

# Design beyond imagination

---

Jan Vandenbrande, Ph.D.  
Program Manager, Defense Sciences Office  
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

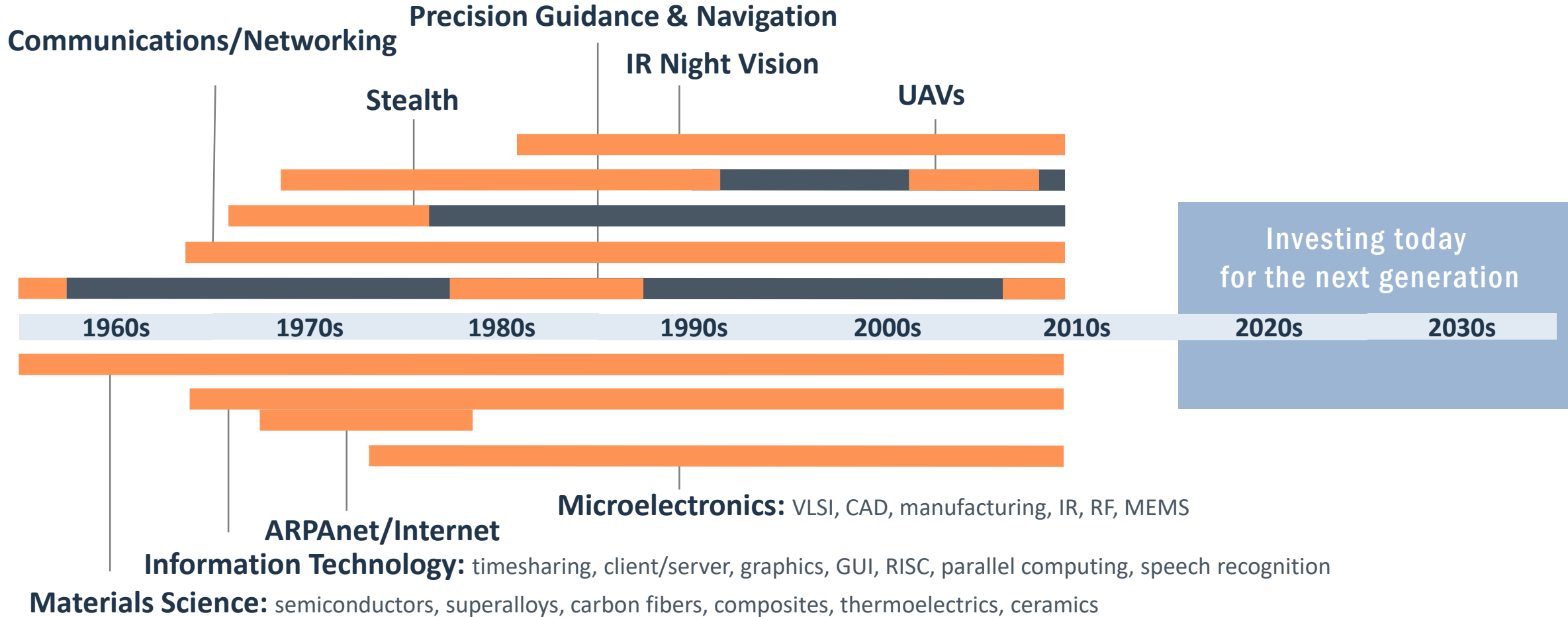
NSF Workshop

October 7, 2019





# DARPA's Mission: Breakthrough Technologies For National Security



These new capabilities require a healthy ecosystem across Service S&T, universities, and industry

**DARPA's role: pivotal early investments that change what's possible**



# DARPA's Portfolio

*Multi-varied threats to the nation*



***Defend the homeland***



Cyber deterrence  
Bio threat detection and mitigation  
Defense against WMT  
Countering hypersonic weapons

*Peer competitor confrontations in Europe and Asia*



***Deter and prevail against high-end adversary***



Adaptive lethality for air, land & sea  
Control of the EM spectrum  
Long range effects  
Robust space

*Continuous counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations*



***Effectively prosecute stabilization efforts***



Gray warfare experimentation  
Behavior modeling & influence  
3D city-scale operations  
Warrior performance

## ***Foundations***

*Understanding complexity, composable systems, advanced materials and electronics, trusted hardware and software, human-machine symbiosis, 3<sup>rd</sup> wave artificial intelligence, data and social science, new computing, and engineered biology*

*Increasing the pace of developing technologies and capabilities for the US and allied warfighter*



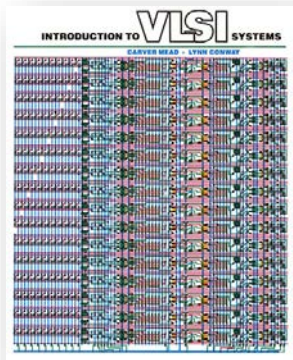
# DARPA Technical Offices



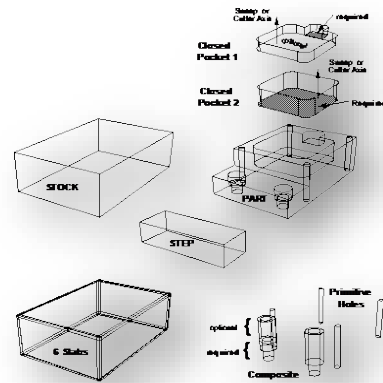


# My background: Design and manufacturing

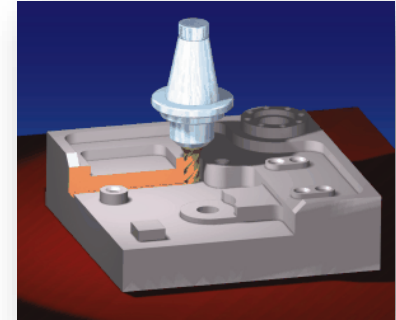
Materials is the common thread between design and manufacturing



VUB: EE/ME

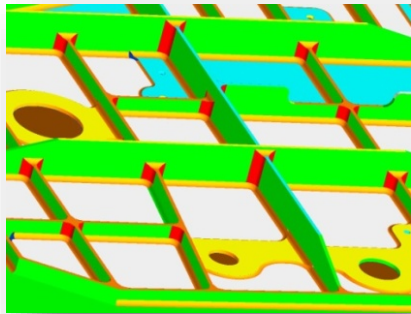


UofR: CAD  $\rightarrow$  CAM



Unigraphics: CAM

## Boeing



NC Automation



MDO



Composites



**My interests: Design and build things better and faster**

---

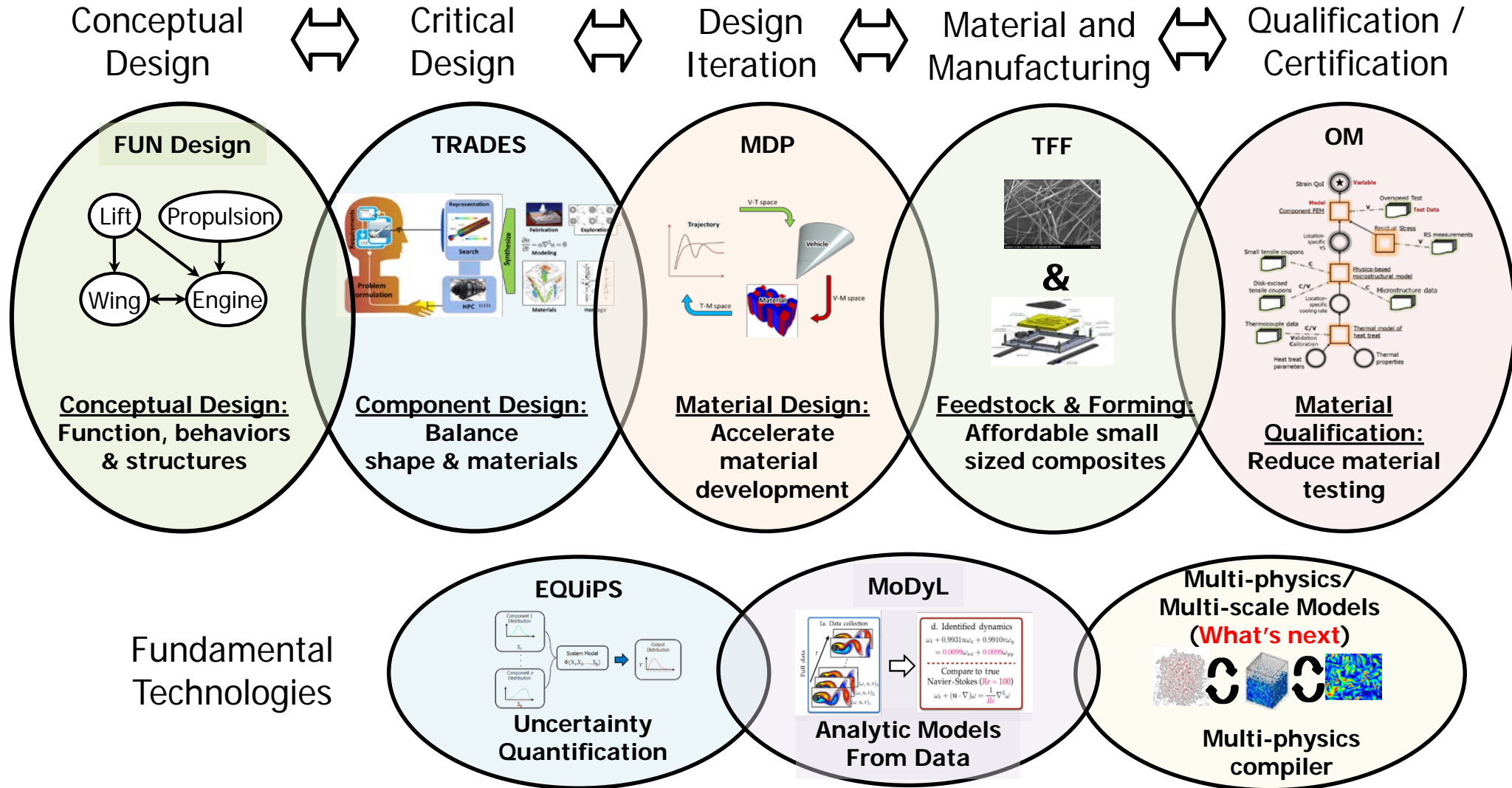
**Discover radically new designs?**

**Leverage advanced materials & manufacturing?**

**What's next?**

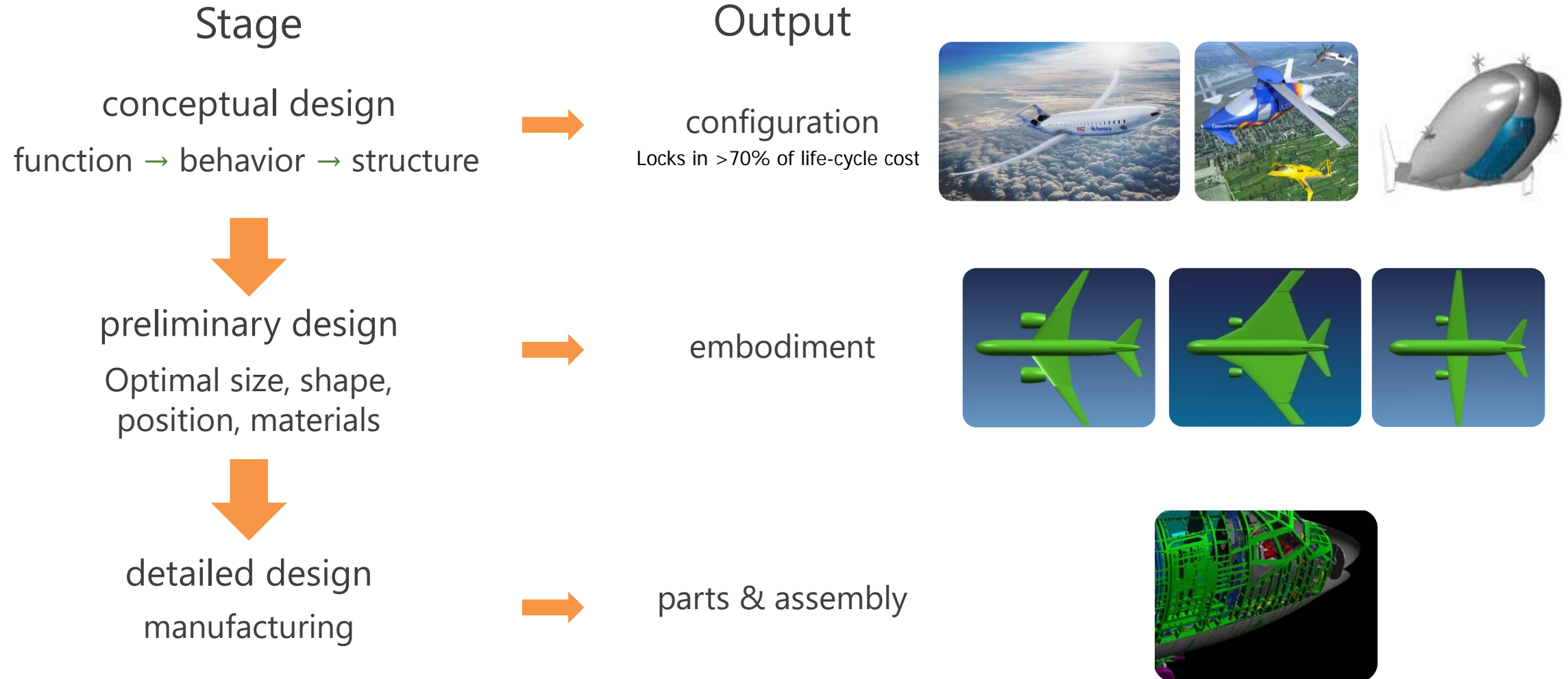


# DARPA portfolio spans design-to-manufacturing cycle





# Design is accomplished in stages





# FUNdamental Design: Can computers find new design architectures?

Conceptual  
Design



Critical  
Design



Design  
Iteration

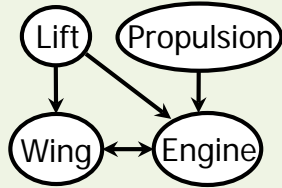


Material and  
Manufacturing



Qualification /  
Certification

**FUN Design**



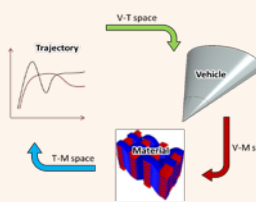
**Conceptual Design:**  
Function, behaviors  
& structures

