



UNIVERSITÄT  
BAYREUTH

Retsch  
Group

# Thermal Conduction in Anisotropic Granular Mixtures

Comsol Conference 2023, Munich

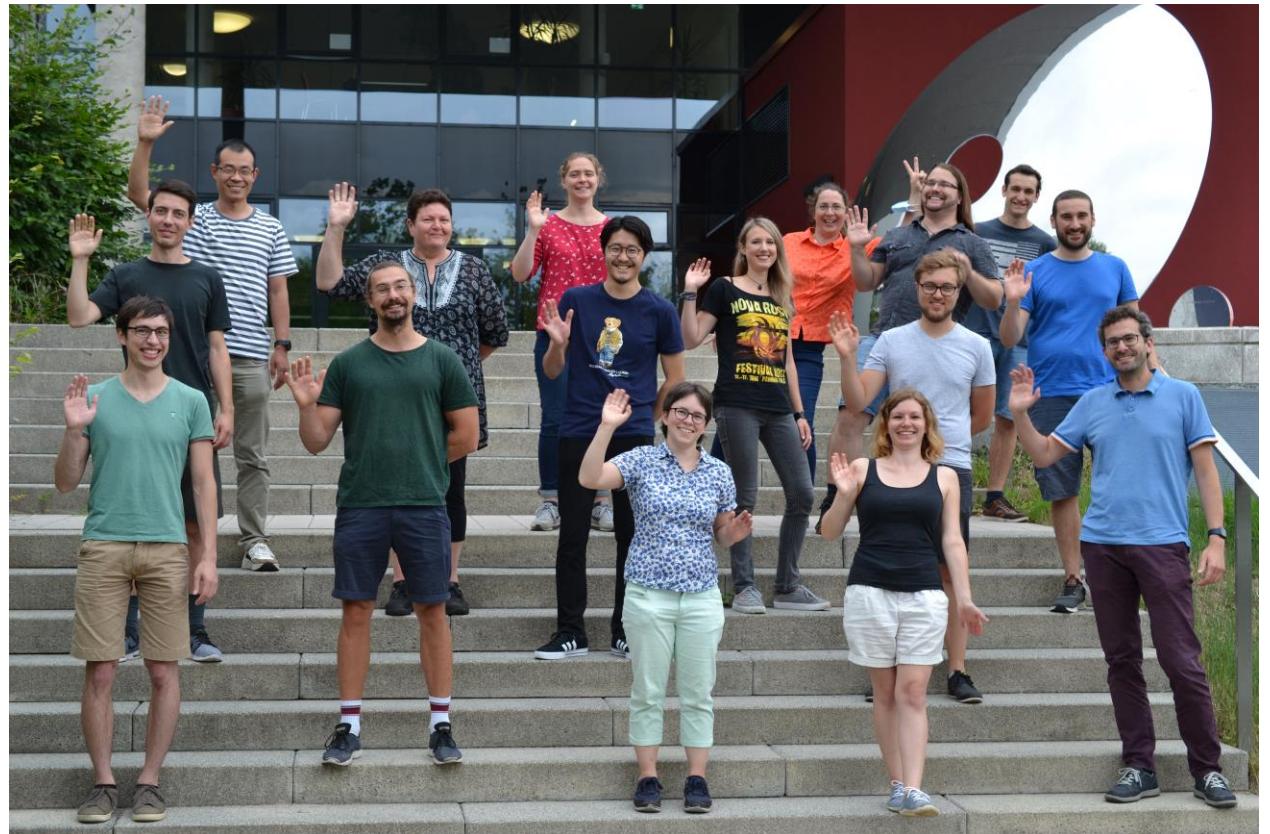
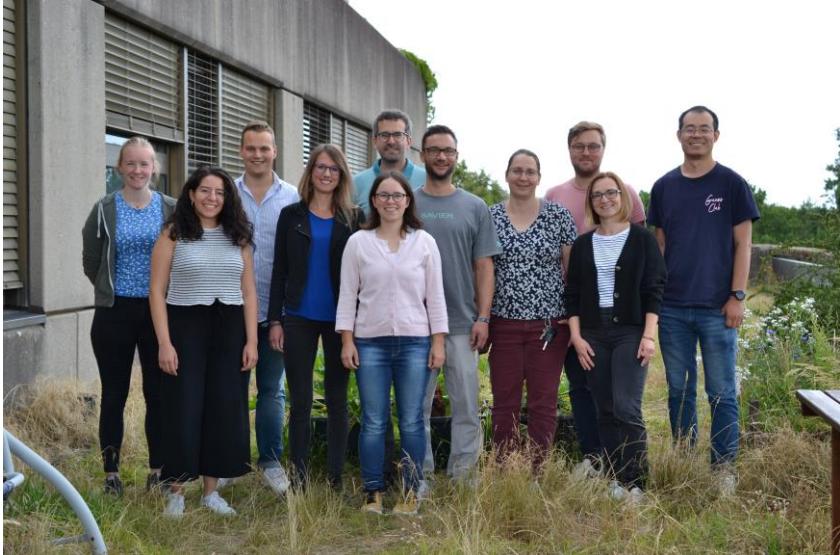
Flora Lebeda  
University of  
Bayreuth

