

Fiber length and orientation dependent flow modeling in macroscopic injection molding simulations

Lightweight Design Division



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FPCM 15

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Introduction

Methods

Results and Validation

Conclusion and Summary

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Interdisciplinary lightweight solution



Methods

- Virtual process chains and mapping
- Process simulation
- Structural simulation
- Optimization & AI



Materials

- Characterization
- Additive manufacturing
- Synthesis, formulation, modification
- Materials science
- CT scans
- Hybrids



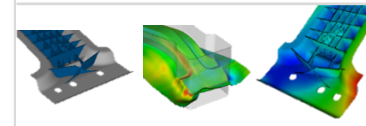
Processes

- Process development
- Plastics engineering
- Quality management
- Part development

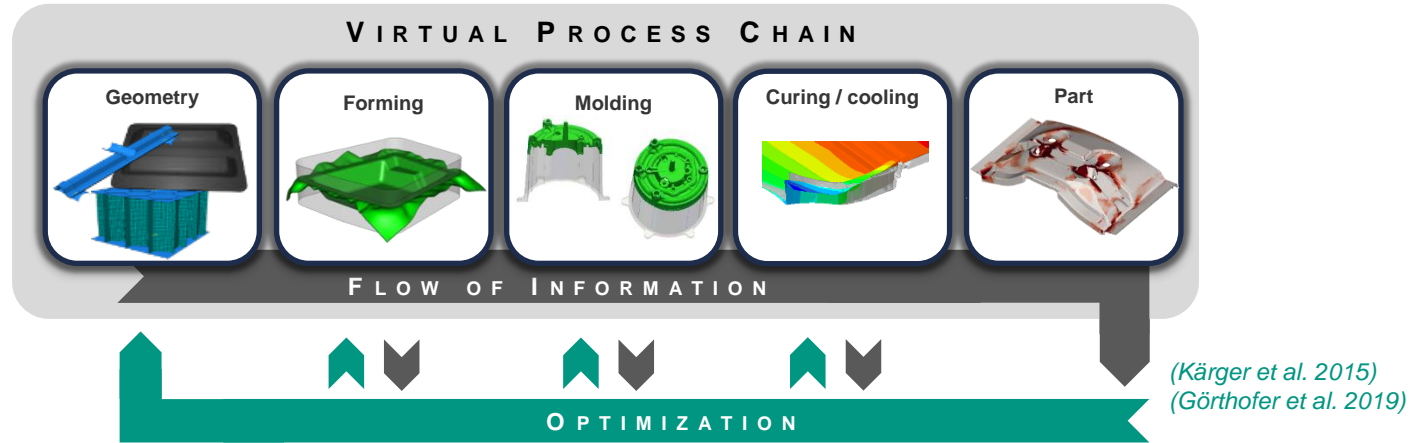


Business to industries

- Product development
- Method application
- Manufacturing assurance
- Engineering service provider



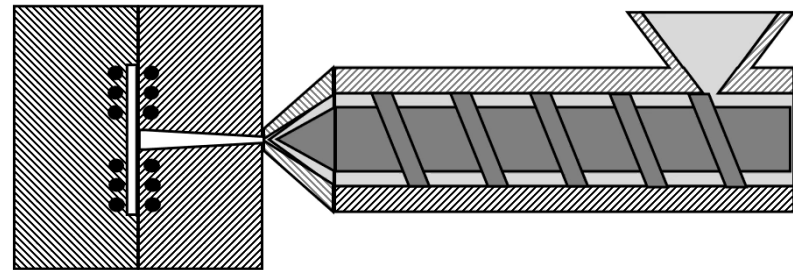
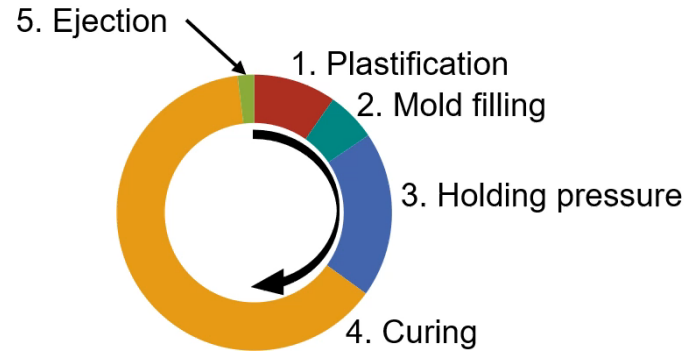
Integrated virtual process Chain



Benefits of a continuous CAE chain:

- Consideration of manufacturing effects and their influence on structural performance
- Initial verification of manufacturing
- Enabling iterative optimization over multiple simulation steps
 - Virtual design and process optimization
 - Accelerated design loops to reduce development time and resources

1. Plastification
 - Temperature
 - Fiber length
2. Mold filling
 - Temperature
 - Voids
 - fiber orientation and length
3. Holding pressure
 - Voids
 - Shrinkage
4. Curing
 - Mechanical properties
 - Warpage
5. Ejection
 - Warpage
6. Cooling
 - Mechanical properties
 - Warpage