**TRADES**



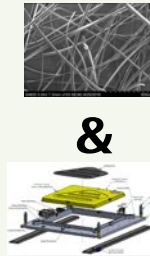
**Component Design:**  
Balance  
shape & materials

**MDP**



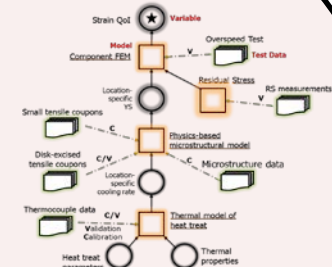
**Material Design:**  
Accelerate  
material  
development

**TFF**



**Feedstock & Forming:**  
Affordable small  
sized composites

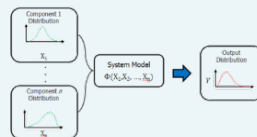
**OM**



**Material Qualification:**  
Reduce material  
testing

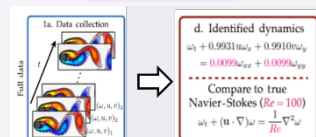
Fundamental  
Technologies

**EQUIPS**



**Uncertainty  
Quantification**

**MoDyL**



**Analytic Models  
From Data**

**Multi-physics/  
Multi-scale Models  
(What's next)**



**Multi-physics  
compiler**



# FUN(damental) Design: Rethink conceptual design

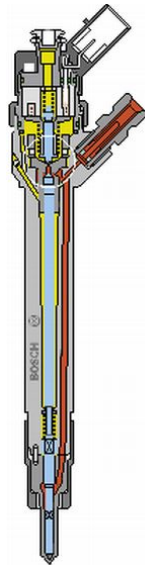
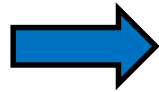
Establish conceptual design building blocks to enable exploration and discovery of novel & optimized designs

Enable generation of new designs



**Carburetor**

(Holley 0-82750 4150 Street HP 750 CFM Four Barrel Vacuum Secondary)



**Fuel Injector**  
(Bosch)

Carburetors and fuel injectors perform the same function but in dramatically different physical realizations

Combine best of designs

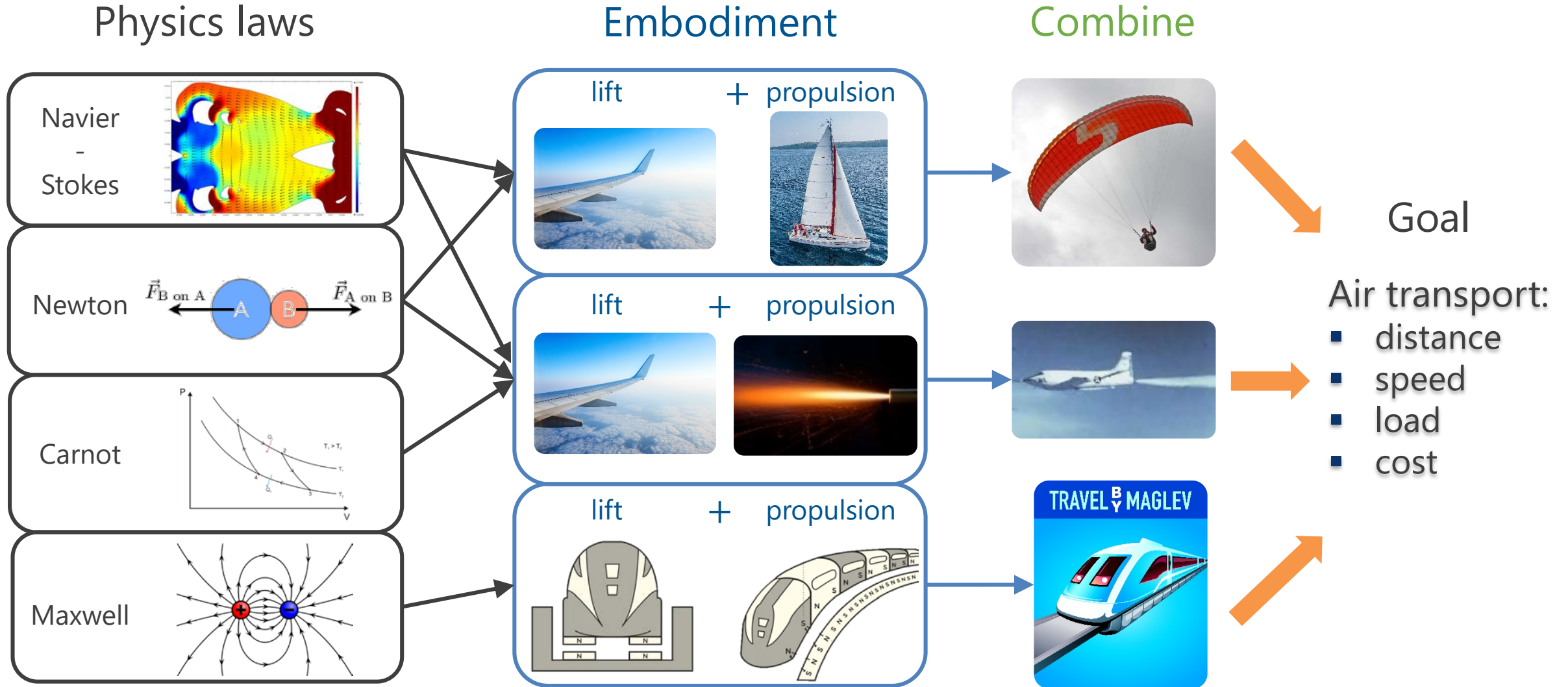


+





# FUN Design: How do you make computers reason about physics to achieve a goal?



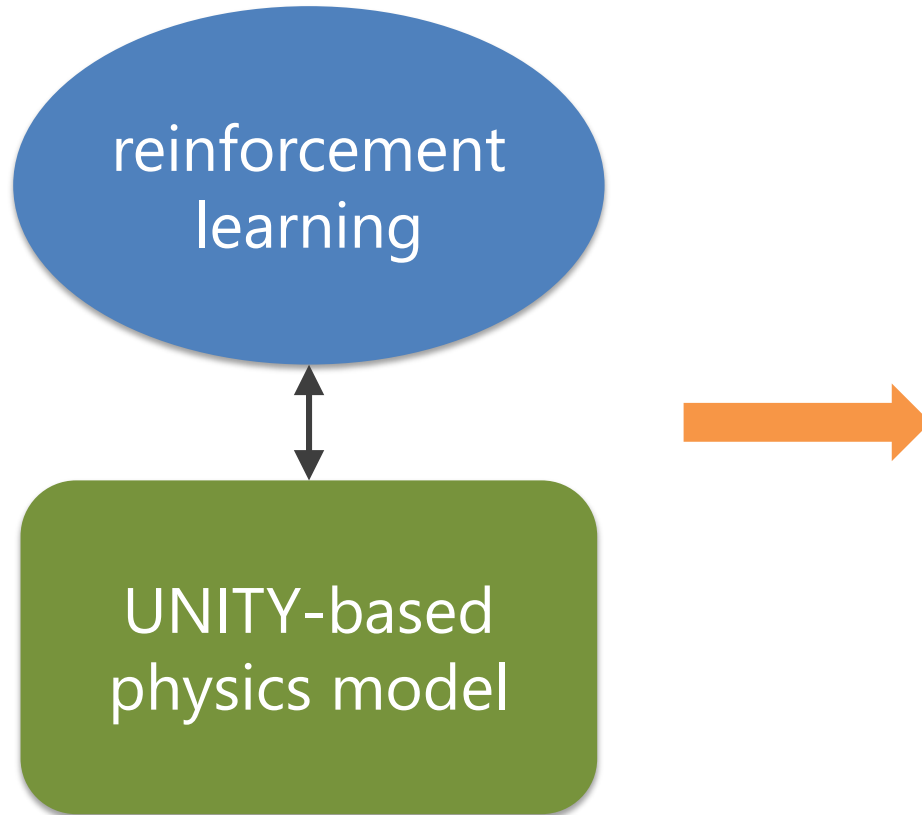
[www.energy.gov/articles/how-maglev-works](http://www.energy.gov/articles/how-maglev-works)



# PSU uses AI to explore physics to find new behaviors

Penn State: Yukish

Reinforcement learning & gaming  
simulation to discover new behaviors  
and modes of transportation



Discovered skipping flight path that repeatedly crosses  
the boundary layer to extract energy



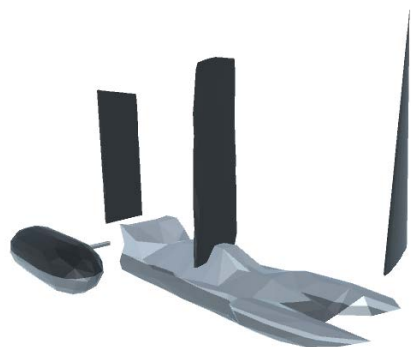
View in presentation mode to see video



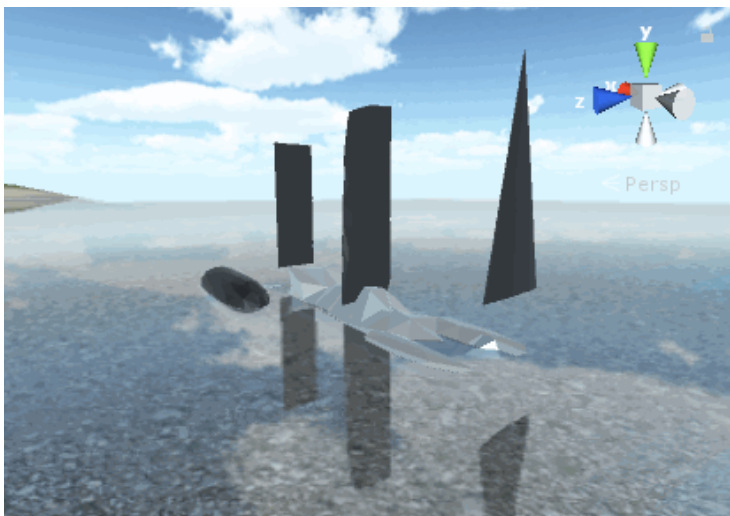
# PSU: AI generated boats

Penn State: Yukish

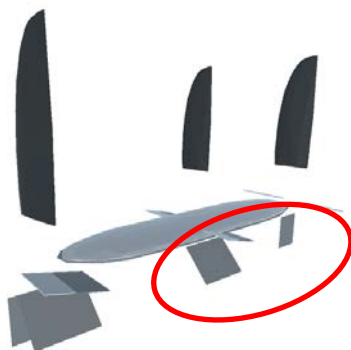
Initial design: Flat bottom



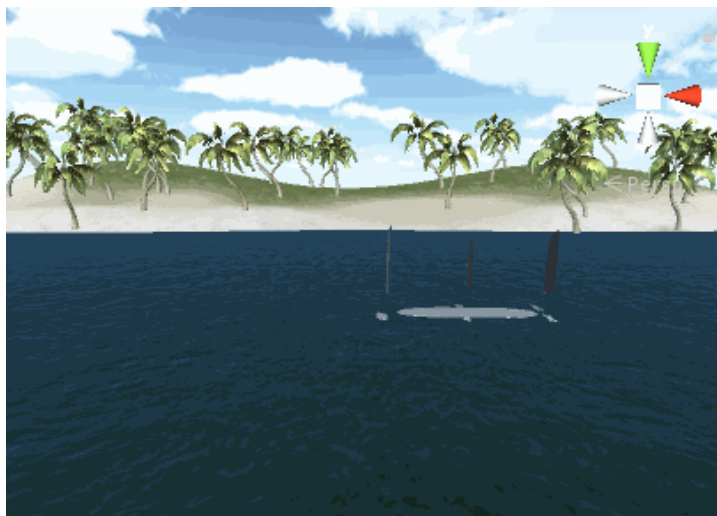
Capsizes



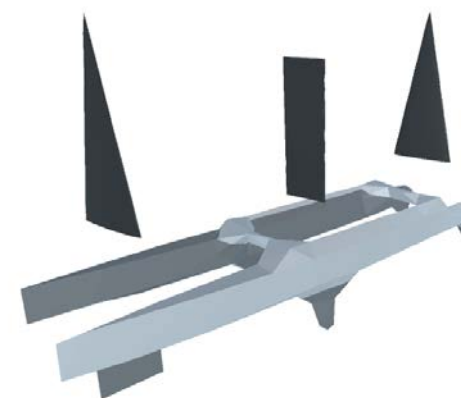
AI discovered keel & leeboards for stability



