

## Ageing and durability of organic matrix composites for aircraft applications

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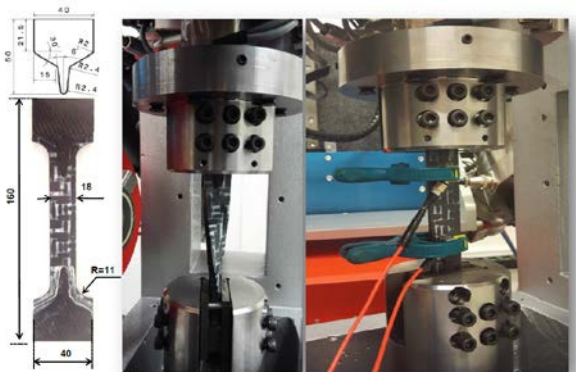
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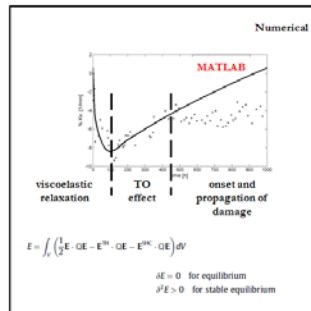
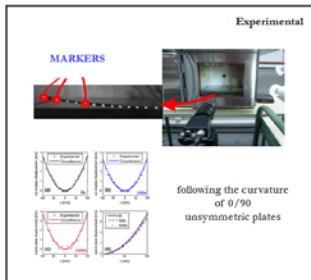
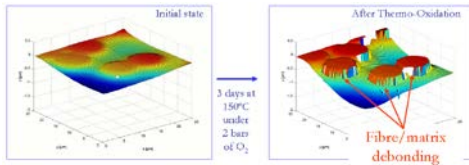
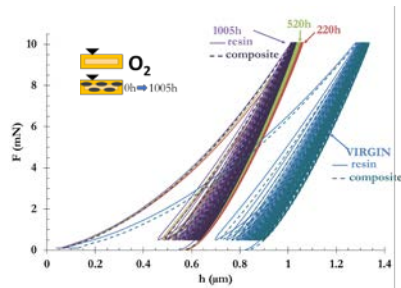
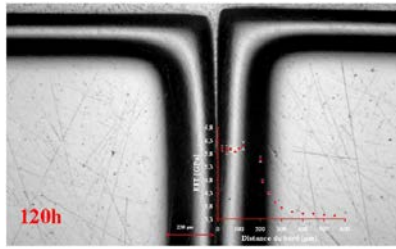
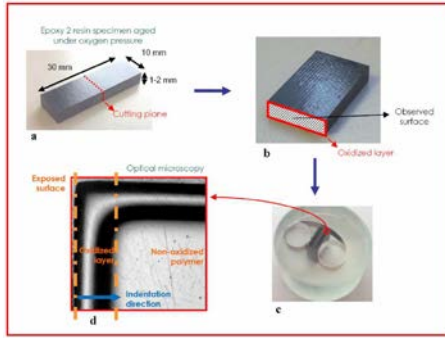
**Experimental tools:** Ultra-micro indentation, Optical and Interferometric microscopy, SEM, X-ray micro-tomography, In-situ micro-tomography, In-house experimental devices for mechanical testing under controlled environment (temperature, humid, neutral or oxidative)

**Context:** The aim of this operation is to characterise the effect of thermo-oxidation on the behaviour (constitutive law, damage onset and propagation) of organic matrix composites for aircraft applications, in view of building predictive models, which can be useful for design and optimisation of structures. This aim is carried out by building and developing specific experimental test (coupled, uncoupled, multi-scale ...) and by interpreting them by the aid of dedicated multi-physical/multi-scale models based on the Thermodynamics of Irreversible Processes. The models are implemented into commercial finite element software (such as, for instance, ABAQUS) or solved by dedicated numerical methods/schemes, such as the Proper Generalised Decomposition technique.