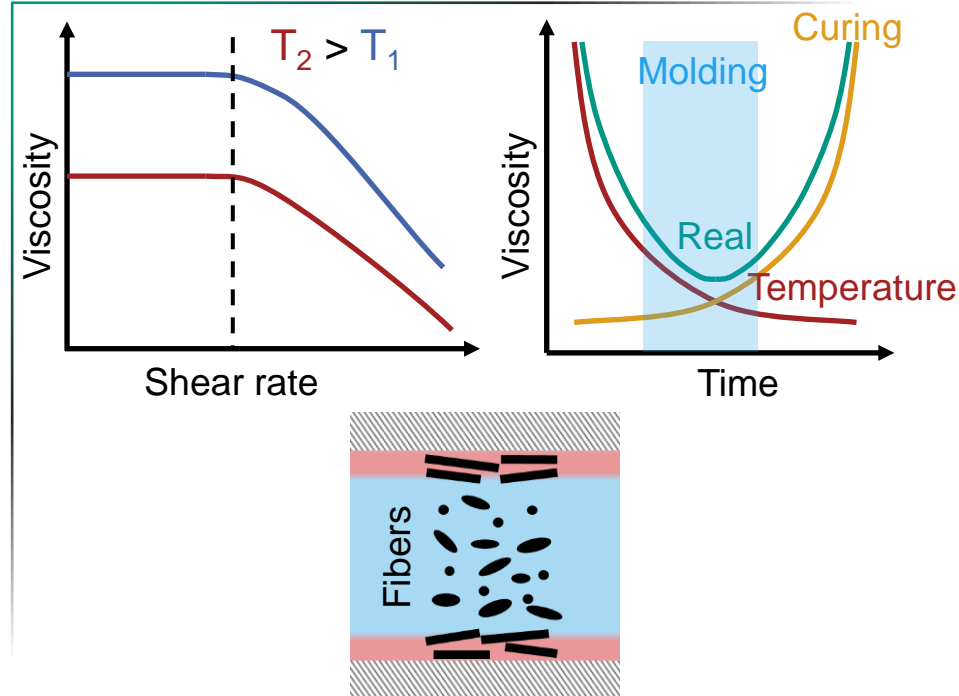


Material

Eigenschaften

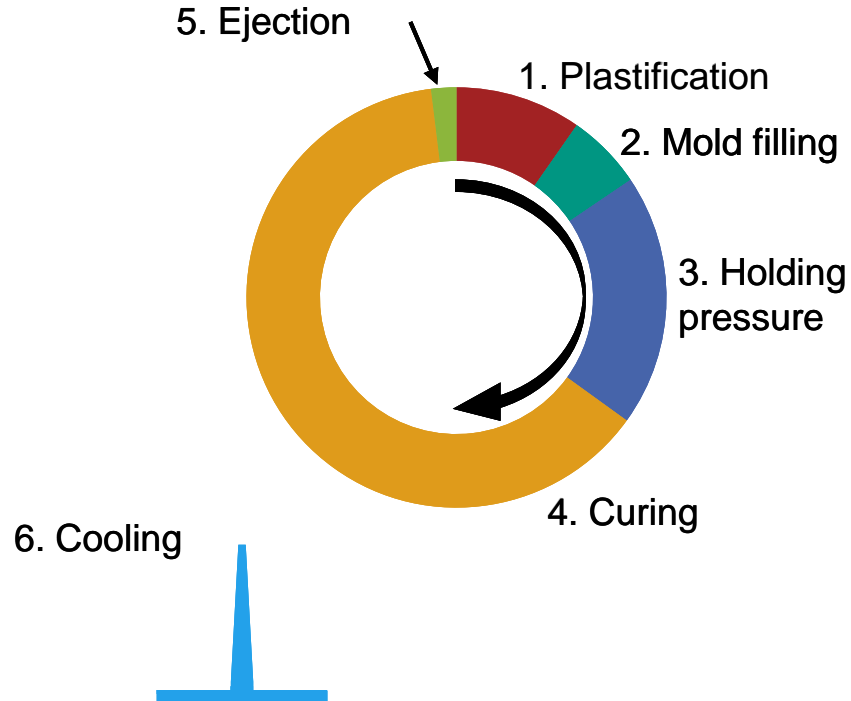
- Material is a suspension of matrix and fibers
- Raising temperature or shear rate lowers the viscosity
- Curing raises the viscosity
- Fiber orientation influences flow field ↔ Flow field influences fiber orientation
- **Result: complex flow behavior**

Fließverhalten



Process phases

1. Plastification
 - Temperature
 - Fiber length
2. Mold filling
 - Temperature
 - Voids
 - fiber orientation and length
3. Holding pressure
 - Voids
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 - Mechanical properties
 - Warpage
5. Ejection
 - Warpage
6. Cooling
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 - Warpage



Mold filling simulation

State of the art

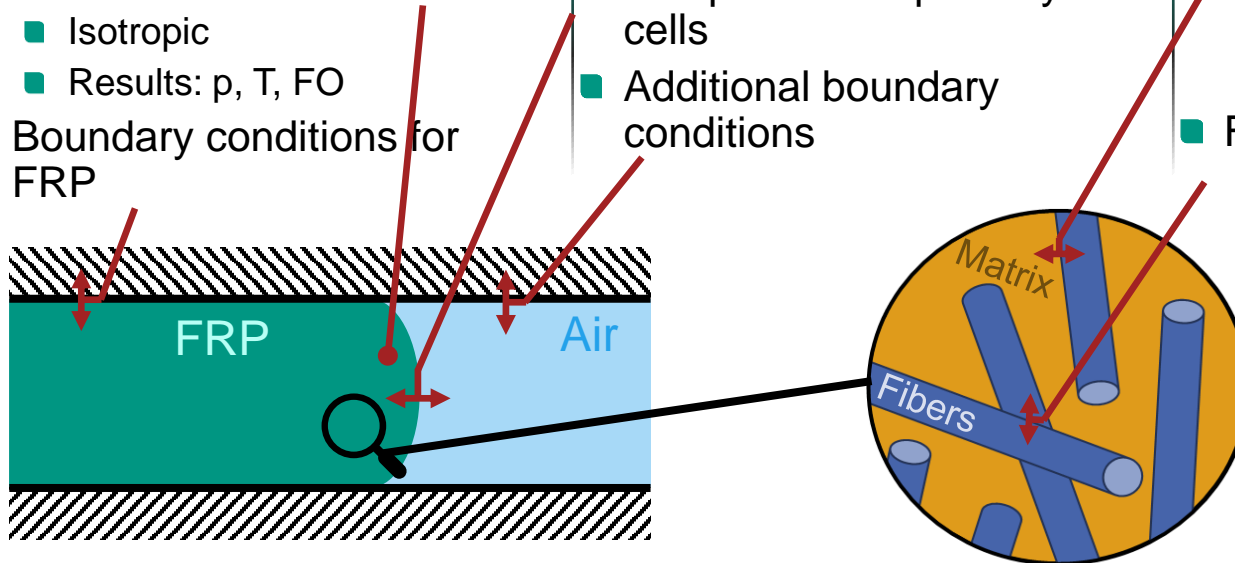
- Simulation model
 - Non-isothermal
 - Non-Newtonian
 - Isotropic
 - Results: p , T , FO
- Boundary conditions for FRP

Multiphase approach

- Air as second phase
 - Volume-of-Fluid approach
- Interpolation in partially filled cells
- Additional boundary conditions

Material internal Aspects

- Interaction between matrix and fibers
 - Anisotropic viscosity
 - Hydrodynamic forces
 - Fiber breakage
- Fiber-fiber-interaction
 - Contact forces at contact points



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Restrictions and Approximations

■ Approaches for macroscopic level

- Fiber orientation tensors (*Advani and Tucker 1987*)
- Homogenized material model