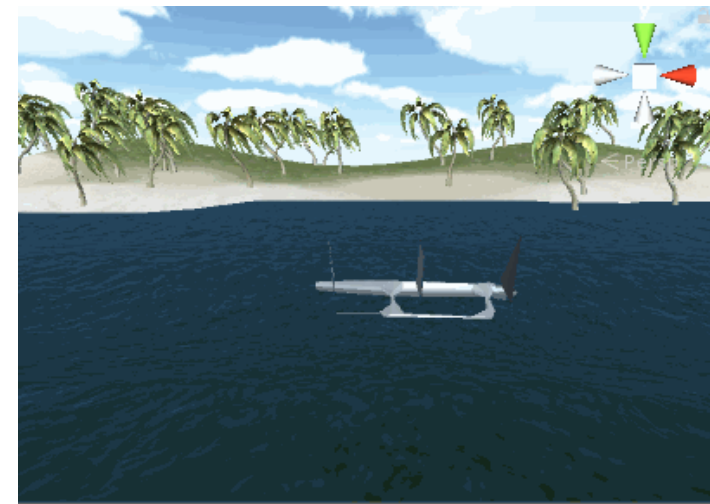
Capsizes with high waves



AI discovered dual hull

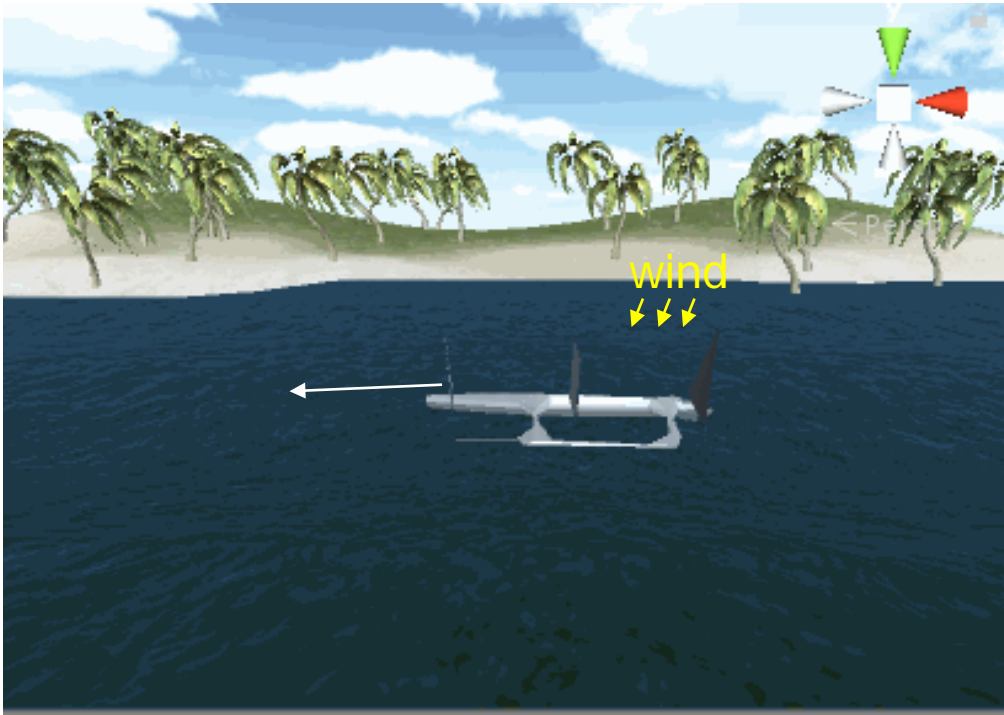


Crosswind travel with waves





## Verification...



Verification





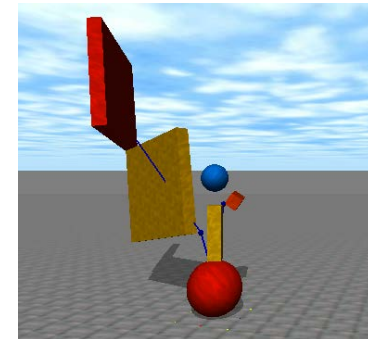
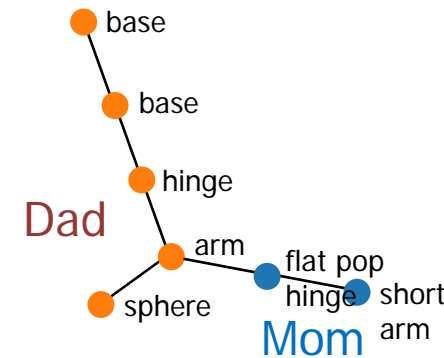
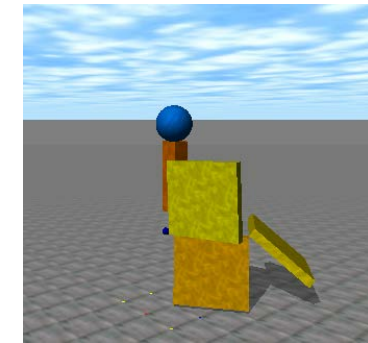
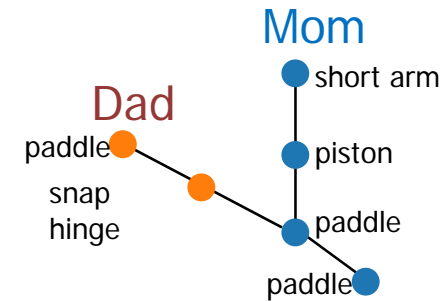
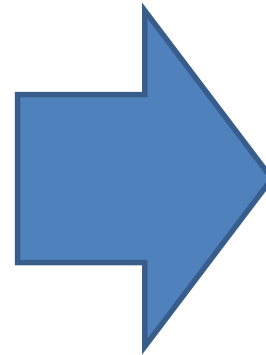
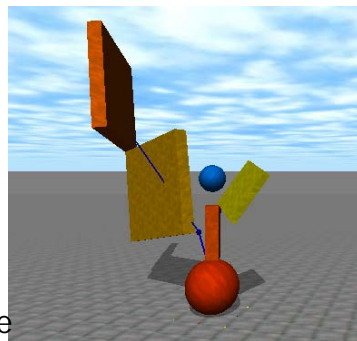
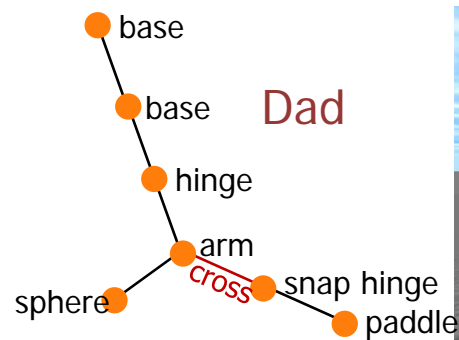
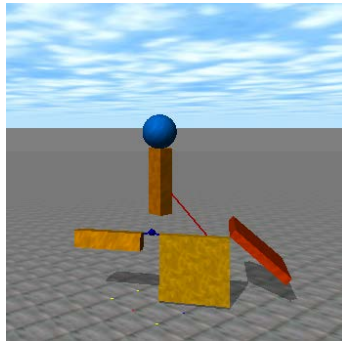
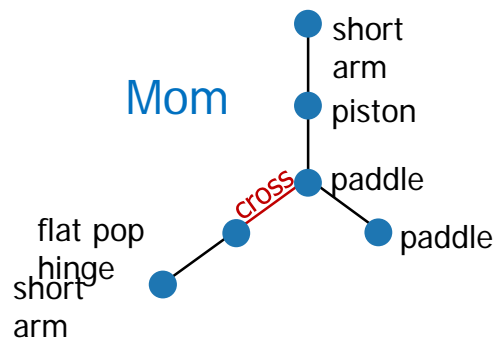
# Metron: Leverage algebra of operads to mate and mutate designs

Imitate nature to cross link designs and improve species

Source: METRON

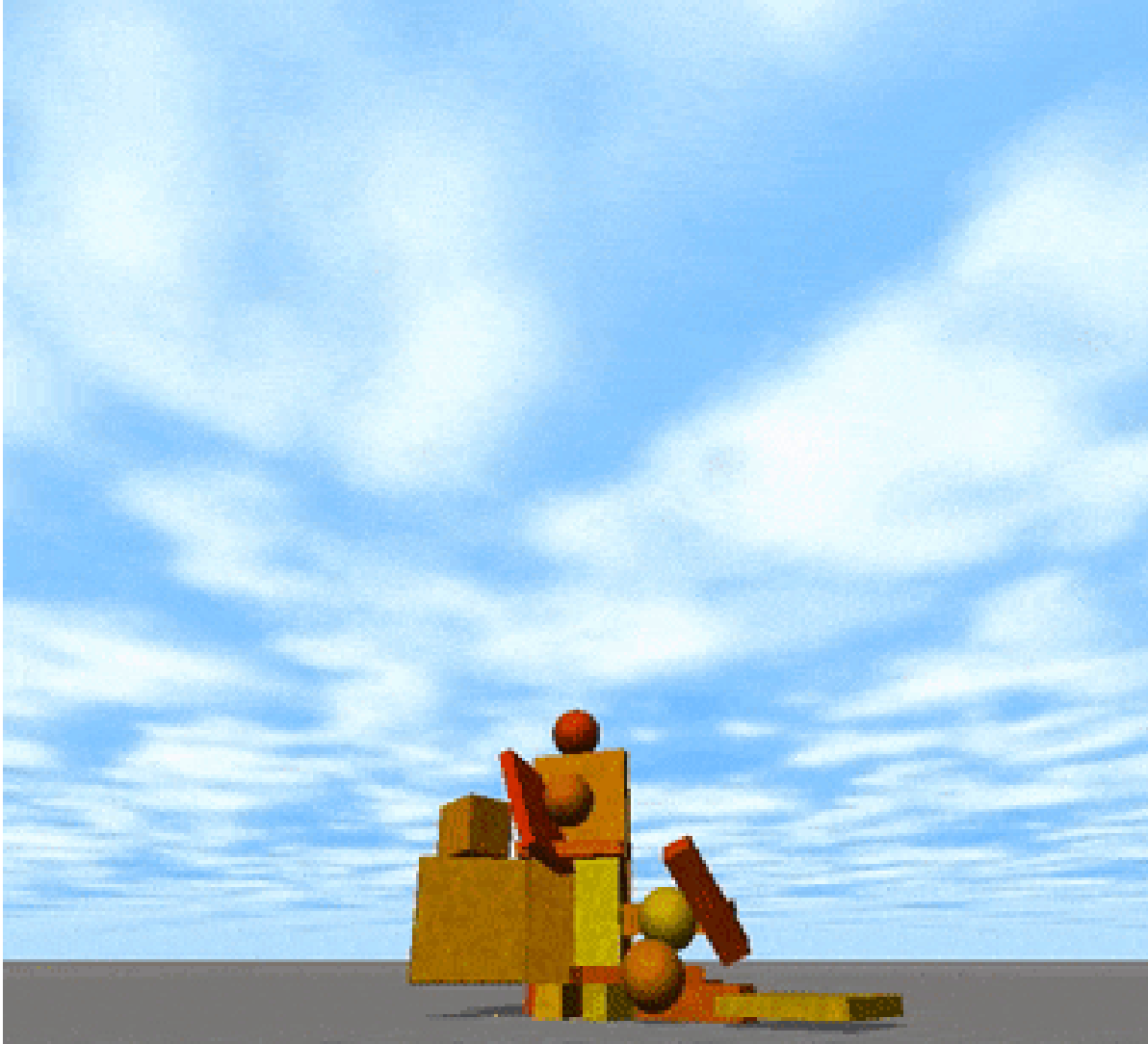
## Parents

## Children





## "Bloopers Real": Exploding Junk



**AI discovered that negative distances (a bug in the program) resulted in infinite energy to fire the projectile.**

**It's a clear demonstration that AI can exploit different physics to find unanticipated areas in design space**

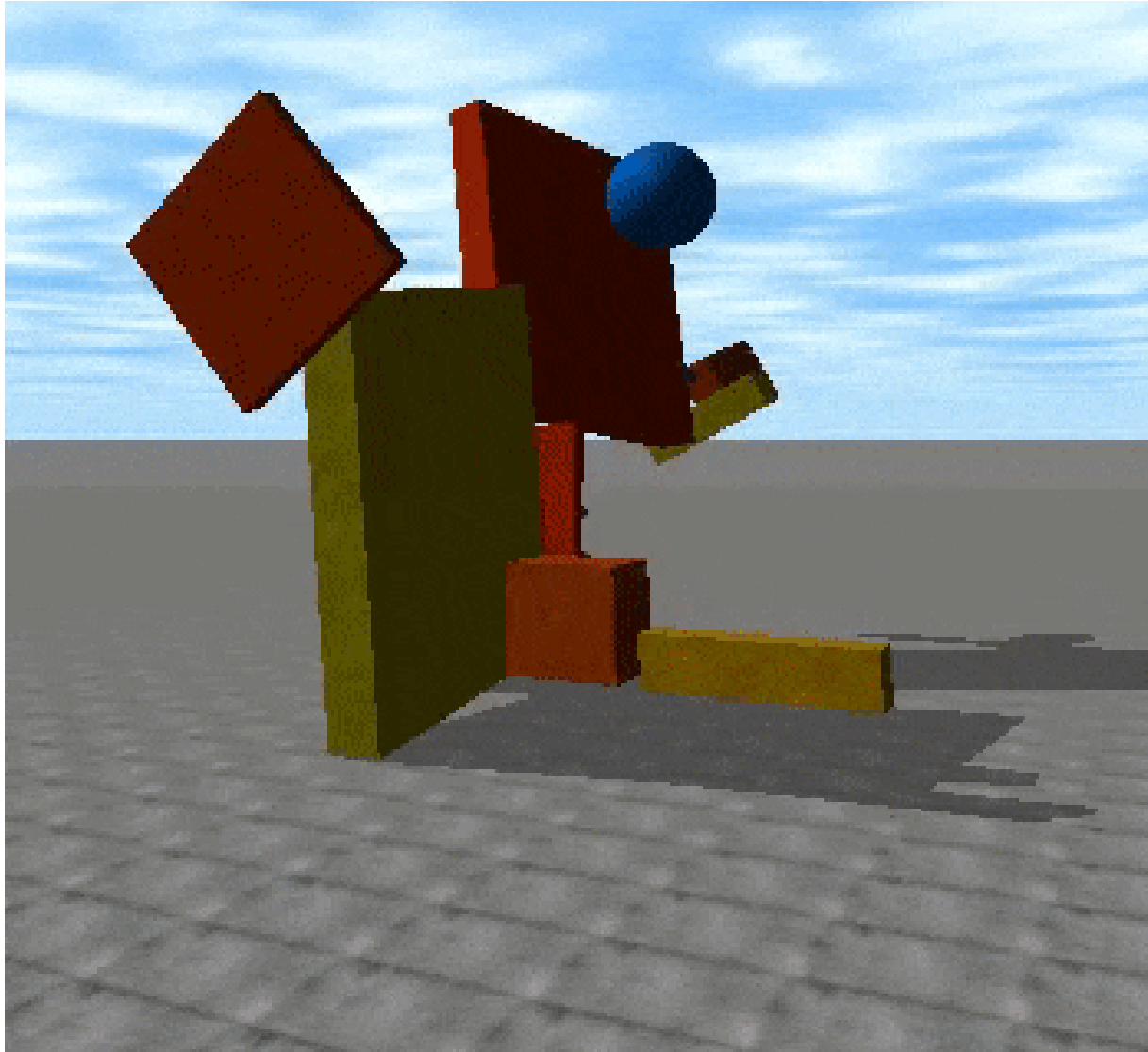
Metron: Godfrey

View in presentation mode to see video

Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release. Distribution unlimited. Released at AI Colloquium