# Thanks to my colleagues!



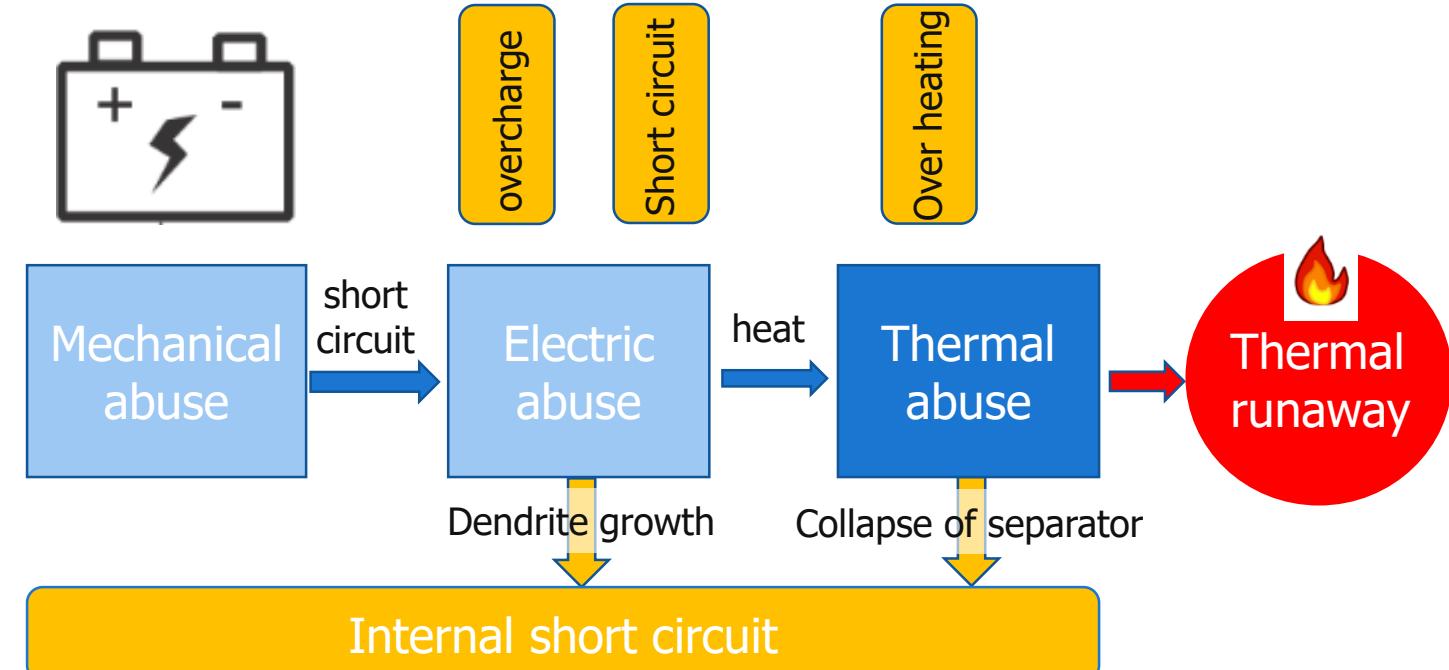
Bayerisches Zentrum für Batterietechnik

CHRISTIANE NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD-STIFTUNG



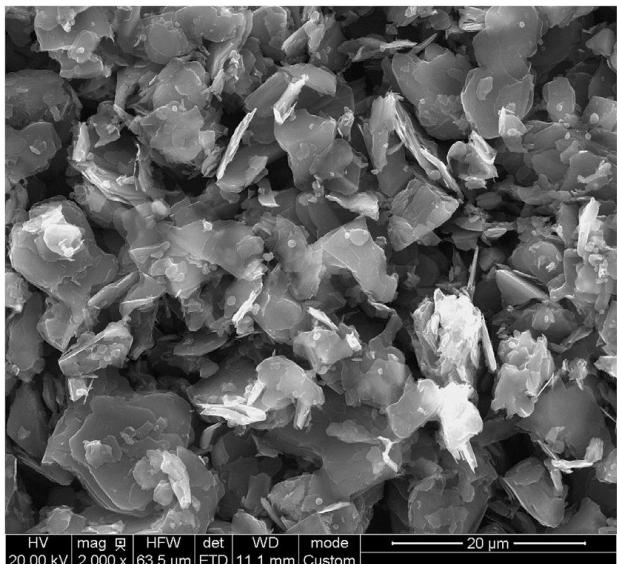
# Prevention of heat release begins in the microscale!

About half of all products recalled for fire hazards are lithium-ion batteries.



# Microstructure of battery electrodes?

Typical graphite powder



Quantification of preferred orientation in graphite electrodes for Li-ion batteries with a novel X-ray-diffraction-based method

Simon Malifarge <sup>a,b</sup>, Bruno Delobel <sup>b</sup>, Charles Delacourt <sup>a,\*</sup>

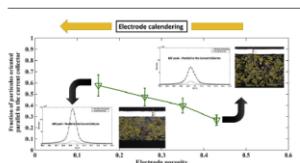
<sup>a</sup> Laboratoire de Réactivité et Chimie des Solides, CNRS UMR 7314, Université de Picardie Jules Verne, 80039, Amiens Cedex, France

<sup>b</sup> Renault Technocentre, 78084, Guyancourt, France

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Particle orientation in an electrode is quantified by an X-ray diffraction method.
- A step function is used as the orientation distribution function.
- Anisotropic particle orientation increases with electrode calendering.

## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



**anisotropy:**

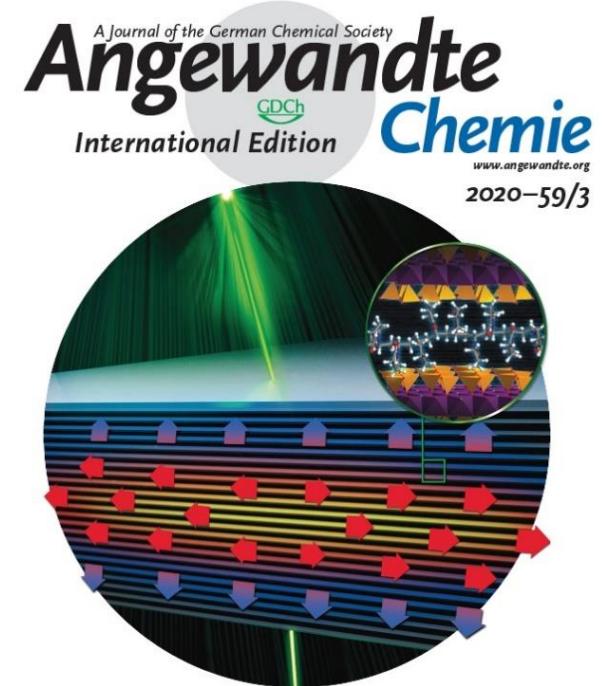
Microstructure

vs.

property

*flakes*

*Electrical conductivity*  
*Thermal conductivity*



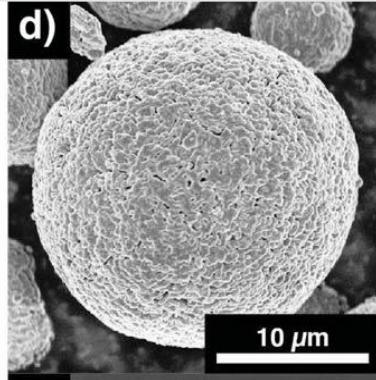
## Cover Picture

M. Retsch, J. Breu, G. Fytas et al.  
Tunable Thermoelastic Anisotropy in Hybrid Bragg Stacks  
with Extreme Polymer Confinement

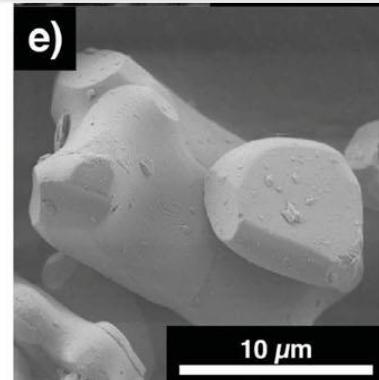
ACIEF 59 (3) 981–1358 (2020) · ISSN 1433–7851 · Vol. 59 · No. 3

WILEY-VCH

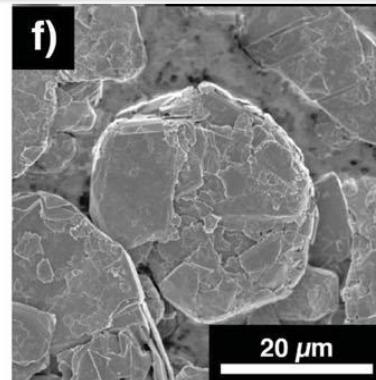
# Anisotropic materials in batteries? Random distribution!