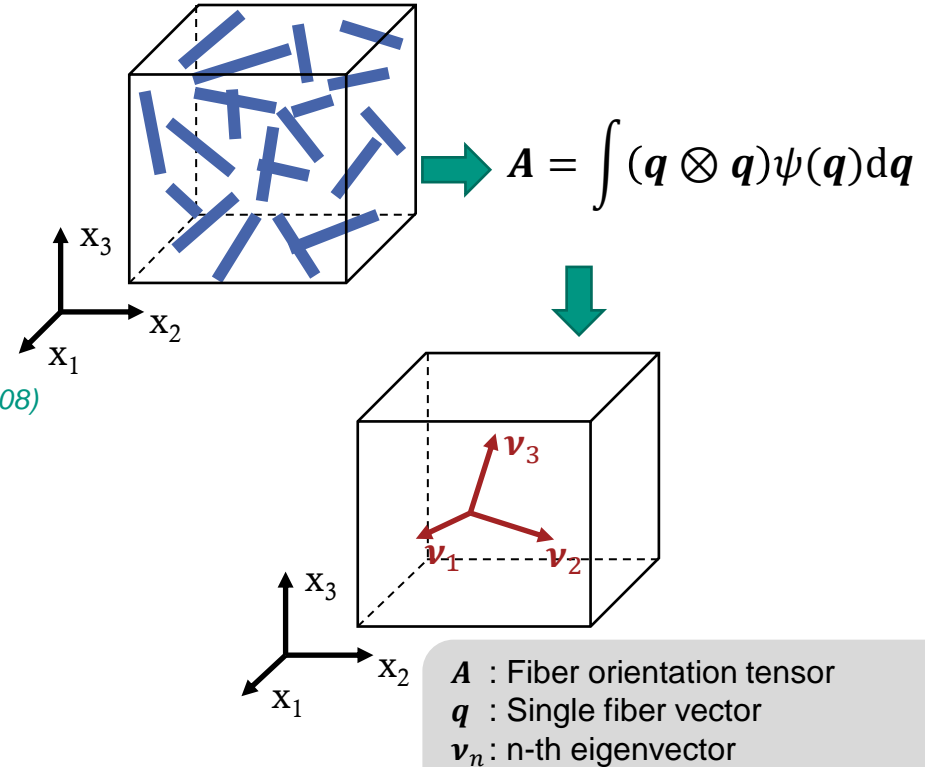
■ Use of standard models

- Matrix viscosity (*Castro and Macosko 1982*)
- Fiber orientation (*Folgar and Tucker 1984, Wang et al. 2008*)
- Curing (*Kamal and Sourour 1973*)

■ Eigenvectors of the orientation tensors

represent reference fibers (*Wittemann et al. 2021*)

- Three fibers per cell
- Eigenvalue is orientation probability
- Reference fibers are perpendicular

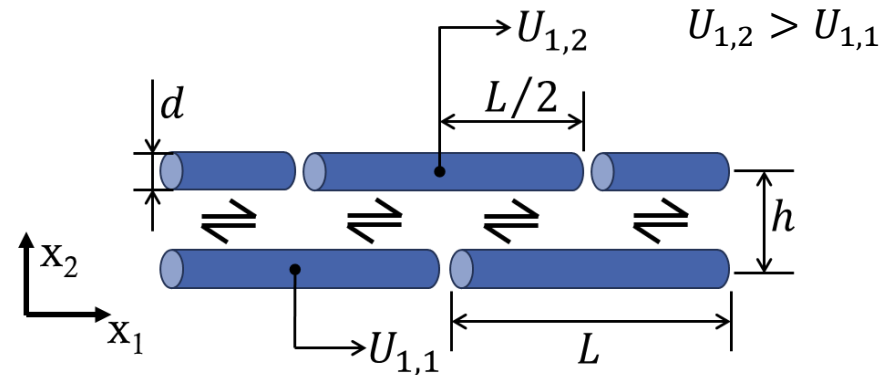


Anisotropic viscosity

Assumptions (Gibson 1989, Pipes et al. 1991)

- Fibers full orientated (transverse isotropic)
- Incompressible
- Fiber geometries are identical
- Variation of velocity for different direction viscosities
- Calculation of η_{11} , η_{12} and η_{23} based on microscopic model

Model visualization (Pipes et al. 1991)



- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| d : Fiber diameter | η_{11} : Strain viscosity |
| L : Fiber length | η_{12} : Axial shear viscosity |
| h : Fiber distance | η_{23} : transverse shear viscosity |
| U_1 : Velocity in x_1 | |

Anisotropic viscosity

Scheme

- Formulation of transverse isotropic fluidity tensor (Pipes et al. 1991)
- Building a pseudo inverse viscosity tensors (Loredo and Klöcker 1997)
- Orientation averaging (Advani and Tucker 1987)
- Fourth order viscosity tensor as function of fiber orientation, length and volume fraction (Sommer et al. 2018, Wittemann et al. 2019)

Final Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^{IV} = & (\eta_{11} - 4\eta_{12} + \eta_{23})\mathbb{A} \\ & + \left(\frac{\eta_{11}}{3} + \eta_{23}\right) (\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{A}) \\ & + (\eta_{12} - \eta_{23})(\mathbf{A} \square \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{I} \square \mathbf{A}) \\ & + (\eta_{12} - \eta_{23}) \left((\mathbf{A} \square \mathbf{I})^{TR} + (\mathbf{I} \square \mathbf{A})^{TR} \right) \\ & + \left(\frac{\eta_{11}}{9} - \eta_{23}\right) (\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{I}) \\ & + \eta_{23} (\mathbf{I} \square \mathbf{I} + (\mathbf{I} \square \mathbf{I})^{TR}) \end{aligned}$$

\mathbb{A} : Fourth order orientation tensor	η^{IV} : Viscosity tensor
\mathbf{A} : Second order orientation tensor	η_{11} : Strain viscosity
\mathbf{I} : Unity tensor	η_{12} : Axial shear viscosity
	η_{23} : transverse shear viscosity

Hydrodynamic forces

Force approximation

- Stokes Flow for drag force:

$$\mathbf{F}_D^{\text{sphere}} = 3\pi\eta_M d \mathbf{U}$$

- Approximation for fibers (Meyer et al. 2020)

$$\mathbf{F}_D^{\text{fiber}} = 3\pi\eta_M d k_D \mathbf{U} \text{ mit } k_D = f(\phi, r, \alpha, \beta)$$

- Lift force similar (Meyer et al. 2020)

$$\mathbf{F}_{Li}^{\text{fiber}} = 3\pi\eta_M d k_{Li} \mathbf{U} \text{ mit } k_{Li} = f(\phi, r, \alpha)$$