## Blooper Real: AI discovers how to cheat



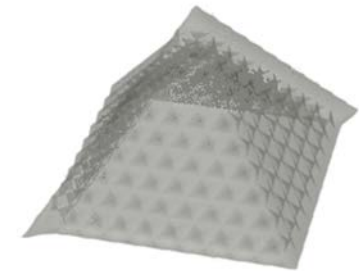
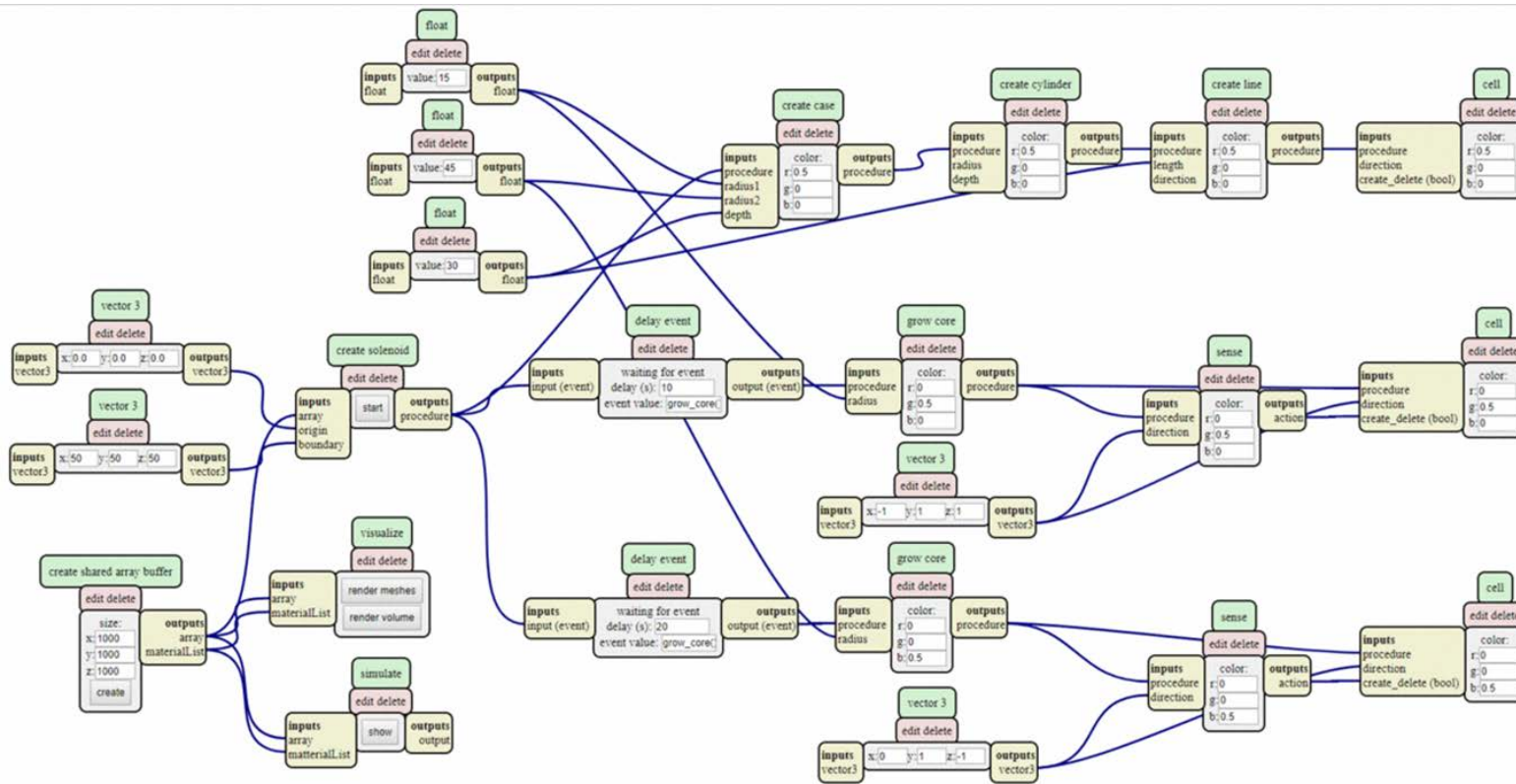
**AI exploits loophole in rules to cheat!**



# MIT: Use search over algorithms to design

MIT: Gershenfeld

Explore conceptual design space by searching over algorithms with self modifying graphs analogous to natural evolution



Designs are implicitly represented by algorithms with rewrite rules

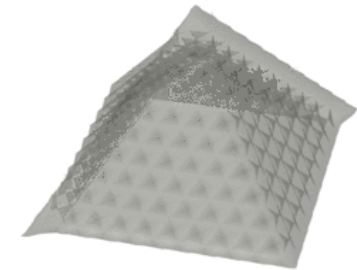
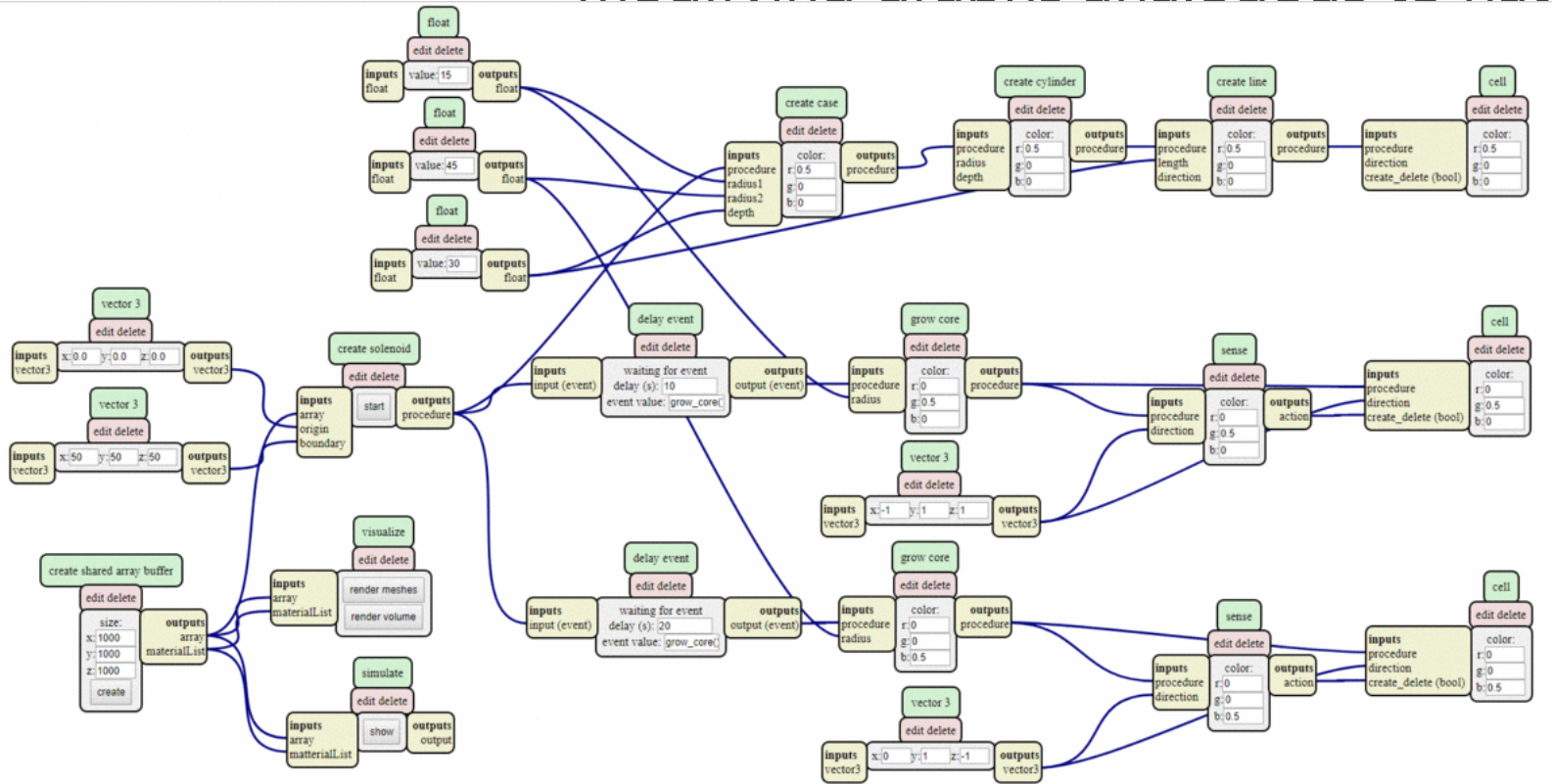
Growing a solenoid



# MIT: Use search over algorithms to design

MIT: Gershenfeld

Explore conceptual design space by searching over algorithms with self modifying graphs analogous to natural evo



Designs are implicitly represented by algorithms with rewrite rules

Growing a solenoid



# TRADES: Develop the math and algorithms to balance shape with materials for component design, basically next gen CAD systems

Conceptual Design



Critical Design



Design Iteration

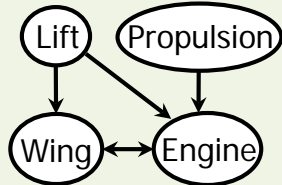


Material and Manufacturing



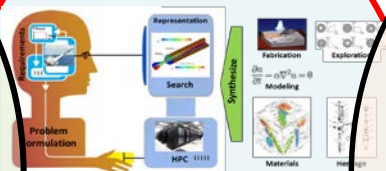
Qualification / Certification

**FUN Design**



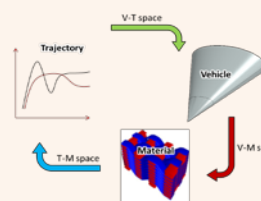
**Conceptual Design:**  
Function, behaviors  
& structures

**TRADES**



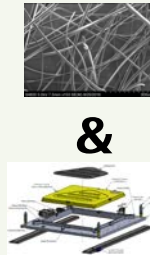
**Component Design:**  
Balance  
shape & materials

**MDP**



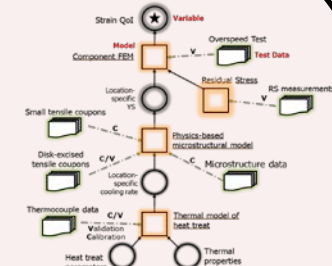
**Material Design:**  
Accelerate  
material  
development

**TFF**



**Feedstock & Forming:**  
Affordable small  
sized composites

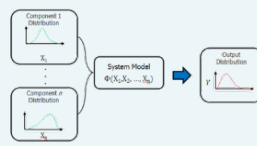
**OM**



**Material Qualification:**  
Reduce material  
testing

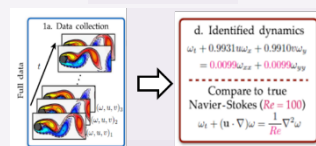
Fundamental Technologies

**EQUIPS**



**Uncertainty Quantification**

**MoDyL**



**Analytic Models From Data**

**Multi-physics/  
Multi-scale Models  
(What's next)**

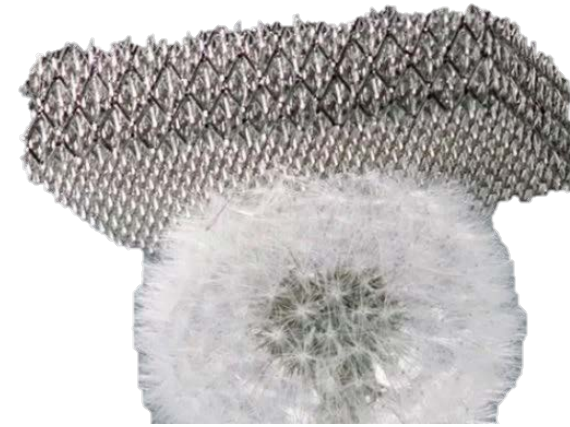
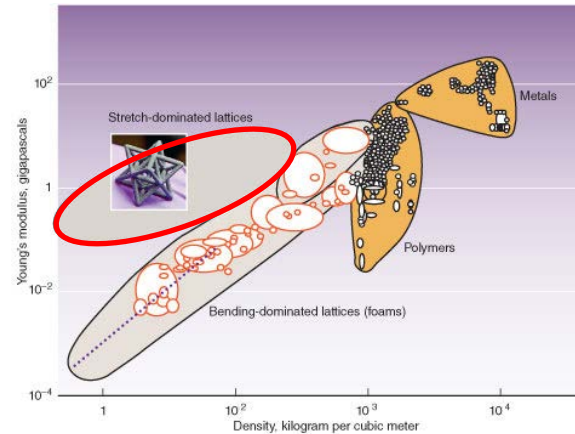