NMC



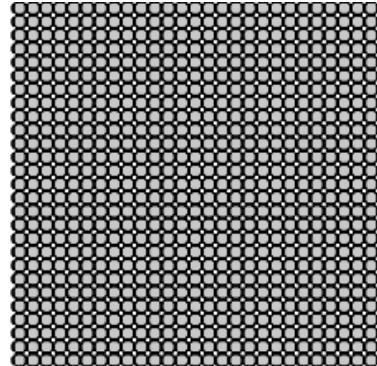
LCO



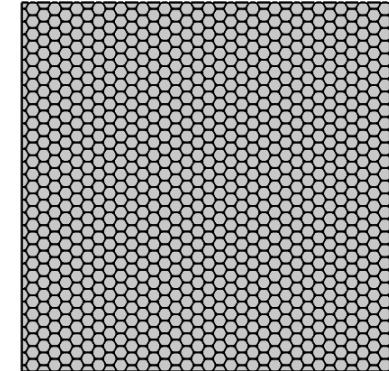
graphite

**Assumptions:** spherical particles  
no additives, no electrolyte, narrow  
size distribution

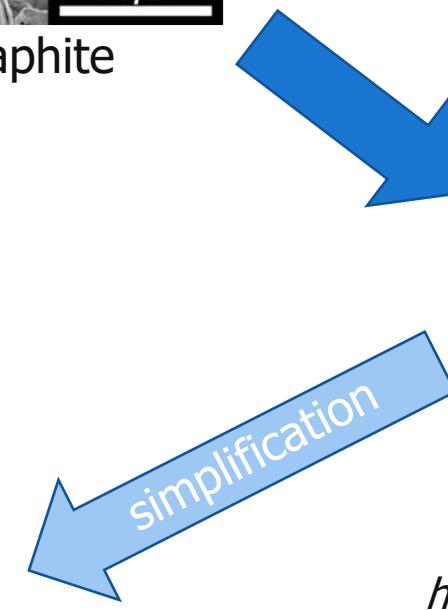
2D lattices



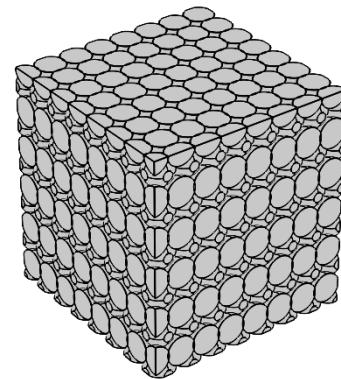
primitive cubic lattice  
(cP)



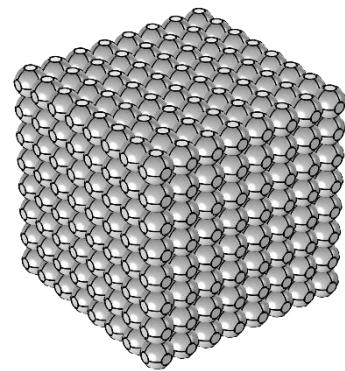
hexagonal lattice (fcc)



3D structure



hexagonal lattice (fcc)



primitive cubic lattice

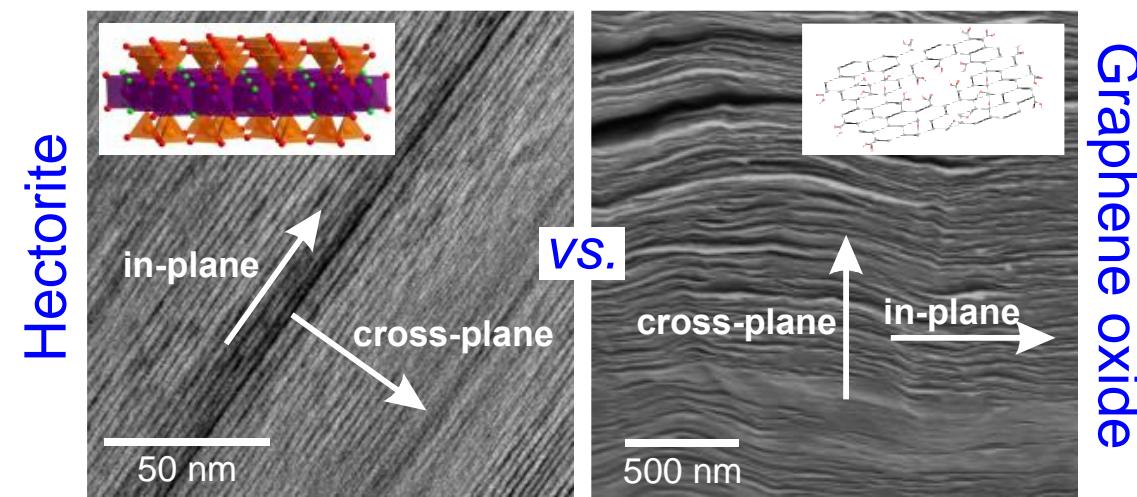
# Rotation matrix for anisotropy in COMSOL

- Material property with anisotropy: tensor of 2D-rotation matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} k_x (\cos \varphi)^2 + k_y (\sin \varphi)^2 & (k_x - k_y) \sin \varphi \cos \varphi & 0 \\ (k_x - k_y) \sin \varphi \cos \varphi & k_x (\sin \varphi)^2 + k_y (\cos \varphi)^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

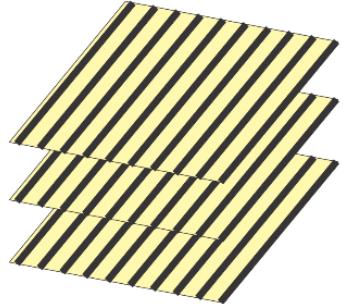
- isotropic material  $\kappa = 100 \frac{W}{m K}$

- anisotropic material  $\kappa = A \frac{W}{m K}$

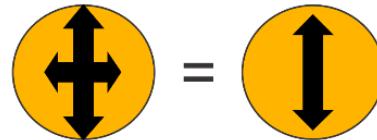


# proof: IR thermography of Laminates

a) thermally anisotropic laminate



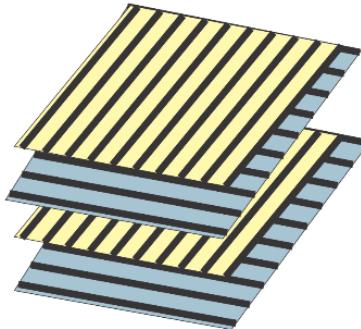
parallel alignment of prepregs  
=> preferred conduction along carbon fibers



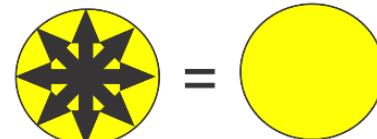
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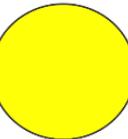
b) thermally isotropic laminate



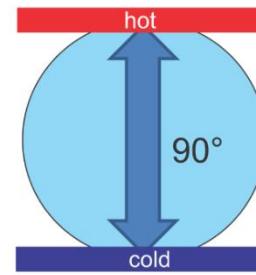
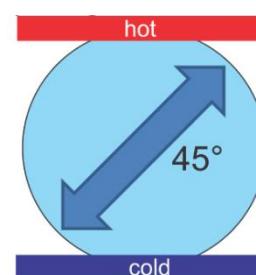
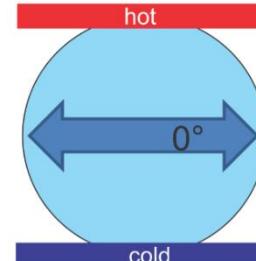
orthogonal alignment of prepregs  
=> no direction-dependency of laminate