\mathbf{F}_D : Drag force

d : Fiber diameter

\mathbf{F}_{Li} : Lift force

ϕ : Angle btw. fiber and \mathbf{U}

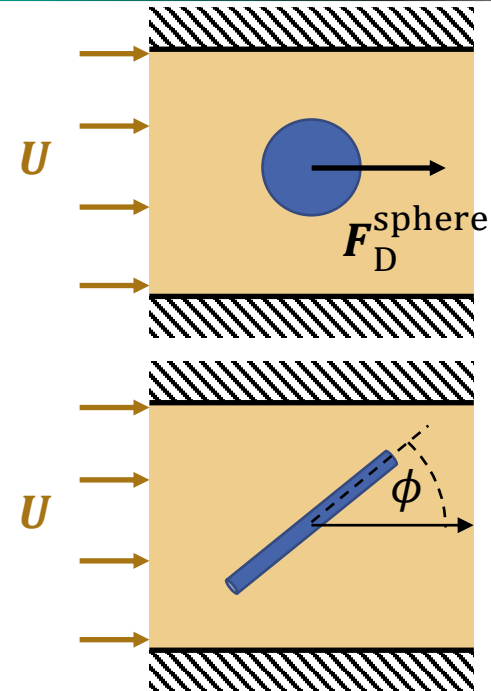
\mathbf{U} : Velocity

r : Fiber aspect ratio

η_M : Matrix viscosity

α, β : Fitting factors

Model illustration

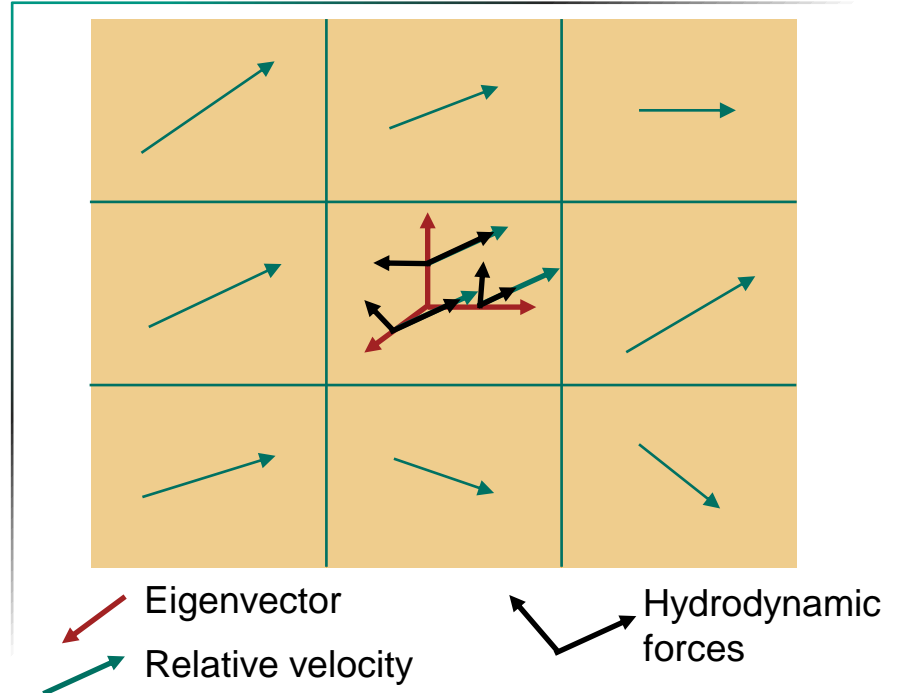


Hydrodynamic forces

Application on macro scale (*Wittmann et al. 2021*)

- Fibers move with the velocity of the cell
- Calculation of relative velocity with neighbor cells
→ Number depends on fiber length
- 3 eigenvectors = 3 reference fibers
→ Individual angle for every eigenvector
→ Individual forces for every eigenvector

Model illustration



Fiber breakage

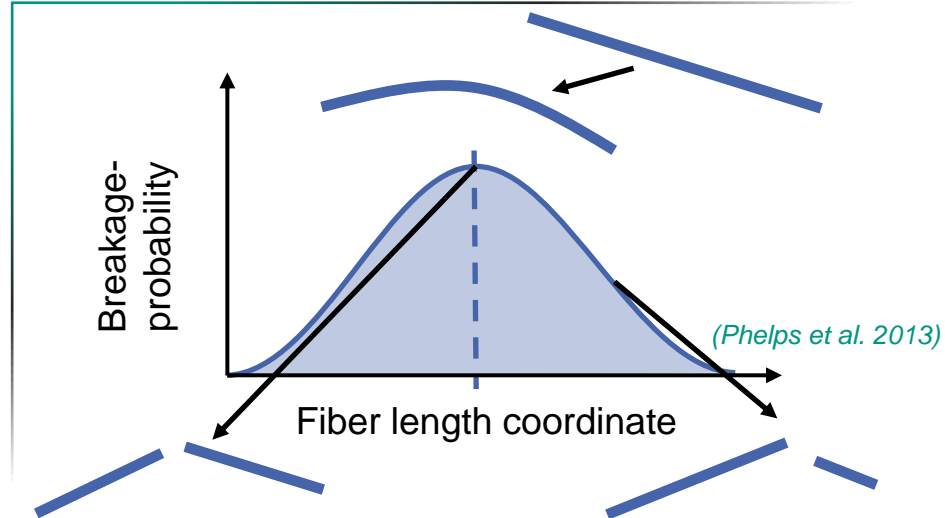
Model

- Buckling is breakage mechanism
(Hernandez et al. 2004, Durin et al. 2013, Phelps et al. 2013)
- Breaking point and equation by Phelps
(Phelps et al. 2013)

$$\frac{\partial N_n^f}{\partial t} = -P_n^{\text{br}} N_n^f + \sum_m R_{nm}^{\text{br}} N_m^f$$

- Force calculation with hydrodynamic forces
(Wittemann et al. 2022)
- Orientation dependent forces and reduction of model parameters

Breaking by buckling



N_n^f : Number of fibers with length L_n
 P_n^{br} : Breakage probability of fibers with length L_n

R_{nm}^{br} : Probability of creating fibers with length L_n by fibers of length L_m

Fiber-fiber contact points

Theory

- Contact points according to Toll (*Toll 1998*)
- Invariants f and g need single fiber orientations
- Eigenvectors as reference fibers (*Wittemann et al. 2021*)
- Polynomial approach as function of eigenvalues (*Wittemann et al. 2021*)

N_{fc} : Contact points \mathbf{v} : Eigenvector
 f, g : Invariants λ : Eigenvalue
 Φ : Fiber volume fraction M : Coefficient matrix
 \mathbf{q} : Single fiber vector