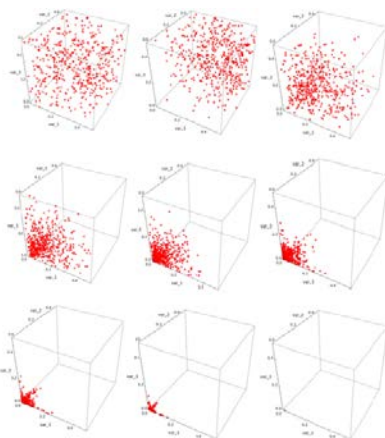
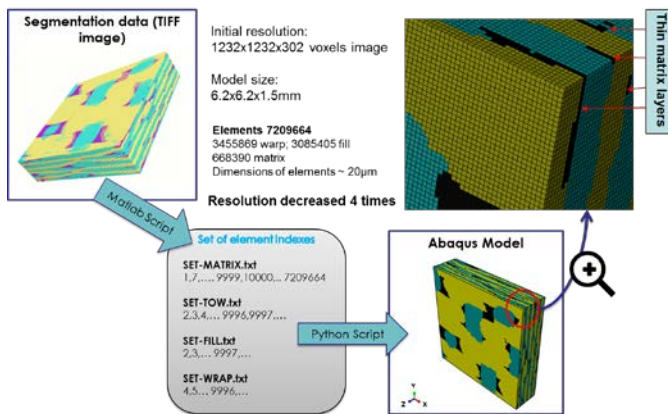
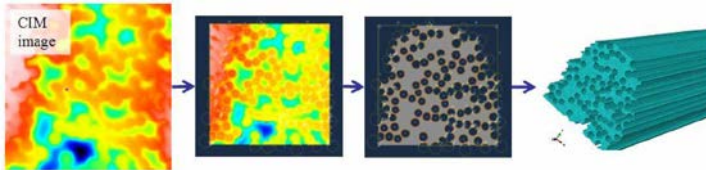
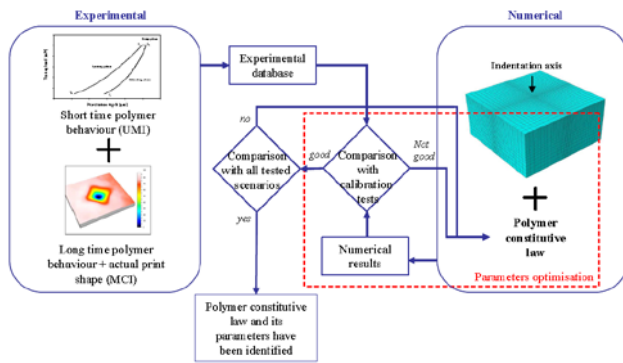
### In-situ test of composite materials with complex texture

- ✓ Damage onset and propagation
- ✓ Damage morphology
- ✓ Temperature control



## Characterisation of the effects of thermo-oxidation on the mechanical behaviour of OMC

- ✓ Coupled approach employing ultra-micro indentation and interferometric microscopy for the characterisation of the local constitutive law of virgin and aged resin samples
- ✓ Development of cyclic nanoindentation tests at high temperature for better understanding of ageing behaviour of polymers and polymer composites
- ✓ Interferometric microscopy observation of thermo-oxidation induced matrix shrinkage and damage onset in composites at the microscopic scale
- ✓ Traction tests on model [0/90]s virgin and aged samples
- ✓ Employment of model [0/90] unsymmetrical samples for on-line monitoring of thermo-oxidation in composite laminates
- ✓ Multi-physical fatigue at high temperature and under oxidizing environment (air, O<sub>2</sub>) on laminated and textile composites

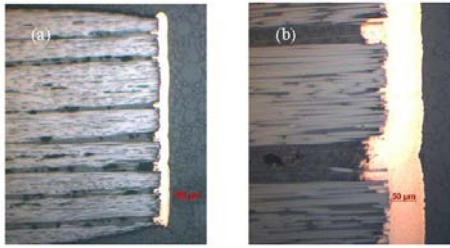


## Modelling thermo-oxidation and its effects on the mechanical behaviour of OMC

- ✓ Employment of Thermodynamics of Irreversible Processes for the development of coupled multi-physics models
- ✓ Development of dedicated subroutines (UMAT/UEL) in the commercial finite element software ABAQUS for the simulation of thermo-oxidation in composites
- ✓ Development of reduced order methods (Proper Generalised Decomposition method) for simulation and identification of multi-physics couplings
- ✓ Development of FE models starting from micro-tomographic images: segmentation, meshing, analysis

