computer-generated „replicas“ (III)

CHALLENGES BY SEGMENTATION OF 3D-DATASETS (CT-DATA)

- Low contrast between fibers and matrix material, intensified issue by additional image artifacts
- Accuracy of the segmentation with almost indistinguishable gray-values
- Detection on different scales, between individual fibers and full fiber bundles
- Artifacts and limited resolution lead to deviations in the model and the prediction
- Using easy-to-use AI-segmentation tools currently available in GeoDict
- Relevant device- and material-specific artifacts
 - Direction-dependent noise in scans
 - Direction-dependent contrast of the fibers
 - Low contrast of the fibers to the matrix
 - Displacement of and contacts between rovings
 - Resin-rich zones and locally variable fiber volume content

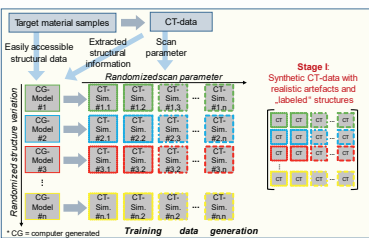


CHOICE OF MATERIAL

A carbon fiber fabric and a glass fiber fabric were selected. This allows development and validation to be carried out on both different fiber materials and semi-finished product architectures. On the one hand, the mesoscopic structure (i.e. the shape in which the fiber bundles were interlaced / sewn) is of interest in a CF fabric or a GF fabric. On the other hand, the microscopic structures, in which the individual fibers within the fiber bundles are analyzed, are also of interest.

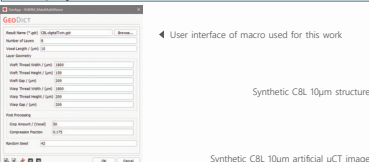
Example shown here:

- Sample thickness 2.04mm
- Carbon fibers in epoxy resin matrix
- 8 layers of G-weave woven bundles
- Full fiber bundle contains 3000 fibers with 7μm diameter
- Fiber Volume Content 44.1 vol.-%

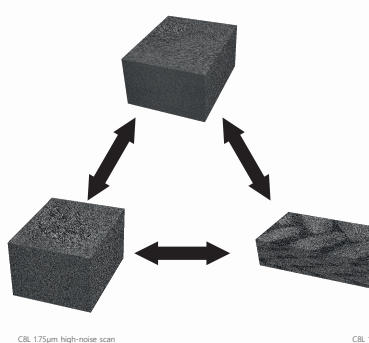


GENERATION OF SYNTHETIC CT-DATA WITH ADDED ARTIFACTS

- Investigation of μCT-scans to classify artifacts based on the μCT-parameters
- Parameter space definition for generation of synthetic μCT datasets
- Randomization of structure and scan-parameters for different synthetic μCT-datasets
- Development of a simulation environment for the generation of synthetic CT data
- Generation of μCT-datasets with GeoDict using GeoApp "Generate Artificial CT"
- Simulative generation of a large number of synthetic training datasets
- Parameter space variation for training of different neural networks
- Addition of realistic device- and method-specific imaging artefacts
- Synthetic CT data can be generated in sufficient quality fiber volume content difference between real and synthetic CT data is less than 5 percentage points according to the defined segmentation method)



CBL 175μm low-noise scan



Pairs of low- and high-resolution data combined with aligned overview data

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR OBJECT DETECTION AND SUPER-RESOLUTION

- Development of an AI-based method for information enrichment of μCT data based on a priori information
- Development of an AI-based method for information enrichment of μCT data based on data sets from multiple μCT scans
- Development of an AI-based method for object recognition in μCT data
- Conceptualization and prototypical development of the entire novel AI-based workflow in GeoDict-AI
- Use both real and synthetic CT-data for training, testing and validation of AI for object detection
- Integrate a-priori information for identification of objects on different scales
- The a-priori-information could be used to simplify segmentation or to correct unrealistic results

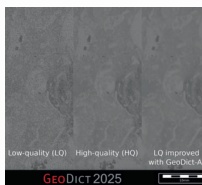
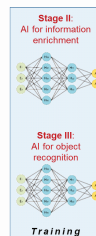


Image enhancement with GeoDict-AI



GEODict-AI

Functionalities in GeoDict that aim to reconstruct 3D models obtained from segmented computer tomography or FIB/SEM images of different multi-component materials, e.g. nonwovens and electrodes.

Provides the possibility of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) approaches for the separation of the different material during image segmentation.

Using the GeoDict structure generation modules to generate training data for the right parameter ranges to match the statistical properties for the considered materials.

Train and apply a custom neural network in GeoDict AI. A neural network can be trained to enhance the image quality.

AI FOR THE GENERATION OF SIMULATION MODELS FOR MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT FROM CT DATA

In the research project, K4MaterialModeling, funded by the German federal ministry of education and research, introduces an AI-powered workflow designed to enhance geometry model creation from μCT data, targeting both efficiency and accuracy to meet the needs of advanced material development.

The primary objective of K4MaterialModeling is to develop a comprehensive, AI-based approach for generating precise geometry models from μCT data, with an emphasis on fiber-reinforced polymer composites as a representative case study. The methodology builds on three interconnected AI-driven components: (1) the generation of synthetic μCT data containing realistic imaging artifacts, (2) a specialized AI model for data enrichment that enhances μCT data quality, and (3) an AI-based object recognition system to identify structural features within μCT datasets. Together, these components form a cohesive workflow that advances current capabilities.

Highlights

- Fusion of synthetic geometry model generation and μCT image segmentation tools
- Object recognition on gray value images
- AI-based information enrichment
- Application of structurally complex fiber-plastic composites promises a broad transferability to other material classes