Equations

$$N_{fc} = 8/\pi \Phi r f + 4\Phi(g + 1)$$

$$f = \int \int |\mathbf{q}_n \times \mathbf{q}_m| \psi(\mathbf{q}_n) \psi(\mathbf{q}_m) d\mathbf{q}_n d\mathbf{q}_m$$

$$g = \int \int |\mathbf{q}_n \cdot \mathbf{q}_m| \psi(\mathbf{q}_n) \psi(\mathbf{q}_m) d\mathbf{q}_n d\mathbf{q}_m$$

$$f = \sum_{n,m=1}^3 |\mathbf{v}_n \times \mathbf{v}_m| \lambda_n \lambda_m = (2\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + 2\lambda_1 \lambda_3 + 2\lambda_2 \lambda_3)$$

$$g = \sum_{n,m=1}^3 |\mathbf{v}_n \cdot \mathbf{v}_m| \lambda_n \lambda_m = \lambda_1 \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 \lambda_3$$

$$f, g = \sum_{n,m=1}^3 M_{nm} \tilde{\lambda}_n \tilde{\lambda}_m$$

Contact forces

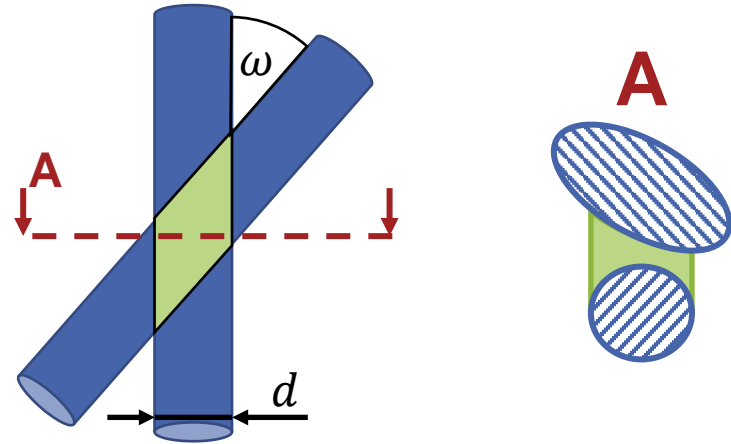
Lubrication force

- Before and after fiber contact
- Proportional to matrix viscosity, relative velocity, fiber distance and overlap
- Approximation of overlap by average fiber angle

(Wittemann et al. 2021)

$$F_L = \frac{k_S \eta_M \mathbf{U}_{ff}}{\|\mathbf{h}\|} A_{ff} = \frac{k_S \eta_M \mathbf{U}_{ff}}{\|\mathbf{h}\|} \frac{d^2}{\sin(\omega)}$$

Model



F_L : Lubrication force	d : Fiber diameter
\mathbf{U}_{ff} : Relative velocity	ω : Fiber angle
A_{ff} : Overlap	k_S : Lubrication coefficient
\mathbf{h} : Fiber-fiber distance	η_M : Matrix viscosity

Agenda

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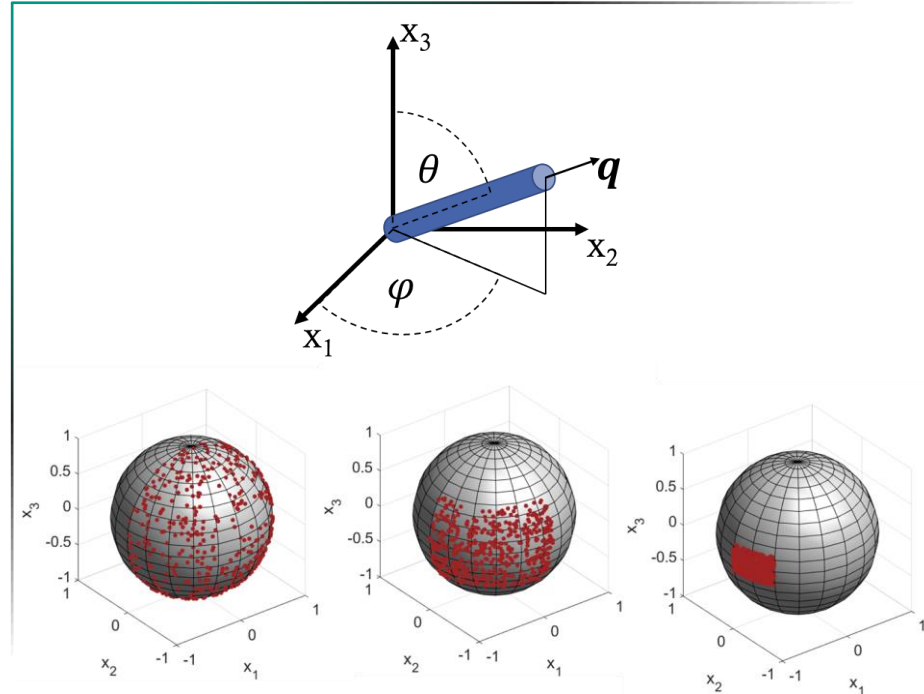
Conclusion and Summary

Numerical verification

Single fibers as reference case

- Forces and contact points are verified by reference cases, built up with 500 individual fibers
- 22 different orientation states are considered
- Orientation tensors are directly calculated with the single fiber orientations

Examples

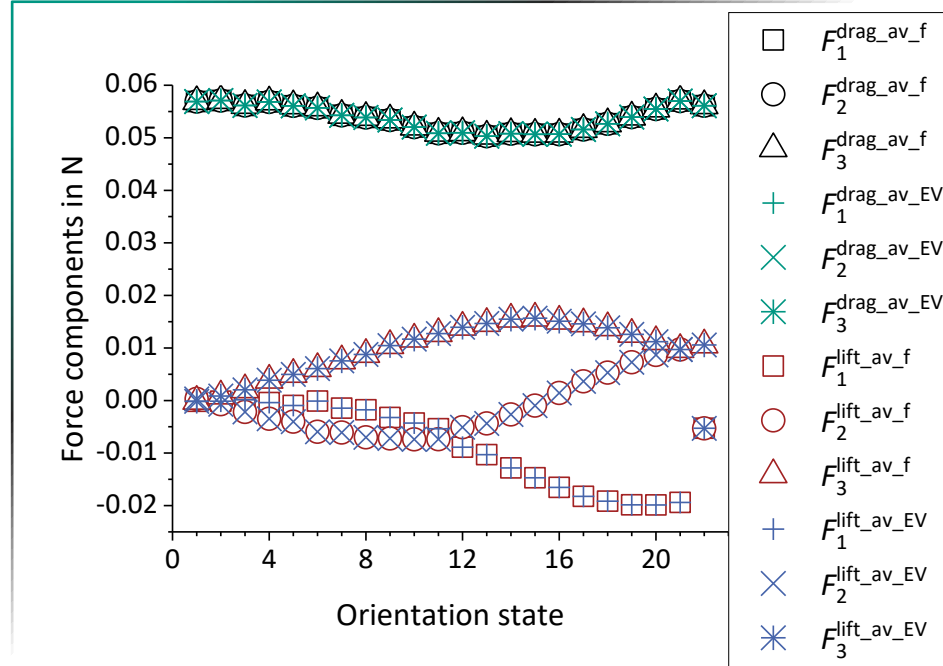


Hydrodynamic forces

Summary

- Comparison of averaged force on single fibers (f) and eigenvectors (EV)
- $\mathbf{U} = 1/\sqrt{3} (1 \ 1 \ 1)$ m/s
- Fit perfectly (*Wittemann et al. 2021*)
- Force values contribute to the relation of orientation and velocity