**Multi-physics compiler**



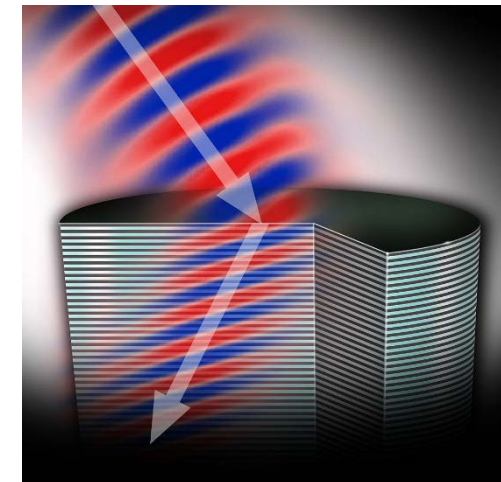
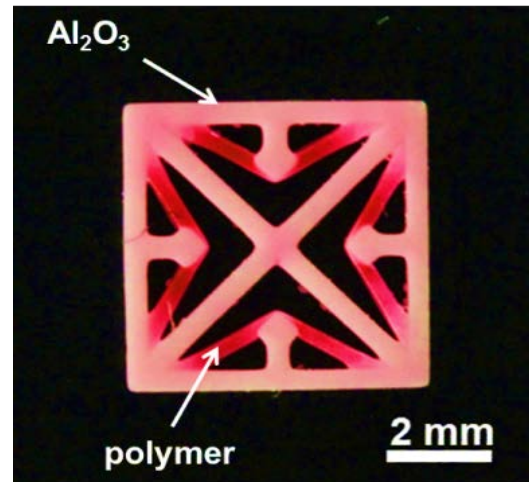
# Breakthroughs in manufacturing enable precise control over material placement creating non-natural material behaviors

Material behaviors not found in nature



Super light weight structures

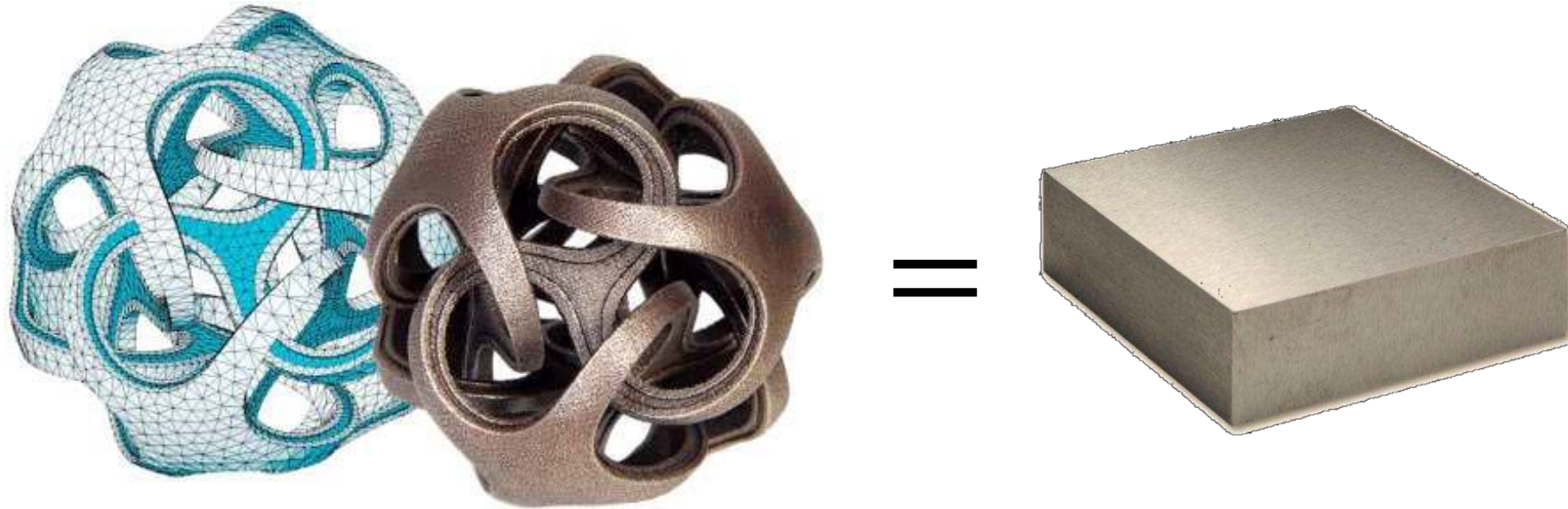
Negative thermal expansion



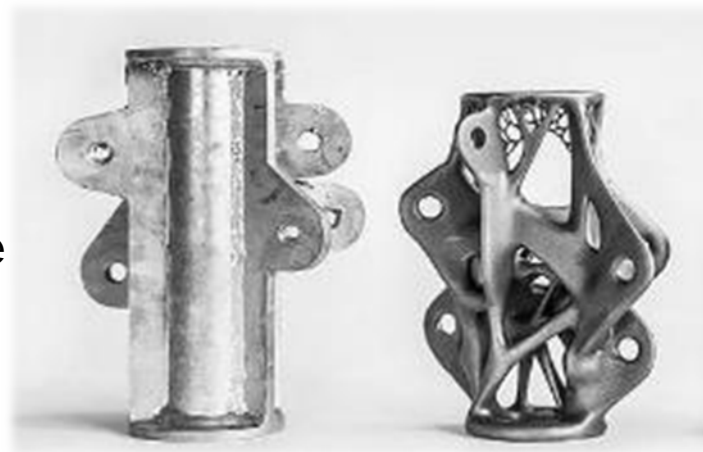
Negative refractive index



Complex shapes that were impossible or too expensive are now feasible

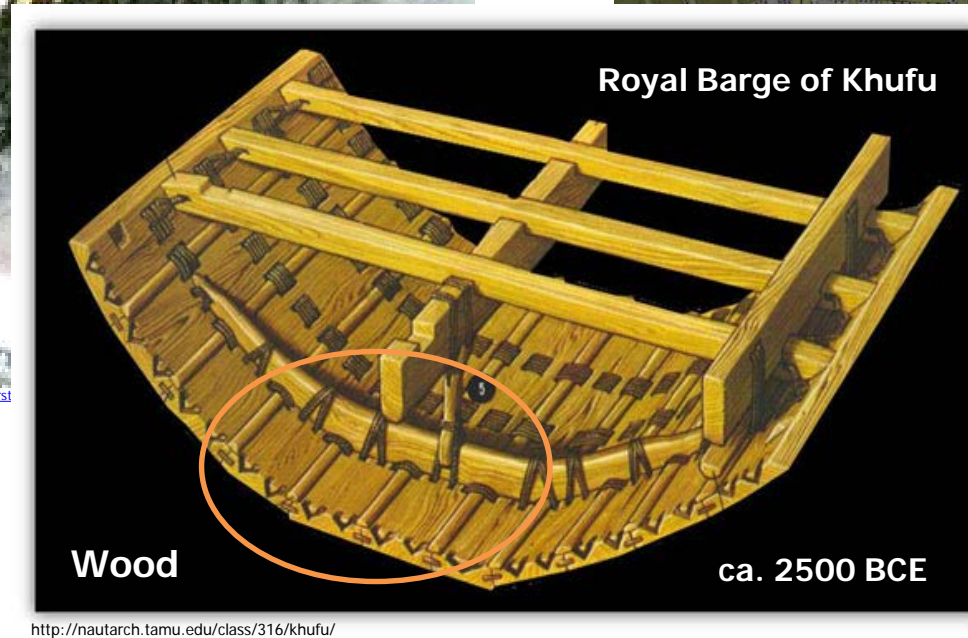
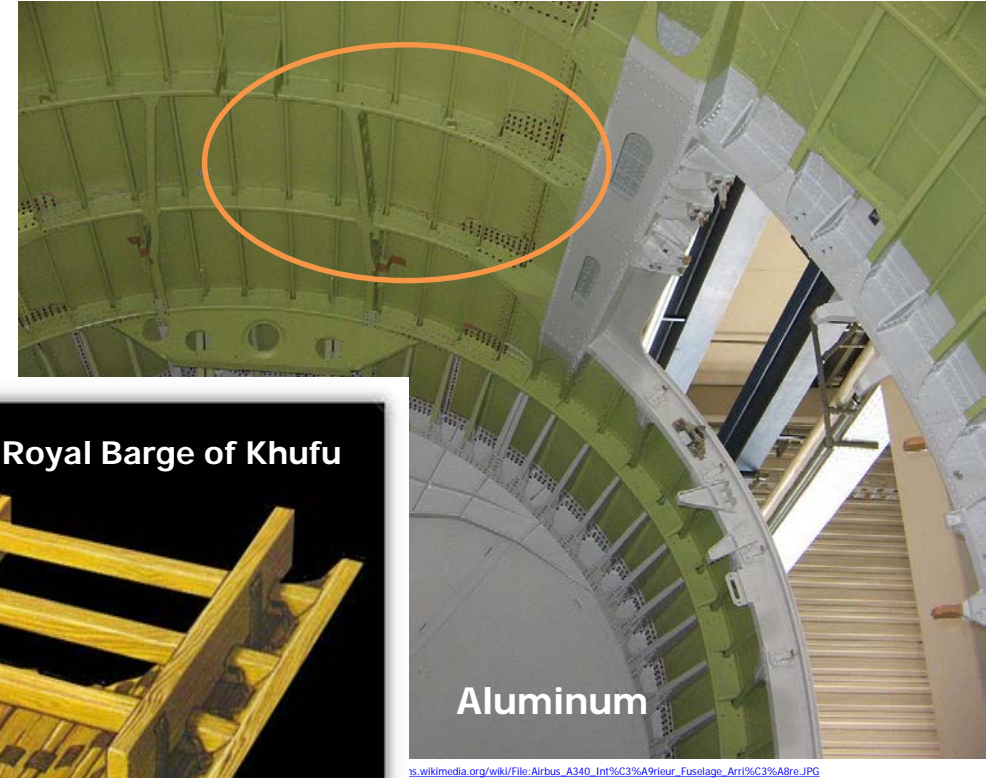
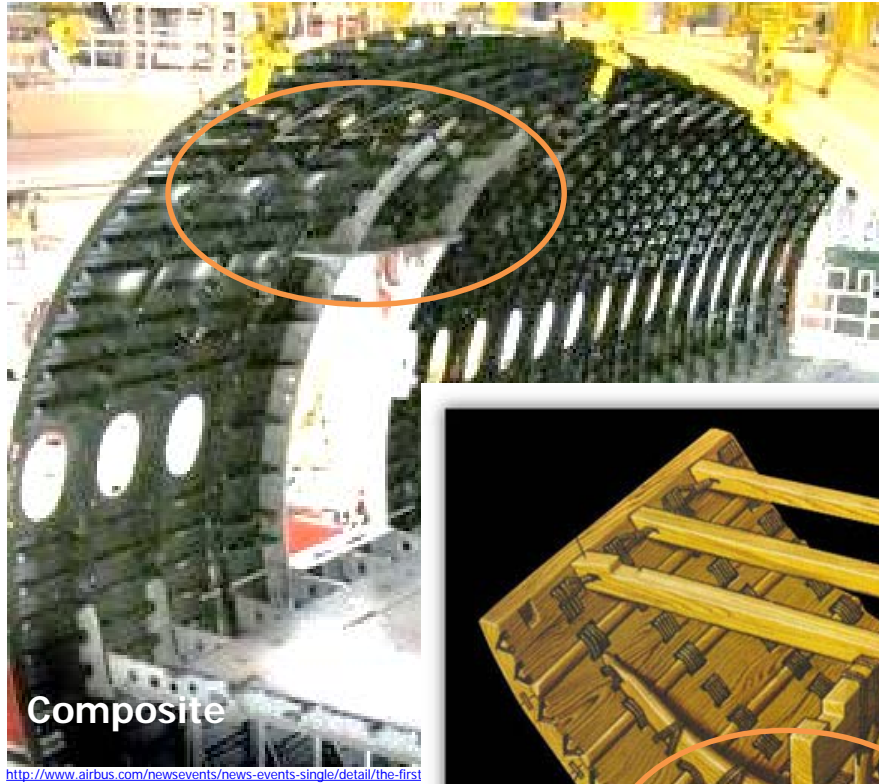


A more practical example





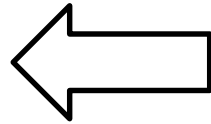
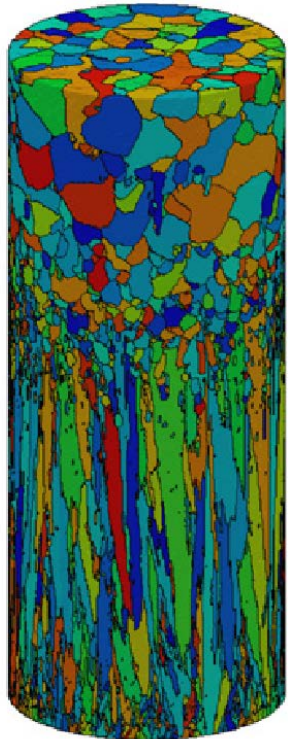
Reality: We don't really know how to leverage these advances



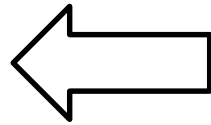


## The basic problem with “manufactured” materials

3D printing results in different material structures than bulk materials



Even within the same print,  
the material structure  
changes due to thermal  
history

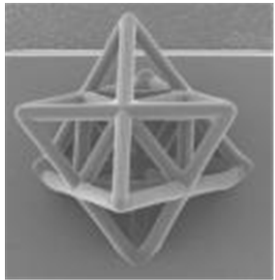


Carozzani et.al., Modelling Simul. Mater. Sci. Eng. **20** (2012)