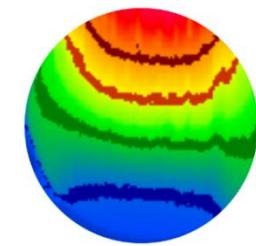
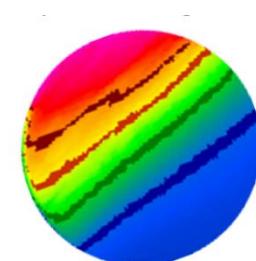
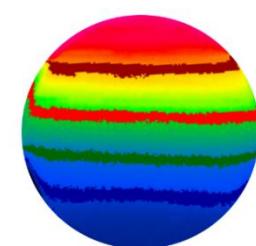
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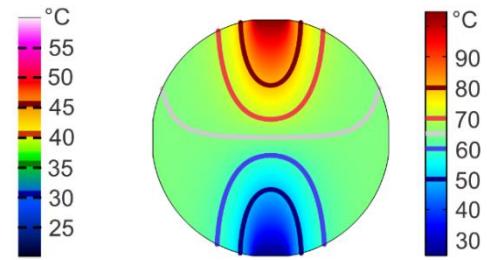
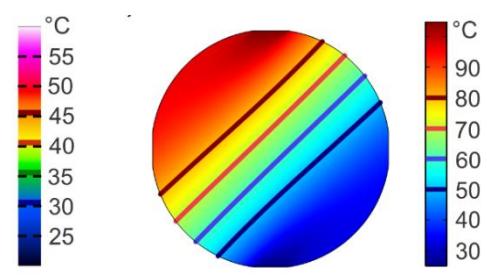
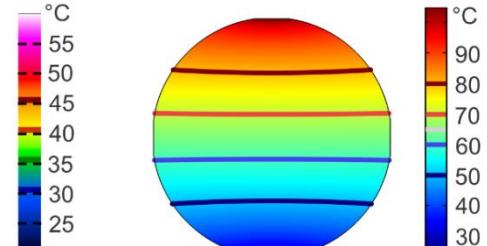
Rotation



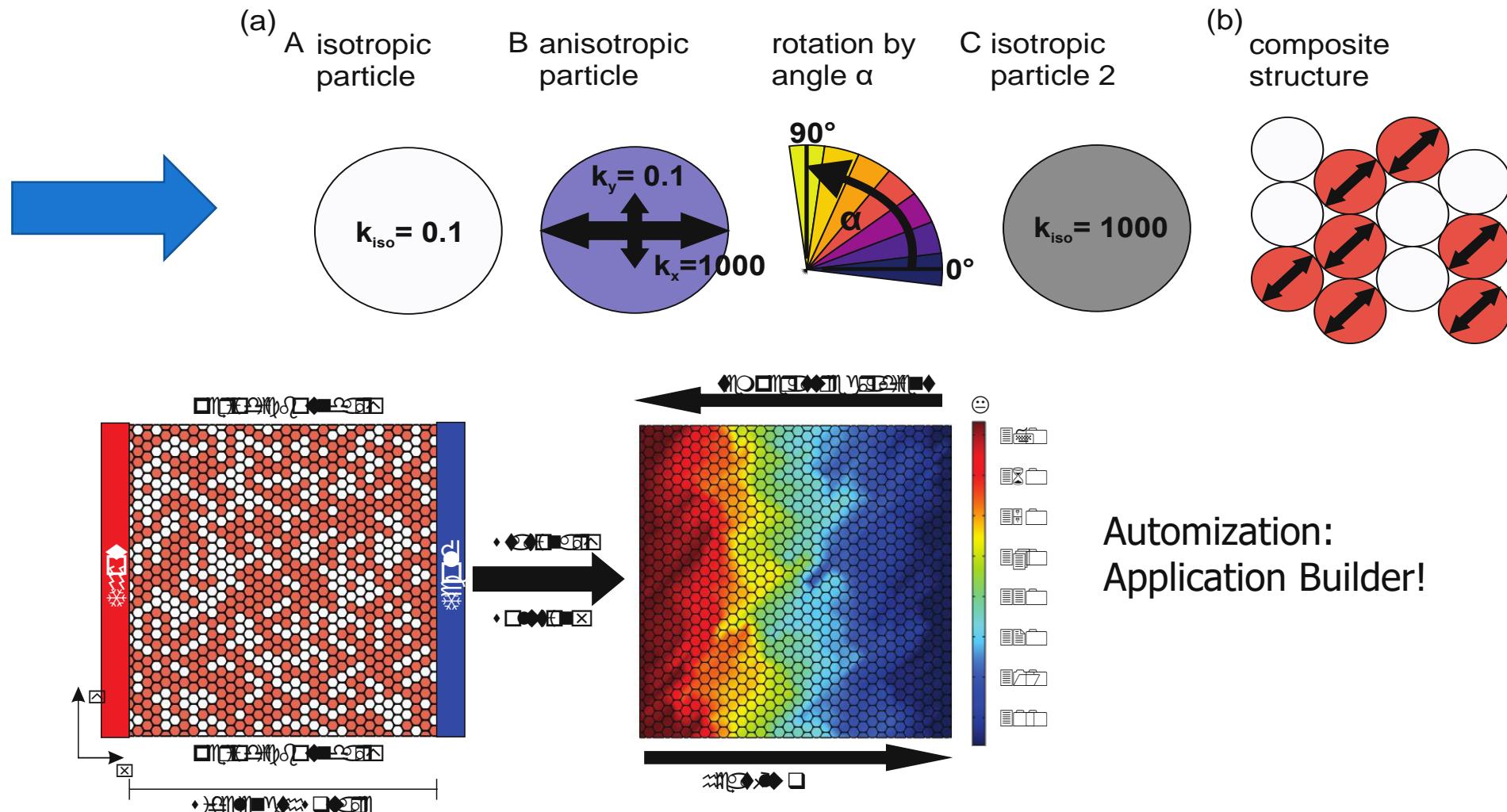
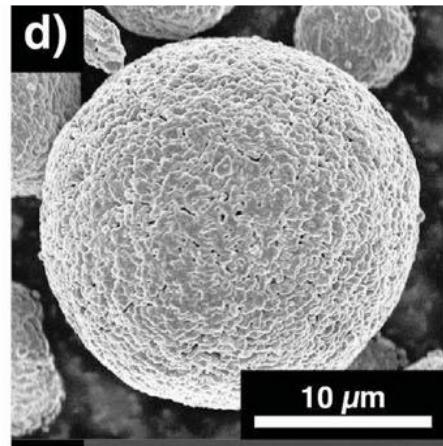
Thermogram