Results – comparison to single fibers

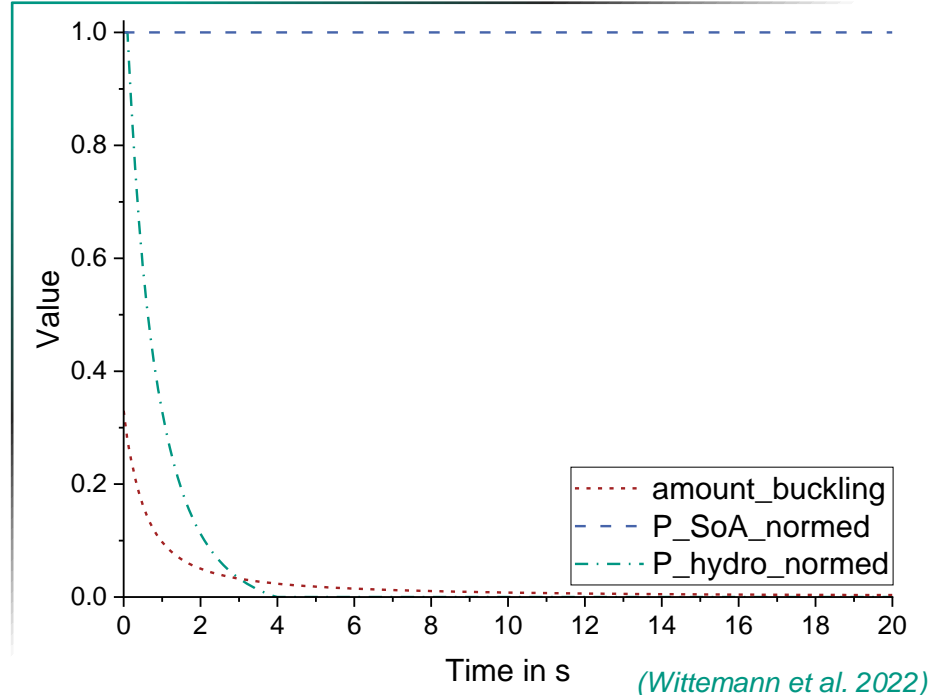


Fiber breakage model

Summary

- Fibers under simple shear
→ reorientation due to shearing
- Number of buckling fibers decreases due to orientation
- Constant breakage probability for SoA
- Decreasing breakage probability of novel approach due to buckling amount and force calculation

Results – comparison to SoA

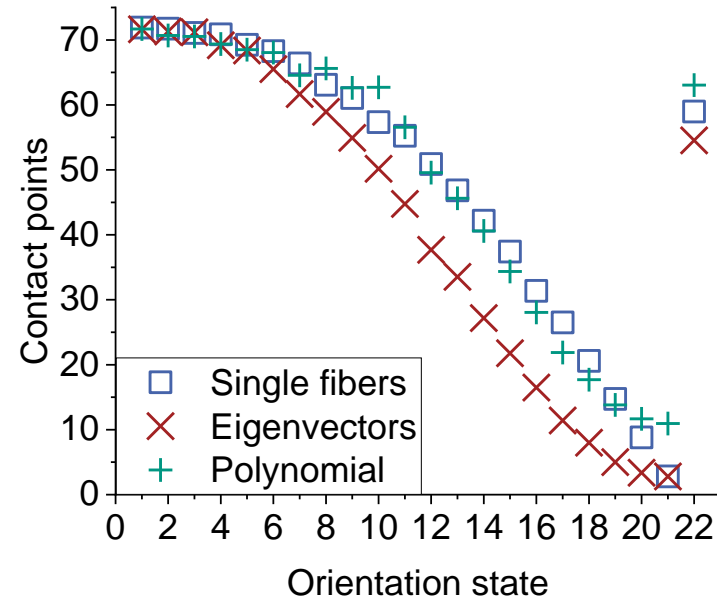


Fiber-fiber contact points

Summary

- Results for aspect ratio 100
- Eigenvector approach fitted with factor $3\pi/8$ (Férec et al. 2009, Wittemann et al. 2021)
- Eigenvector approach predicts too low
- Polynomial approach creates best results

Comparison to single fibers

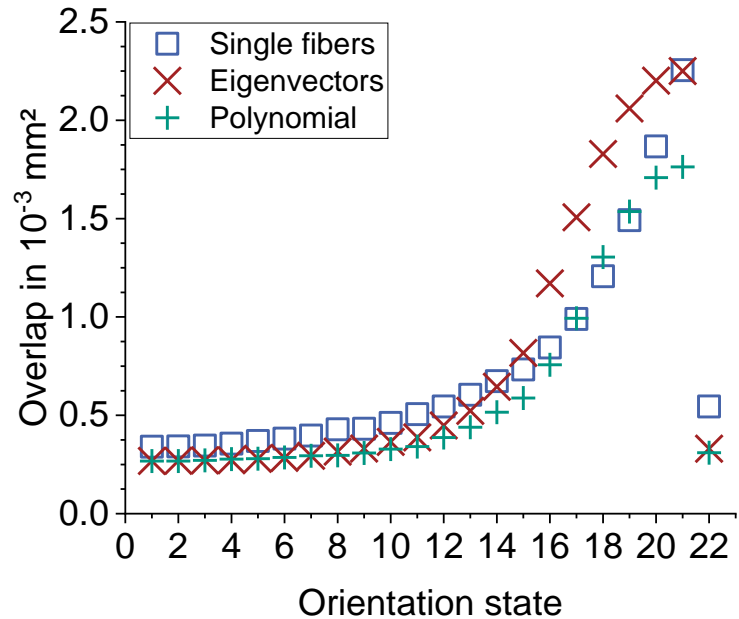


Fiber-fiber overlap

Summary

- Results for aspect ratio 10
- Individual overlap and averaging for single fibers
- Average angle approximated with $\omega = 4/\pi f$ (Wittemann et al. 2021)
- Average overlap with average angle
- Polynomial approach creates best results