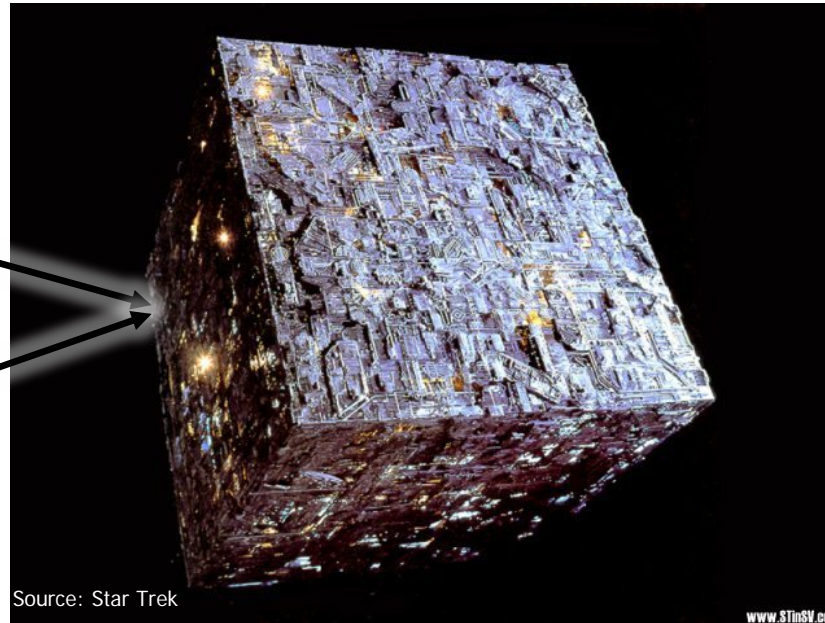
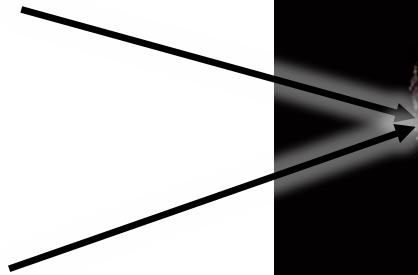
**How would you compensate for this?**



We have also reached the limits of our design tools & our minds



↔  
.01 mm



↔  
1 m

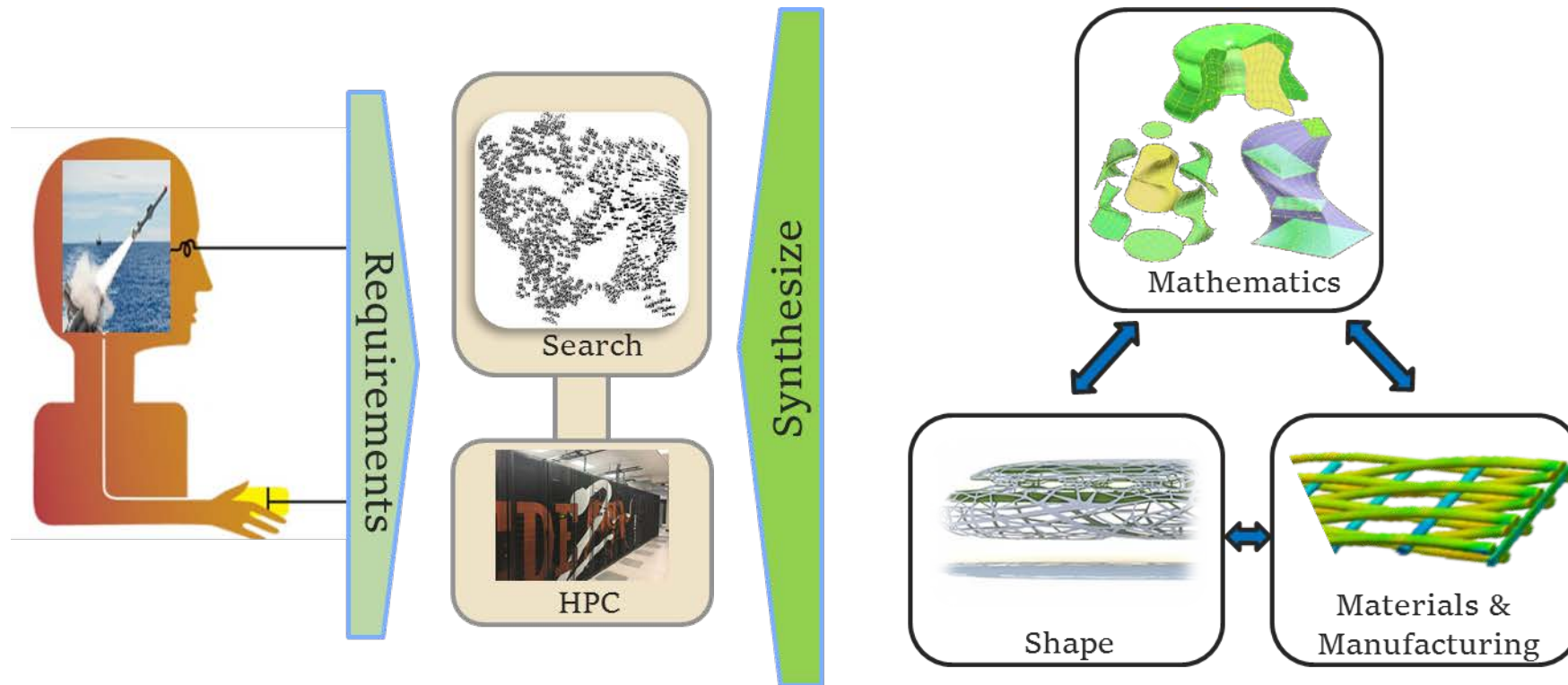
**> 100,000 GBytes**

RAM on most PCs: <128 GBytes



TRAnsformative DESign (TRADES): Make computers a true collaborative partner with human designers to synthesize designs unimagined today.

- Design tools have not kept up with advances in materials and manufacturing
- Complexity of design space exceeds existing systems and human capabilities

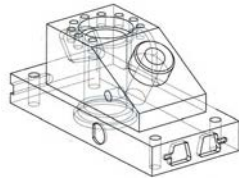




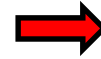
# TRAnsformative DESign: How do you balance shape and materials?

State of the art

## Modeling: Efficiently describe shape, material and their variations

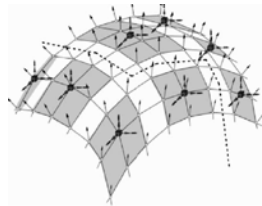


Explicit  
Data centric  
 $\leq 3D$



Multi-resolution (Animation)  
Functional/Generative (CS)  
 $\geq 3D$  (Math)

## Analysis: Compute physical properties directly & reliably

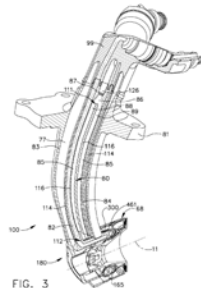


Discretization  
Finite element analysis



Direct analysis (Math)  
Query based methods (CS)

## Synthesis: Generate and find the best designs



Record



Optimization & Uncertainty (Math)  
Design as coding (CS)  
Machine learning (AI)

Seamless integration

Future



## Example program metrics to measure success

### TRADES program metrics:

- Modeling, complexity, and response speed assessed against industry incumbents using nominal HPC cluster
- Multi-physics, interoperability and required computer-human interaction assessed against state of the art design tools

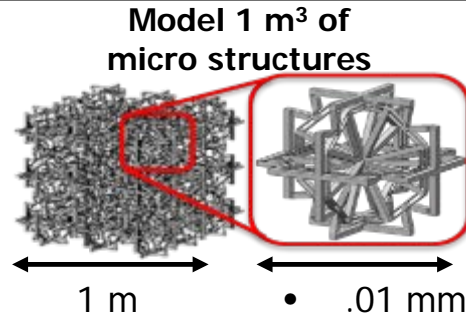
Program Metric	State of the Art	Threshold	Objective
Usable level of detail in physical scale difference	$\leq 10^5$	$> 10^6$	$> 10^8$
Object complexity (Shape + Material)	No material, $10^5$ to $10^9$	$> 10^{12}$	$> 10^{15}$
Computational efficiency (e.g., Simulating high fidelity physics)	Hours to weeks	minutes	seconds
Multi-physics design	Indirect through design-test	Sequential	Coupled
Material architecture and shape generation for multi-physics challenge problems	Does not exist	$> 2$ Physics	$> 3$ Physics, with uncertainty
Interoperability	Manual intervention	Automated	Direct
Computer-human interaction	Experienced ( $> 10$ yrs) professional required to generate and model non-trivial design solutions	Semi-professional required	Non-professional



The type of challenges addressed by TRADES: multi-scale, multi-material, multi-physics

Model shape & materials at scale:

**Problems:**



Model a femur



Material substitution



Ti-6Al-4V

Al 7075

Reshape object with different material

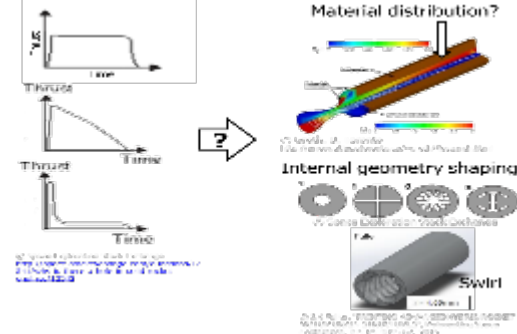
**Challenge:**

- Complexity exceeds SOA  
Required = 100,000 GBytes  
Available = <128 Gbytes
- Semi-stochastic material distributions

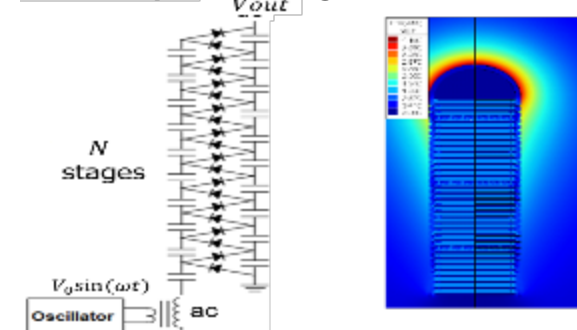
Synthesize shape and materials subject to multiple (non-traditional) physics:

**Problems:**

Solid Rocket Motor



Compact Voltage Ladder



**Challenge:**

Balance propellant distribution to eliminate solid rocket motor casing

Design compact 4MV voltage ladder by optimizing dielectric distribution

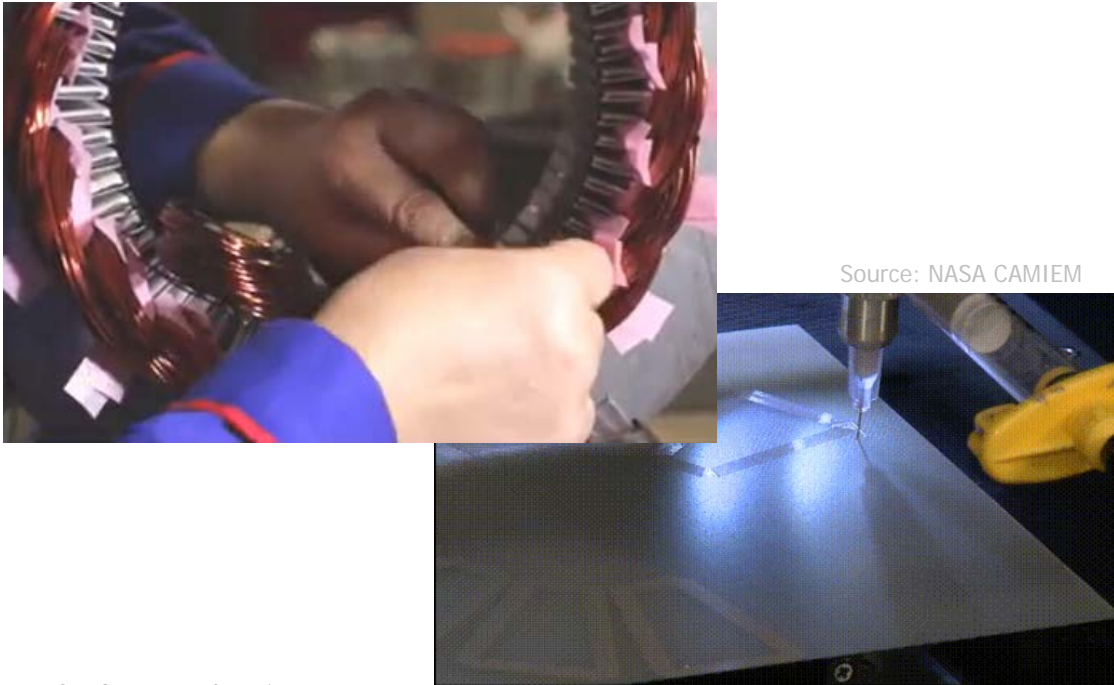


Final challenge problems released to force generality and evaluate viability of approach

Focus: Incorporating variability and uncertainty in shaping & material

### Challenge Problem 5: Printable Electric Motor

**Objective:** Design a 3D printed Electric Motor with the optimal layout of conductors, magnetic materials and cooling ducts