COMSOL



# Modelling heat transfer of electrode

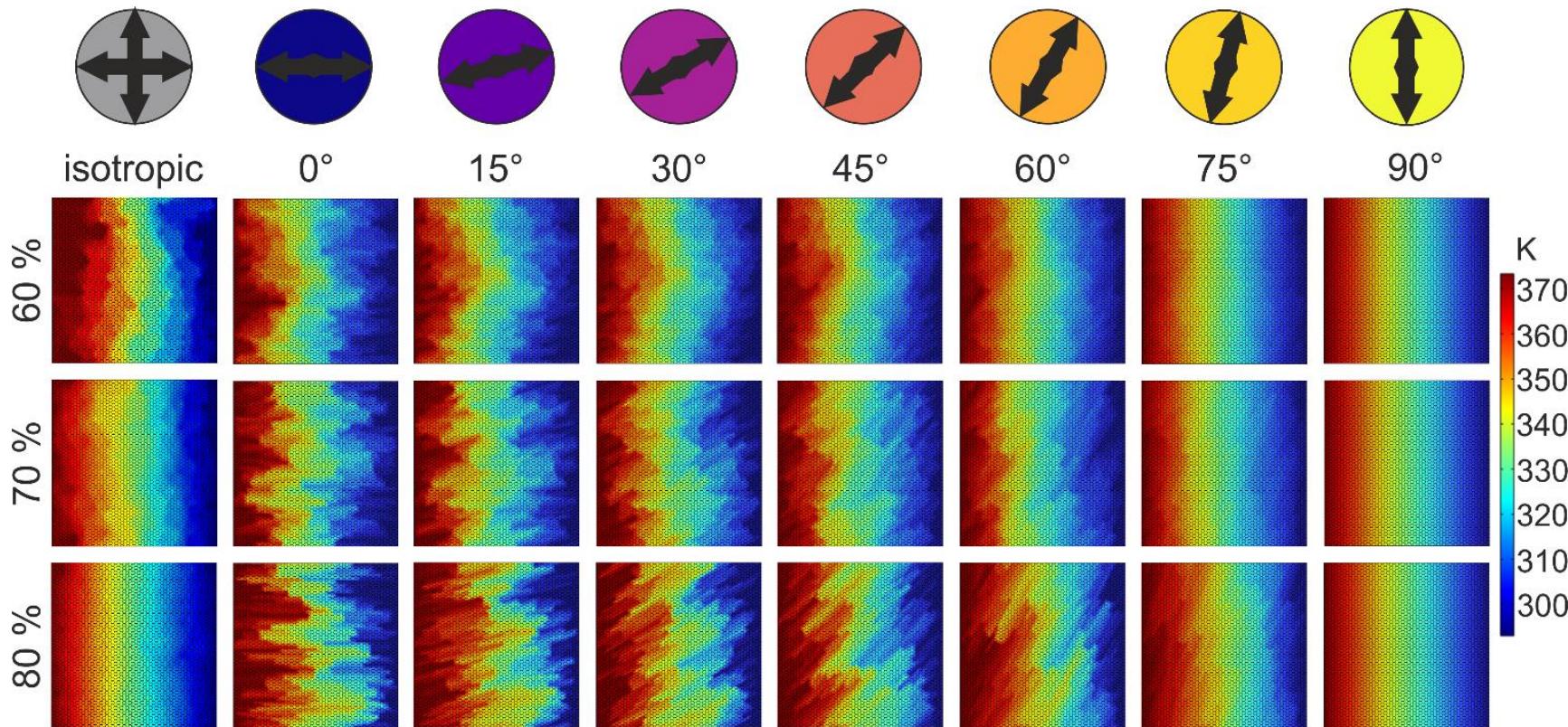


Automation:  
Application Builder!

# Influence of anisotropy?

Depends on:

- Amount of anisotropic particles
- Ratio of anisotropy in the single particles

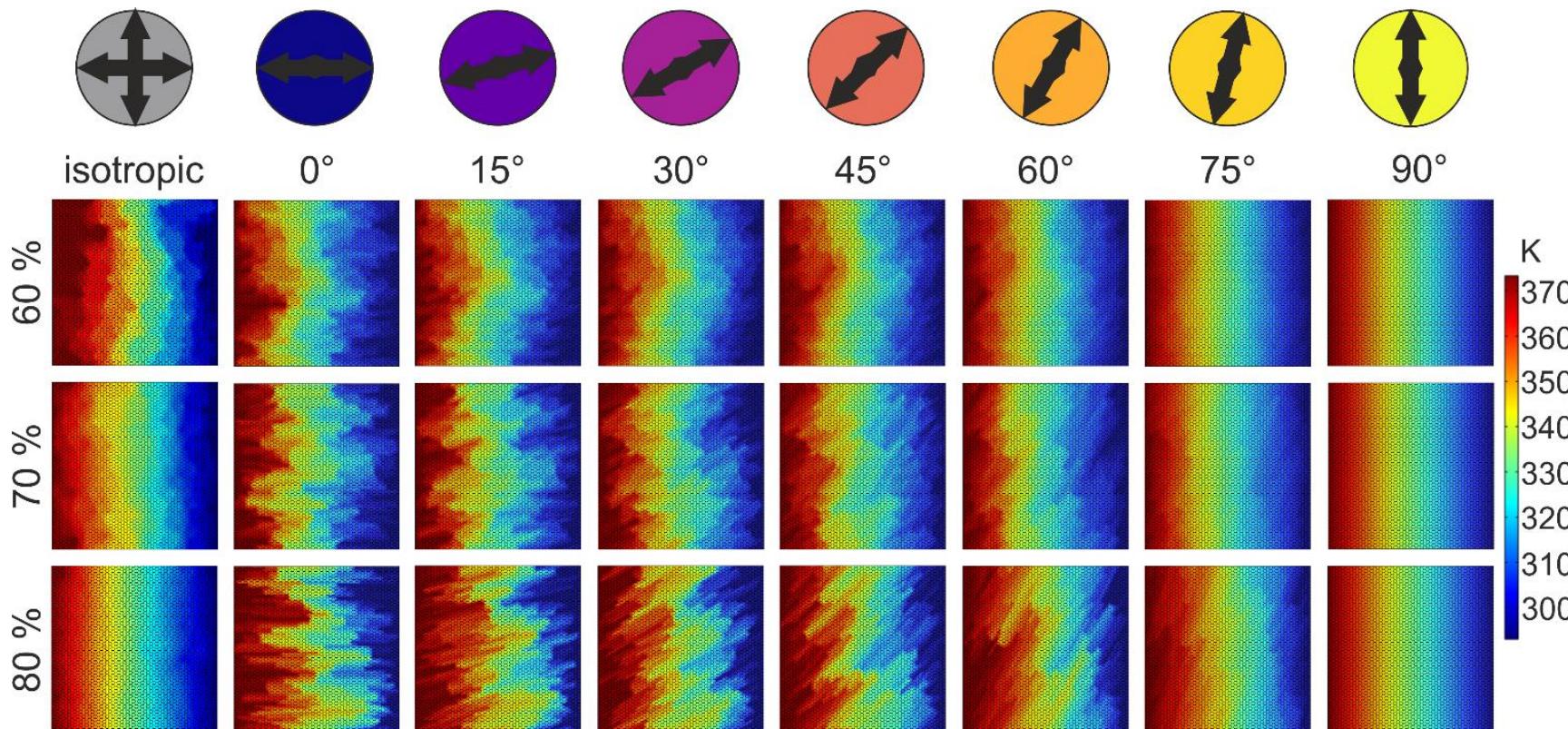


Internal temperature distribution changes drastically!