Comparison to single fibers

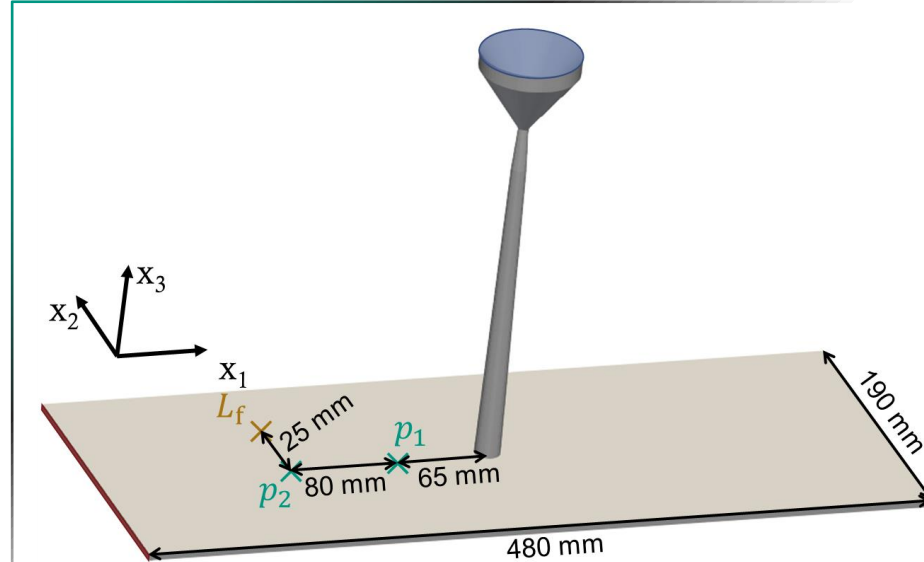


Experimental validation

Material and Process parameters

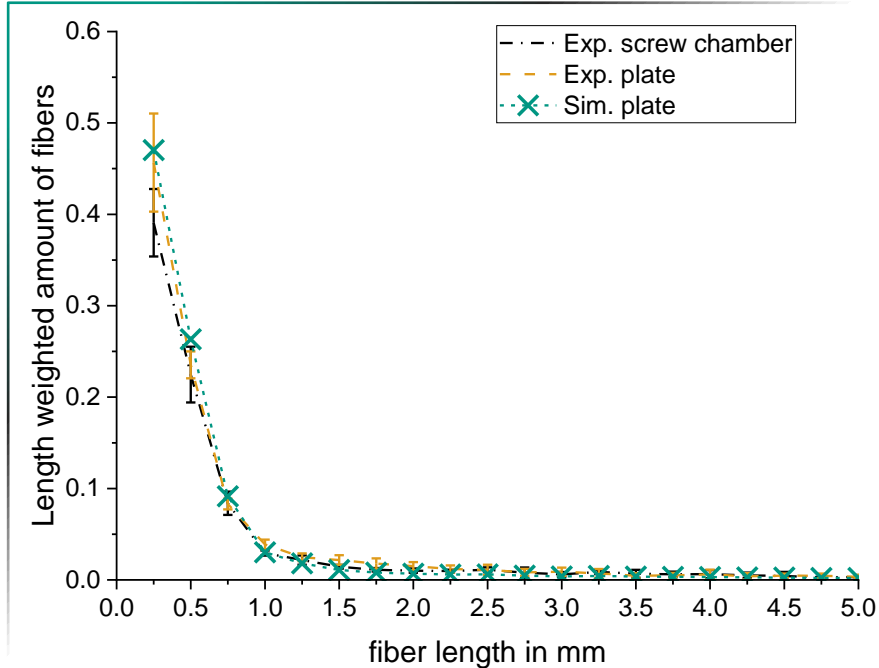
- Material
 - 55 %-weight glass fiber filled phenolic
 - Modeling non-Newtonian, anisotropic
- Process
 - Filling rate 150 cm³/s
 - Tool temperature 185 °C
- Recorded data
 - Two pressure sensors in mold (p_1 and p_2)
 - Fiber length measured at L_f
- Experiments by Maertens (*Maertens et al. 2021*)