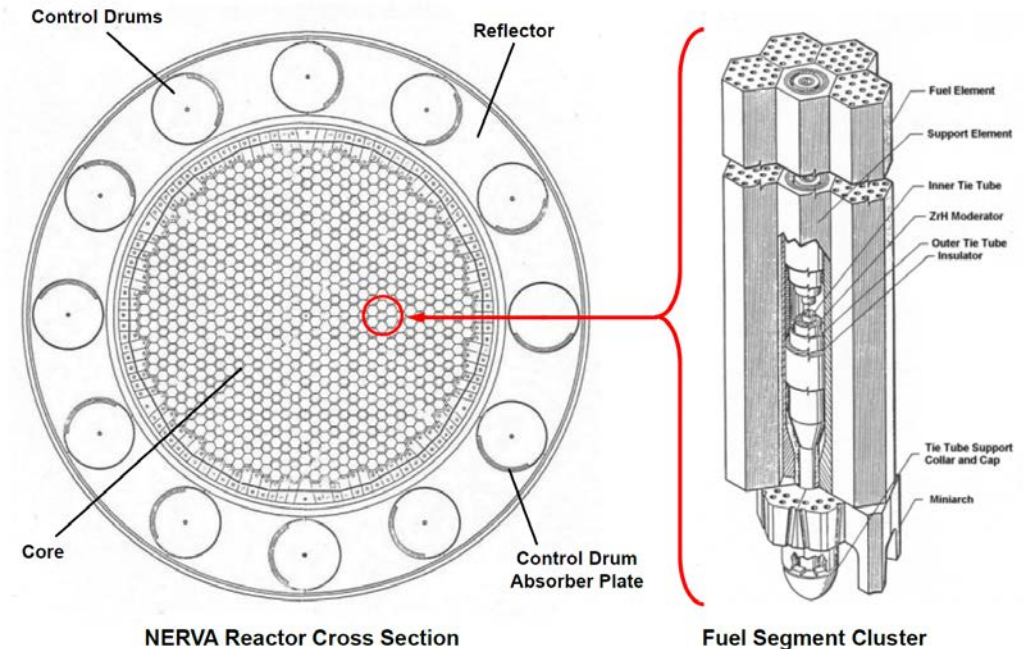
**Left:** Current Electric Motors are labor intensive to assemble and power limited

**Right:** The ability to print electric motors can increase efficiency and power density

**Challenge:** Manage variability of EM field as a result of uncertainty in shape and material

### Challenge Problem 6: Nuclear Thermal Rocket (NTR)

**Objective:** Design and optimize flow-path for NTR reactor to maximize thrust



Source: NASA

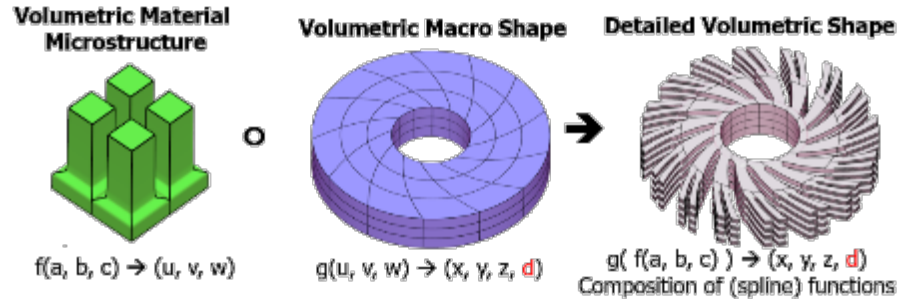
**Challenge:** Maintain controllable fission while accommodating material variability



## TRADES highlights: New representations enable efficient multi-scale modeling

### High-dimensional math

U Utah (Technion, Syracuse U, MIT): Riesenfeld

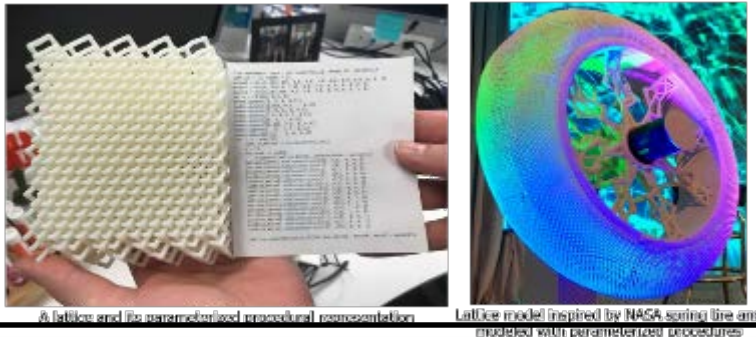


**Approach:** Leverage higher dimensional mathematics to combine shape & materials in volumetric design & analysis

**Accomplishment:** Unified representation of shape and architected materials

### Design as a program

Siemens (GA Tech, MI State, PARC): Musuvathy

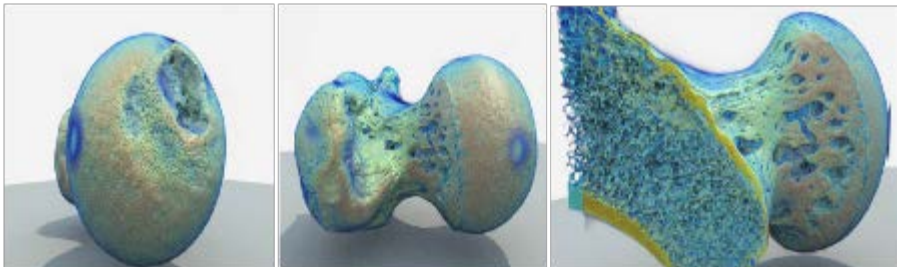


**Approach:** Represent shape and material structures as programs to express designs that are **1,000,000x** more complex

**Accomplishment:** Interactive computations on massive structures lattice ( $10^{12} - 10^{15}$  beams) on SOA workstation

### Sparse voxel representations

PARC (Intact, Intact, OSU): Nelaturi



**Approach:** Leverage sparse representation techniques from animation to represent fine details in the context of large components

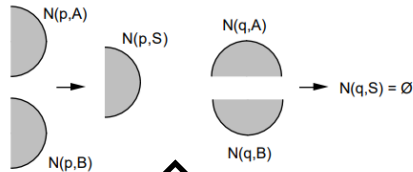
**Accomplishment:** **> 100x** reduction in memory requirements and speed up in computations



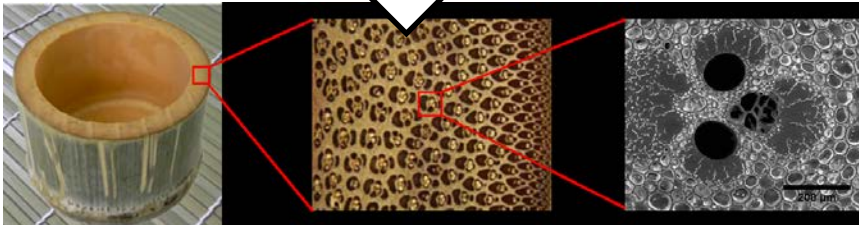
# TRADES highlights: Rethinking solid modeling at scale

## Multi-scale point membership classification

ICSI: Shapiro



Source: Requicha. <http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~requicha/ch6-1.pdf>



Liu, Shapiro, "Multiscale shape-material modeling by composition", Solid and Physical Modeling, 2018

### Approach:

- Material and geometry are no longer independent
- PMC depends on the scale of the neighborhood
- Material properties correspond to the (homogenized) averages

### Impact:

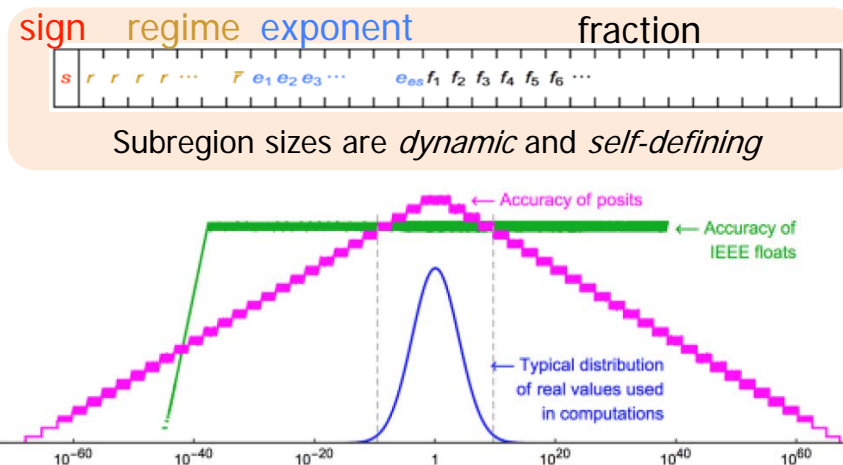
- Supports virtually unlimited resolution
- Mathematical rigorous approach to extend solid modeling

### Challenges:

- Lots of unanswered questions, tie with material homogenization

## More accurate & energy efficient computations

Etaphase: Mullen



Posits maximize accuracy near values used in real computations

**Approach:** New representation of real numbers (known as POSITS) provide tapered accuracy with more precision around typical distribution of real values used in computations

**Impact:** New representation is over 30x more accurate than the comparable IEEE Standard for floating point operations allowing 32 bit posits to get 64 bit float accuracies POSITS also reduce power consumption which are important for server farms and could result in a 4x weight savings for batteries in portable devices

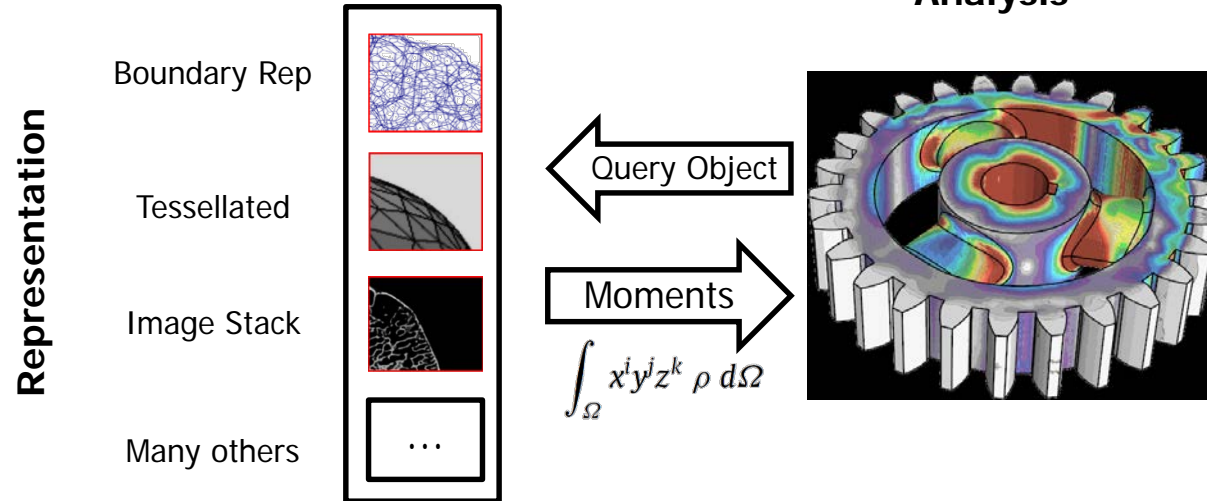
**Limitations:** Floats are current industry standard – will be difficult to disrupt industry with small investment



# TRADES analysis highlights: Novel approaches enable interoperable and parallel analysis

## Query based analysis

PARC (Intact, Intact, OSU): Nelaturi



### Approach:

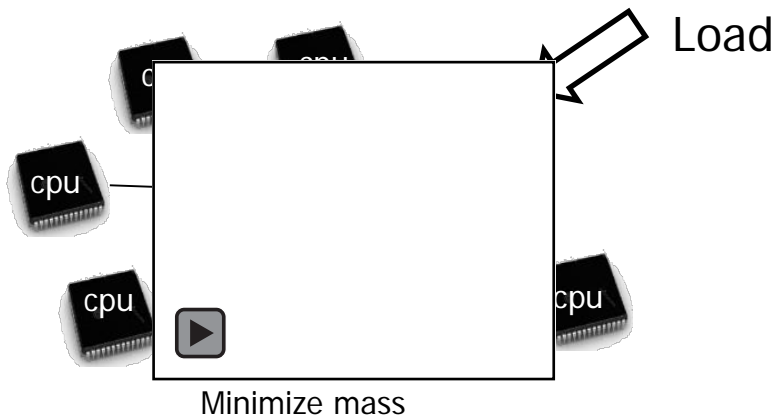
1. Reformulated analysis in terms of moments
2. Query object to evaluate moments

**Accomplishment:** 51% reduction in human effort during modeling & simulation process

**Impact:** Interoperable and scalable analysis without representation conversion to enable automated design exploration

## "Swarm computing"

Columbia U: Lipson



**Approach:** Use ideas from swarm computing to parallelize analysis and simulation: "one processor per node"

**Accomplishment:** 12,500 X faster than SOA CPU based analysis & simulation.

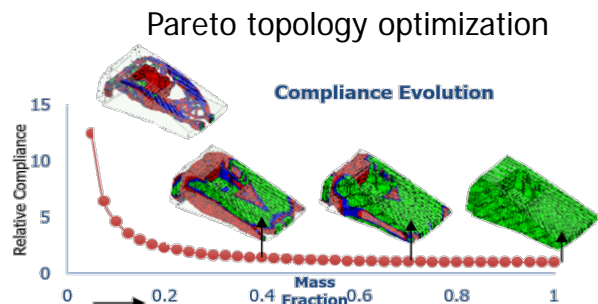
**Impact:** Rethinking how to leverage massive amounts of computing resources to solve scientific problems at large scales



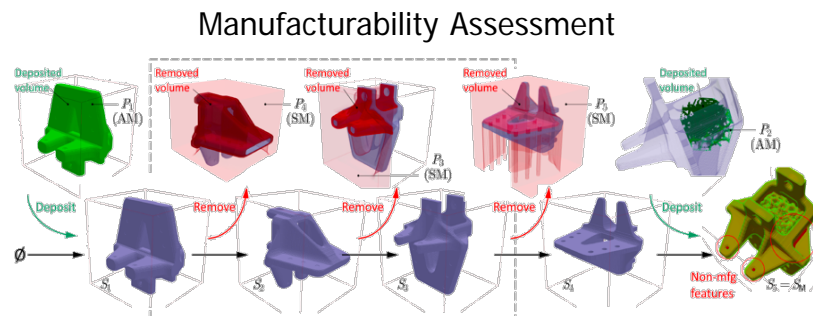
# TRADES Synthesis Highlights: Incorporation of manufacturing constraints and uncertainty in synthesis

## Topology optimization with manufacturability

PARC (Intact, OSU): Nelanturi



+



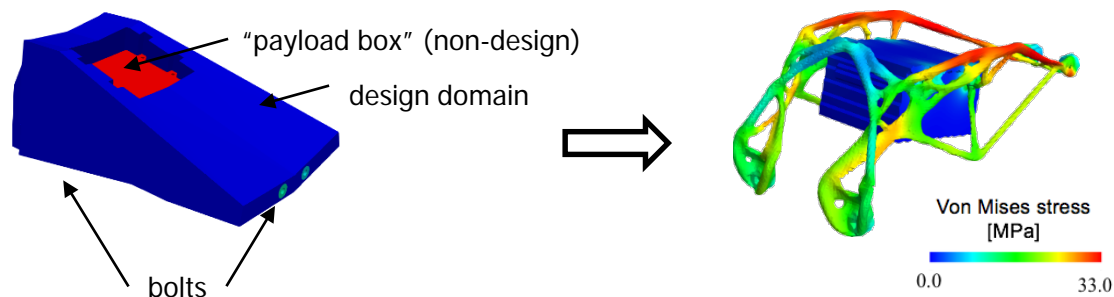
**Approach:** Combine gradient based topology optimization with manufacturing analysis

**Accomplishment:** 10x faster synthesis while guaranteeing feasibility

**Impact:** Generate manufacturable designs directly

## Multi-objective topology optimization under uncertainty

CU Boulder (UTRC): Maute



**Sandia Bracket Challenge:** Find optimal distribution of Ti-6Al-4V such that a combination of mass and strain energy is minimized subject to constraints

**Accomplishment:** Fully immersed description of geometry (no need for conforming mesh) and hierarchical adaptive mesh refinement.