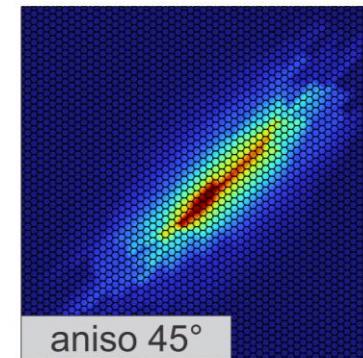
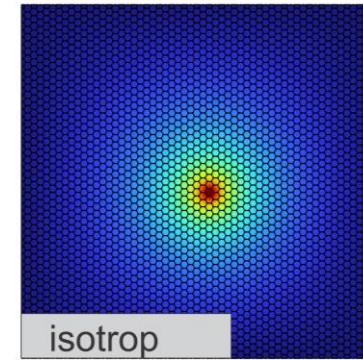
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Depends on:

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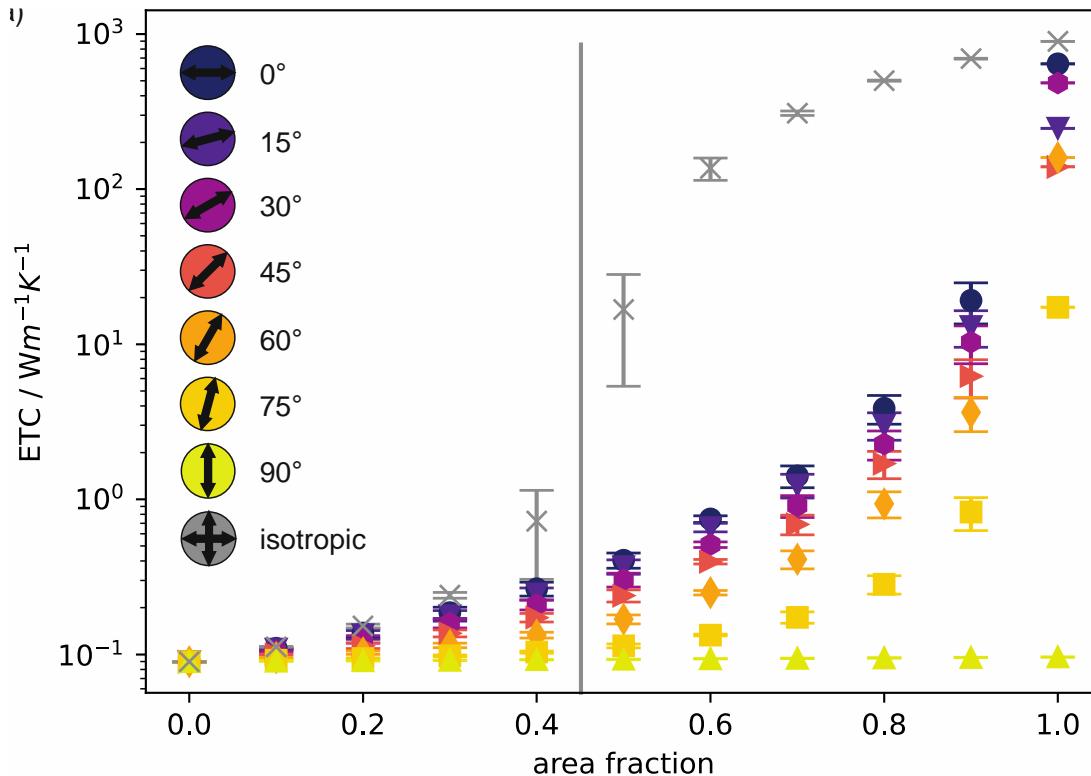
Heat source at center



Risk of hot spots!

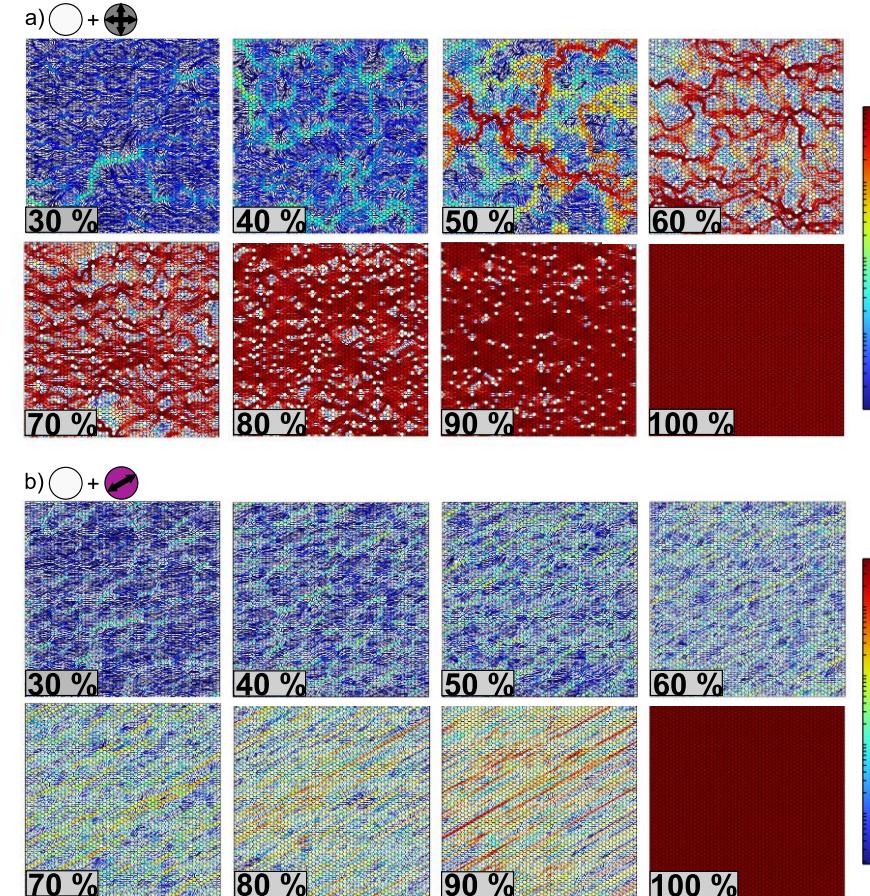
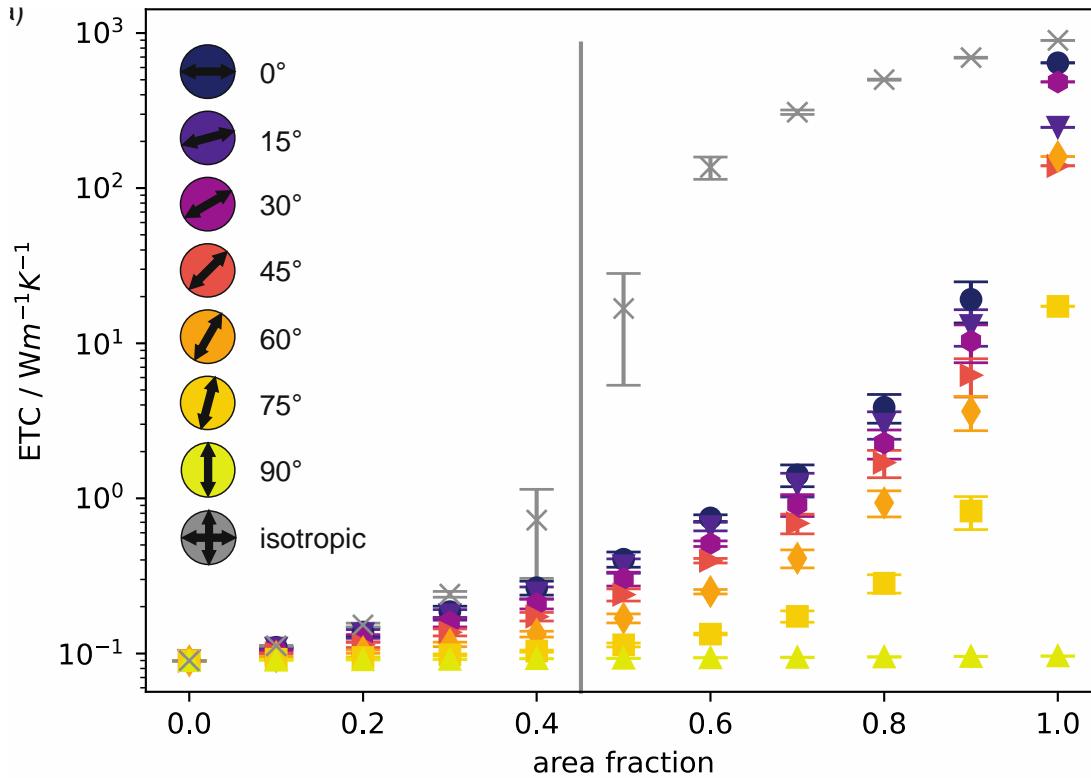
# So, avoid anisotropic components?