Model

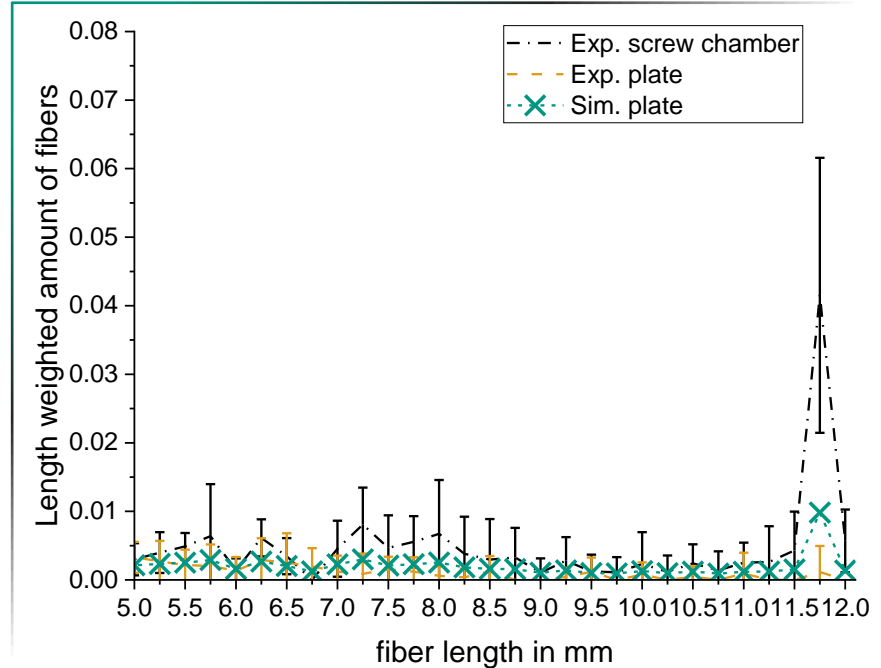


Experimental validation

Fiber length distribution 1 – 5 mm



Fiber length distribution 5 – 12 mm



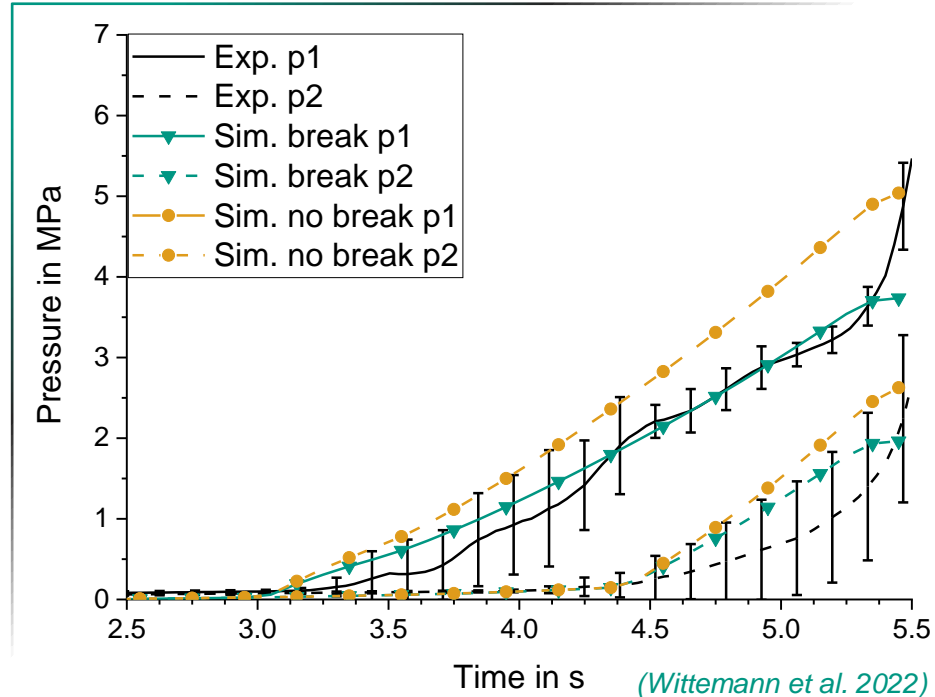
(Wittemann et al. 2022)

Experimental validation

Summary

- Good results for fiber length distribution
- Good prognostication of pressure at p_1
- Simulated pressure too high at p_2
- Fiber breakage influences pressure results
→ fiber length is parameter of the anisotropic viscosity tensor

In-mold pressure



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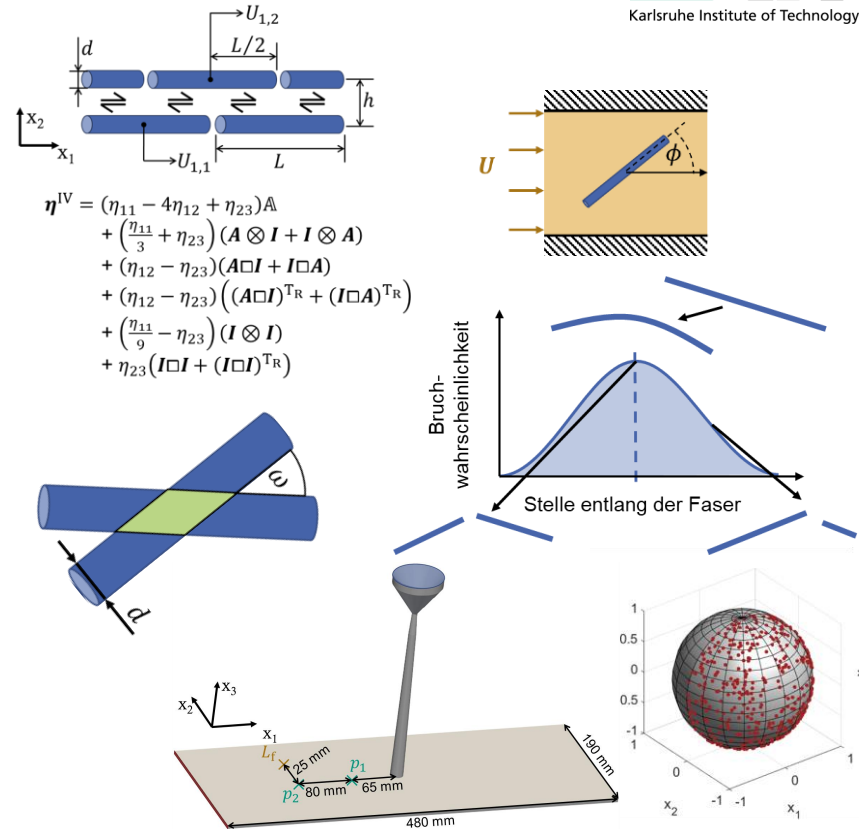
Conclusion and Summary

Summary

- Novel simulation approaches for more detailed mold filling simulations
 - Anisotropic viscosity tensor
 - Calculation of hydrodynamic forces and fiber breakage
 - Calculation of fiber-fiber contact points and forces

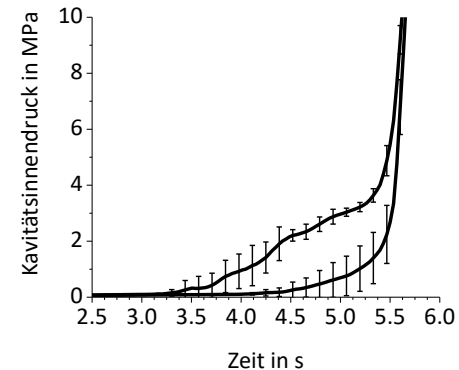
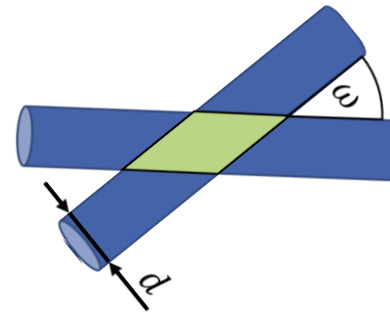
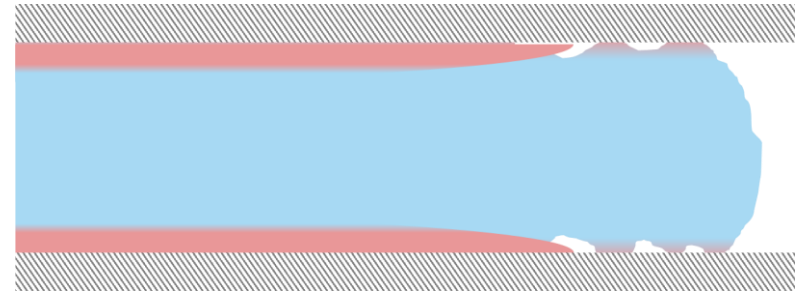
- Application on macroscopic scale

- Good agreement of simulation results and experimental data



Next steps

- Wall slip
- Better formulation for temperature boundary conditions
- Usage of information about fiber-fiber contact points, forces and length distribution
- Probabilistic approaches to model process uncertainties



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Thank you for your attention.

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Thanks to



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WIRTSCHAFT, ARBEIT UND WOHNUNGSBAU

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