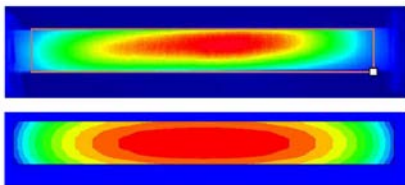
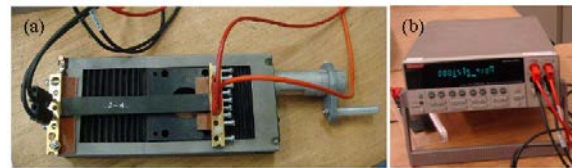
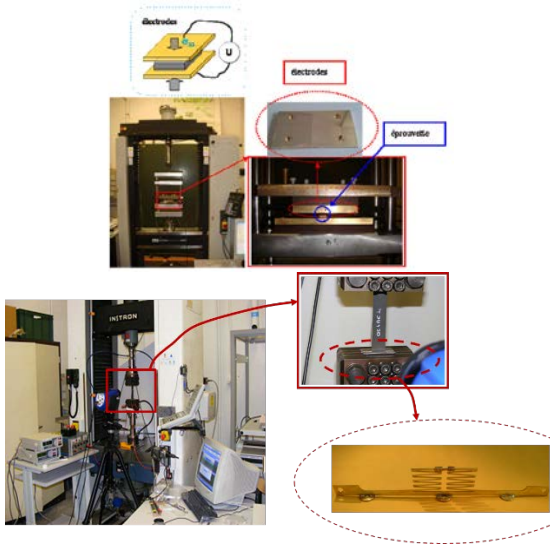
## Identification of the thermo-diffusion—reaction-mechanical behaviour of composite materials

- ✓ Development of a PGD based identification method
- ✓ Employment of robust identification algorithms
- ✓ Employment of the slope method for gravimetric test identification over short conditioning times



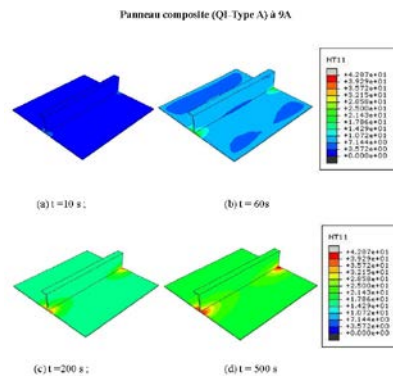
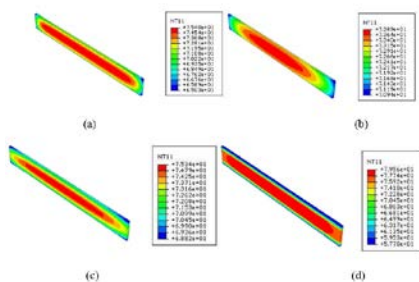
## Characterisation of the thermoelectric behaviour of CFRP laminates and of the effects of electric currents on the mechanical behaviour of functional OMC

- ✓ Carbon fibers, epoxy matrix, carbon nanotubes
- ✓ Voltage/resistance/conductivity measurements
- ✓ Dedicated compression setup for the accurate measure of the through-the-thickness conductivity of OMC
- ✓ Electrical aging
- ✓ Electro-mechanical fatigue



## Modelling of thermo-electro-mechanical couplings

- ✓ Employment of Thermodynamics of Irreversible Processes for the development of coupled multi-physics models
- ✓ Development of dedicated subroutines (UMAT/UEL) in the commercial finite element software ABAQUS for the simulation of thermo-electro-mechanical coupling in composite materials



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