- Effective thermal properties can be tailored specifically

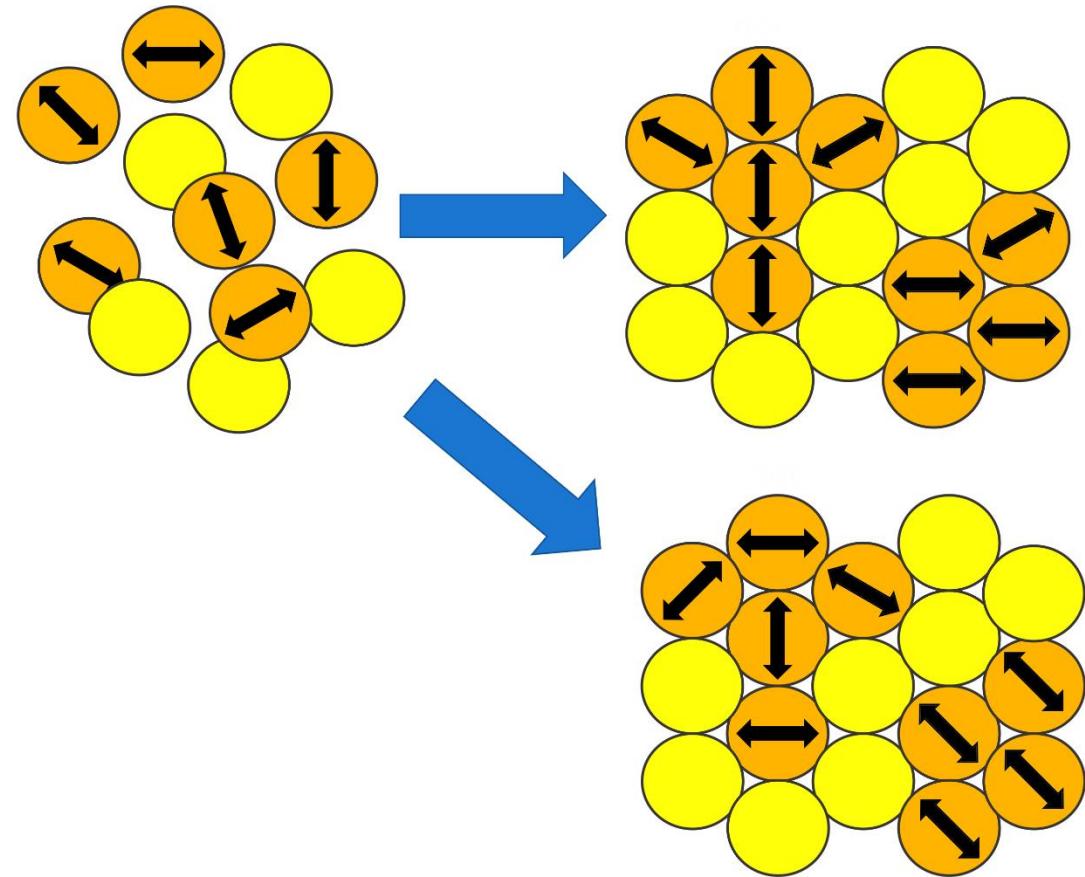
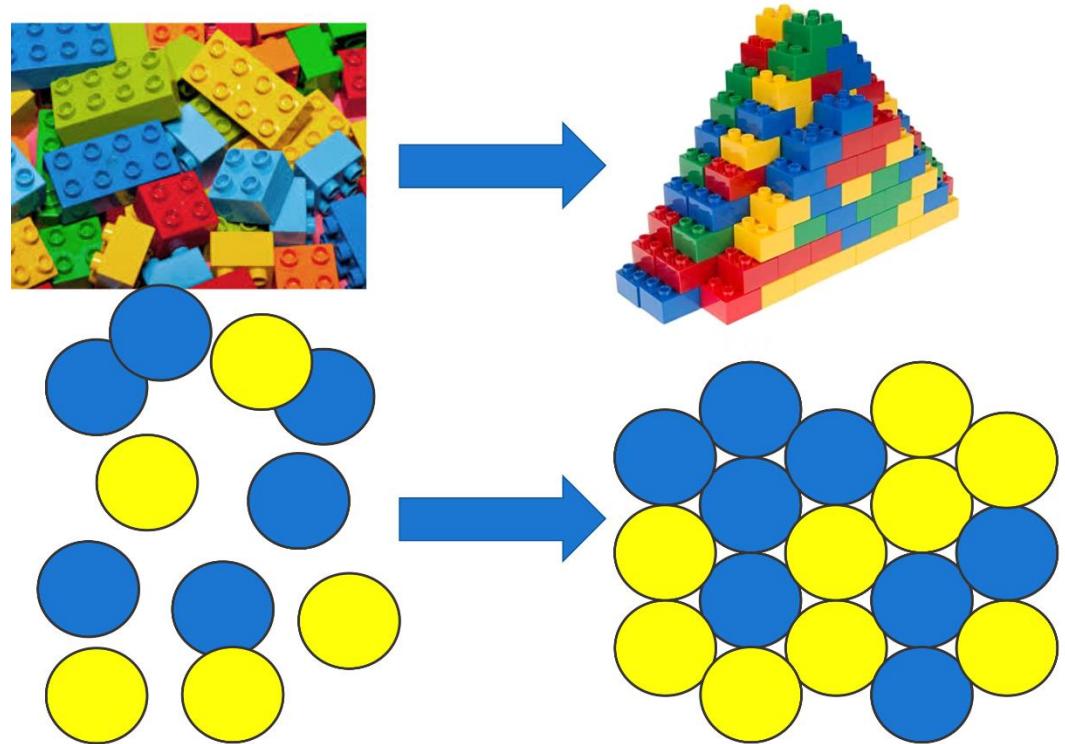


# So, avoid anisotropic components?

- Effective thermal properties can be tailored specifically

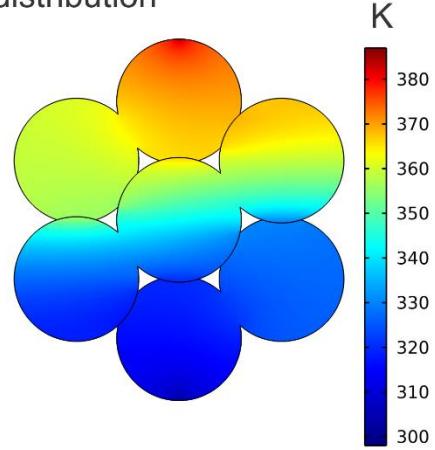


# Application – Design of novel materials!

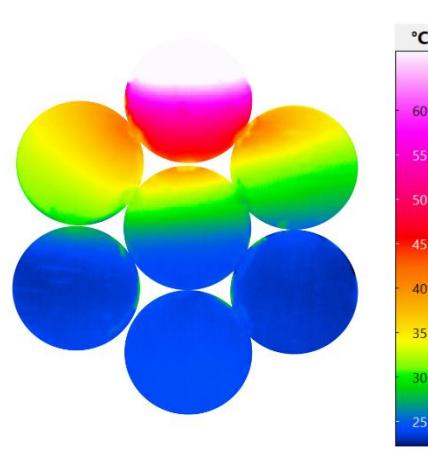


# Validation of Simulation: Isotherms

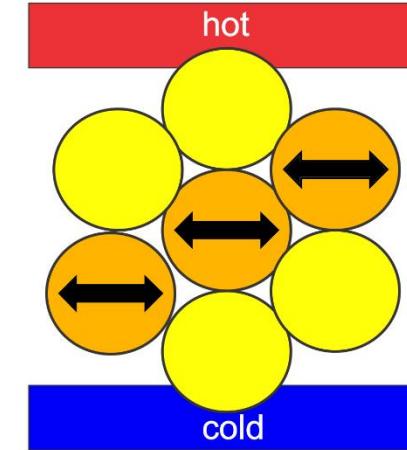
a) simulated temperature distribution



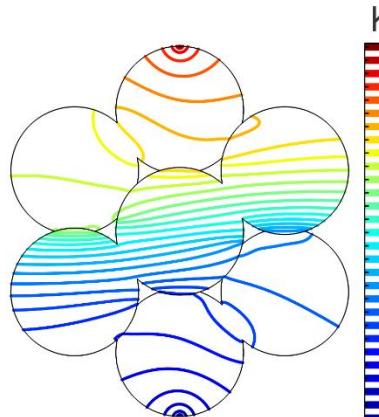
b) measured temperature



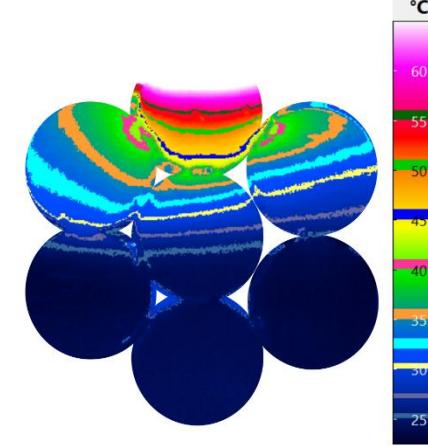
e) arrangement of the laminates

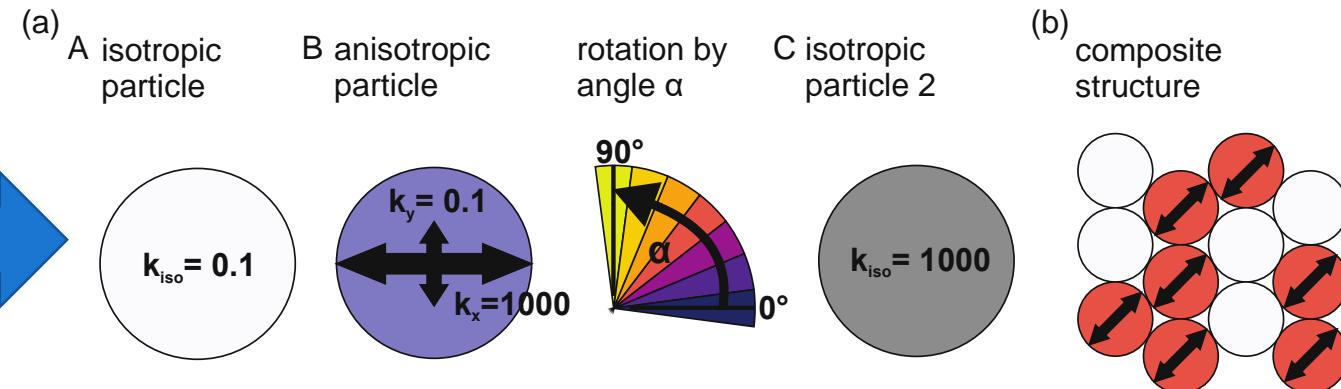
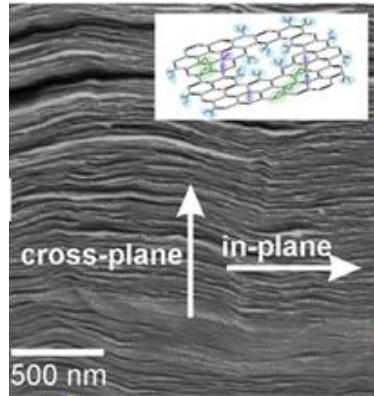
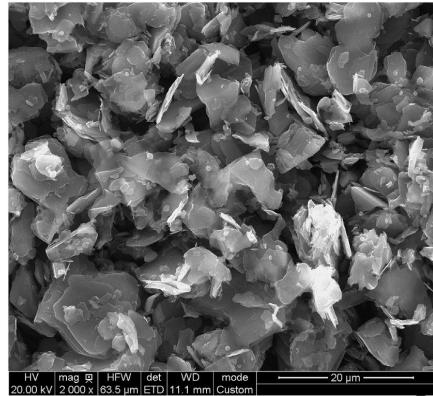


c) simulated isotherms



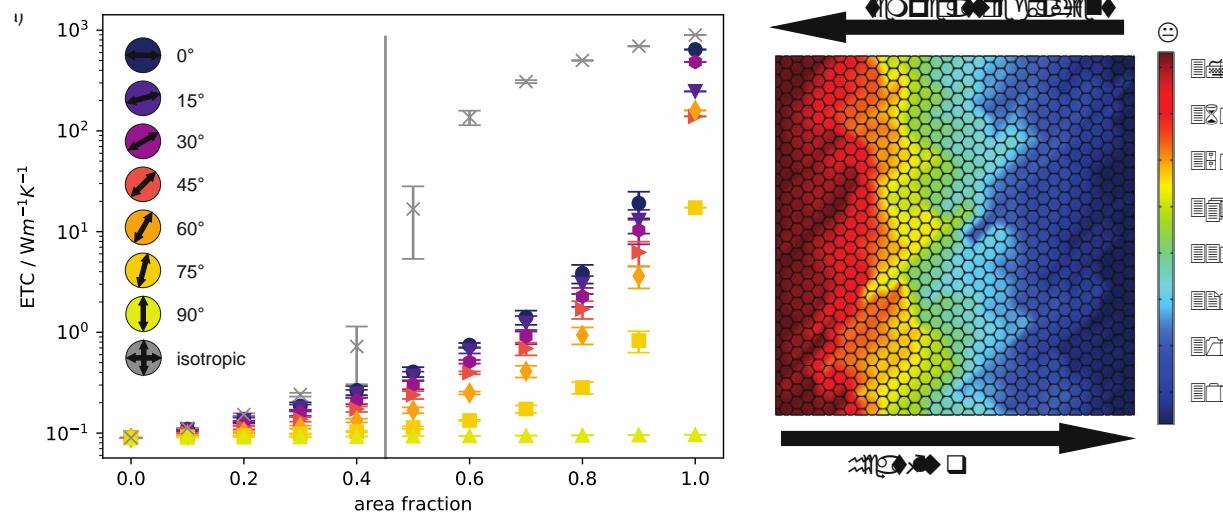
d) measured isotherms





Anisotropic graphite

Tailored thermal conductivity



Strong internal temperature gradients