**Impact:** Allows 1000X reduction of computational cost for design under uncertainty, and topology optimization for complex structures in less than one day.

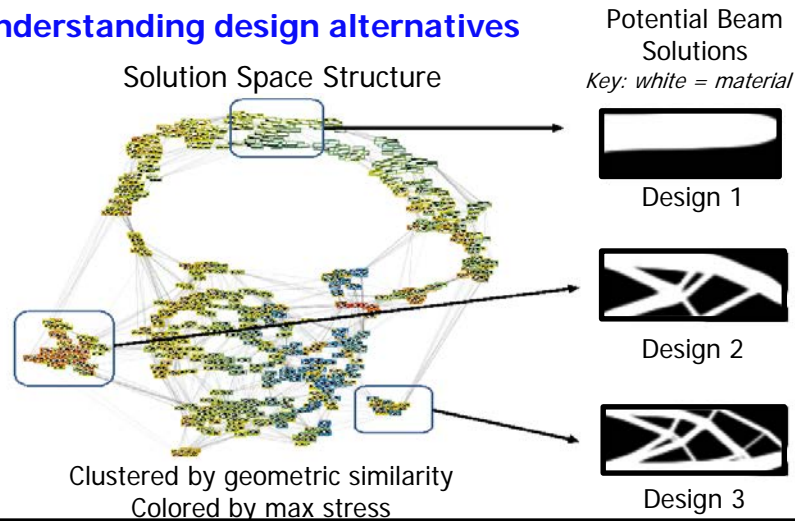
**Limitations:** Direct resolution of length scales limited to  $10^4$



# Synthesis Accomplishments: Navigating complex trade spaces and accelerating discovery with Machine Learning

## Understanding design alternatives

U Utah: Kirby



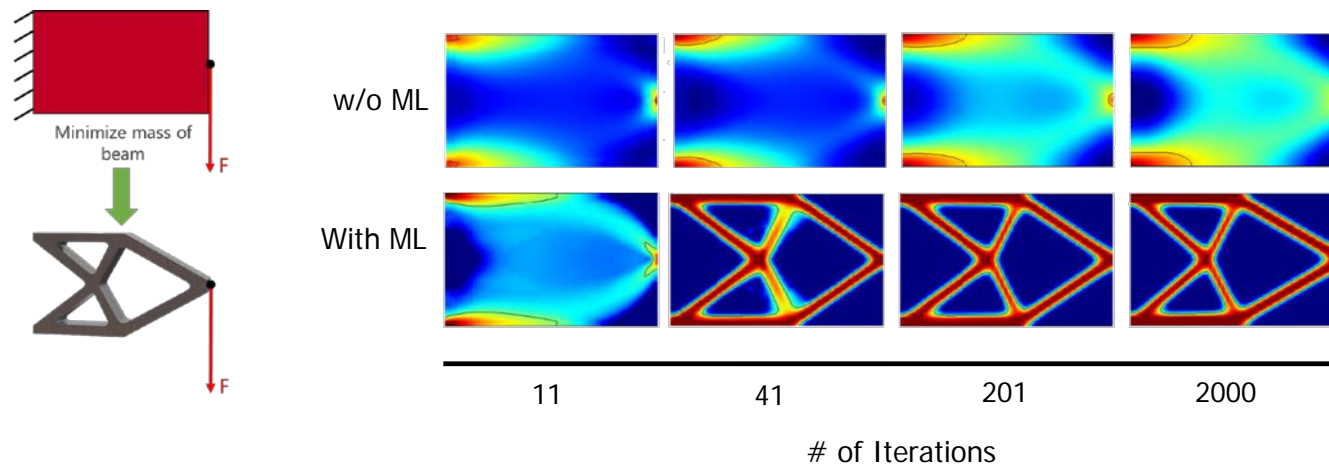
**Approach:** Cluster and connect synthesis solutions by shape similarity and Quantities of Interests (e.g., max stress)

**Accomplishment:** New perspective on navigating complex trade spaces

**Impact:** Provide insights into alternative but viable solutions to enable design refinement and explorations

## Machine Learning (ML) to accelerate synthesis

U Col (UTRC): Maute



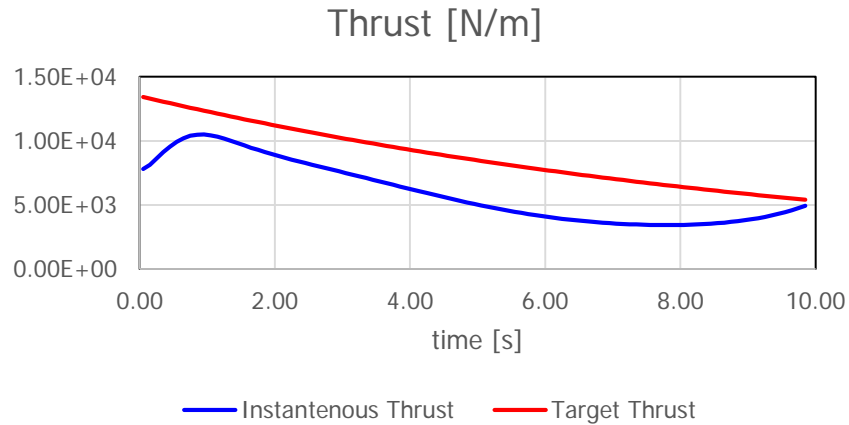
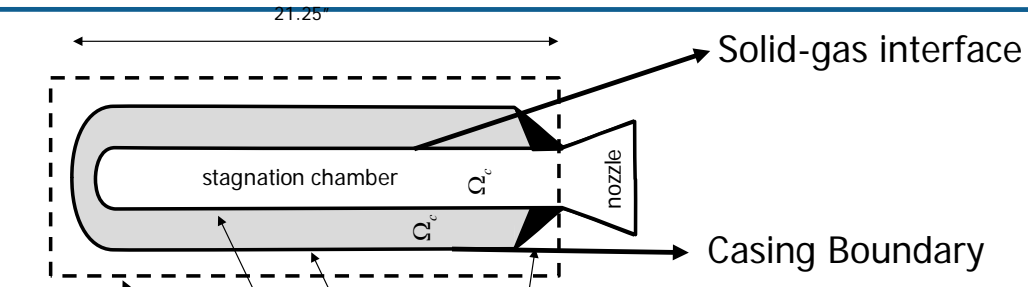
**Approach:** Utilize Machine Learning (ML) to accelerate convergence to a design solution

**Accomplishment:** Accelerate synthesis by ~2 orders of magnitude

**Impact:** Enable rapid exploration of design alternatives; refine ML as the design collection grows



## Accomplishment: Synthesize designs for dynamic multi-physics problems



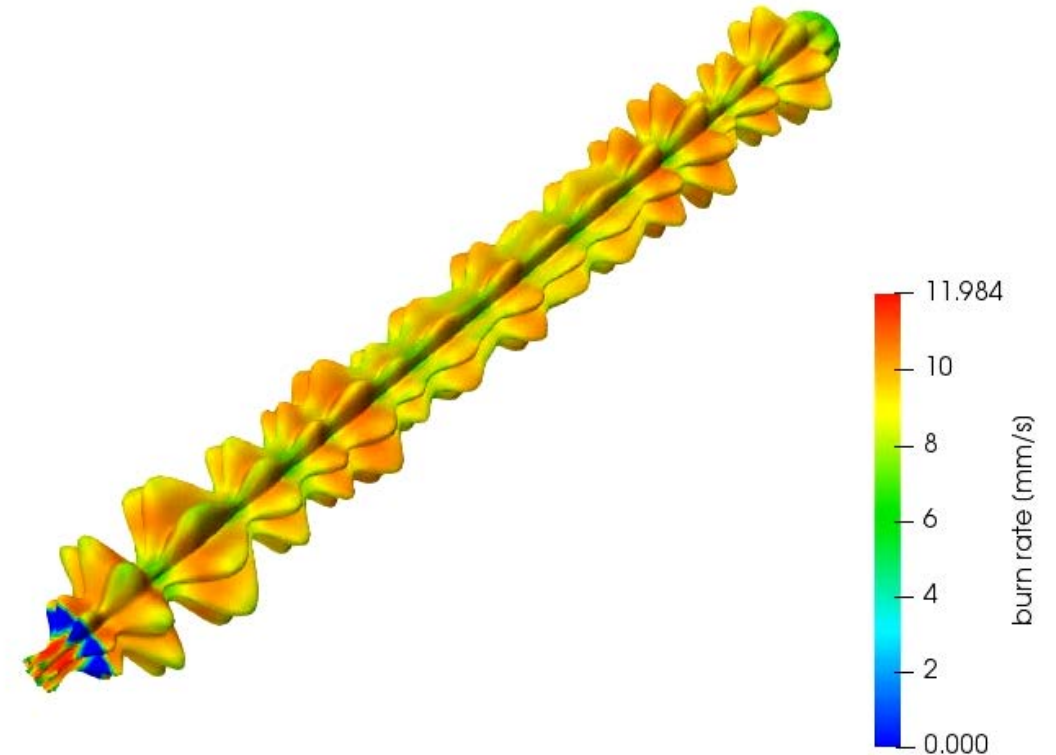
**Problem Objective:** Match target thrust profile through controlling shaping and distribution of solid rocket fuel.

**Constraints:** Fuel must burn out at all at once (no casing insulation), cannot have disconnected islands of fuel during burn process.

**Physics:** Algebraic thrust model coupled to solid-gas interface evolution (Hamilton-Jacobi)

**Accomplishment :** Time dependent topology optimization for transient problems with dynamically evolving interfaces using level set method.

**Impact:** Allows complex design optimization for multi-physics problems such as phase-change or fluid-structure interaction



Optimized design: evolution of solid-gas interface in burn process



## What's next?

**AI:** Discover new fundamental laws (of materials, physics)?

**Design:** Cyber partner in design?  
Find unintended interactions?

**Math:** Rethink physics in terms of computable math?

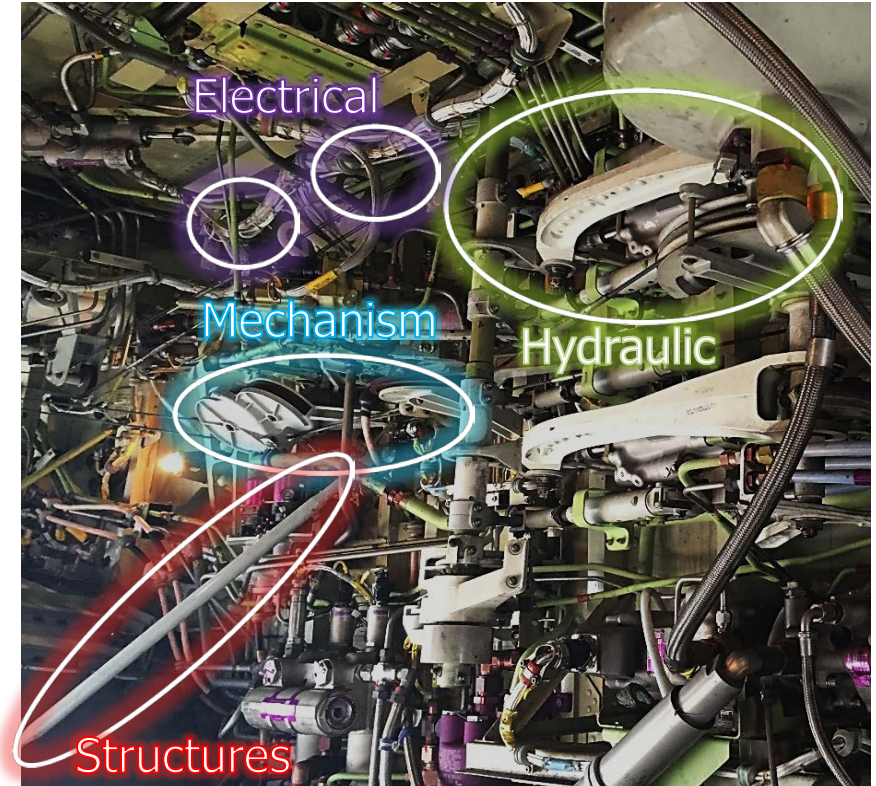
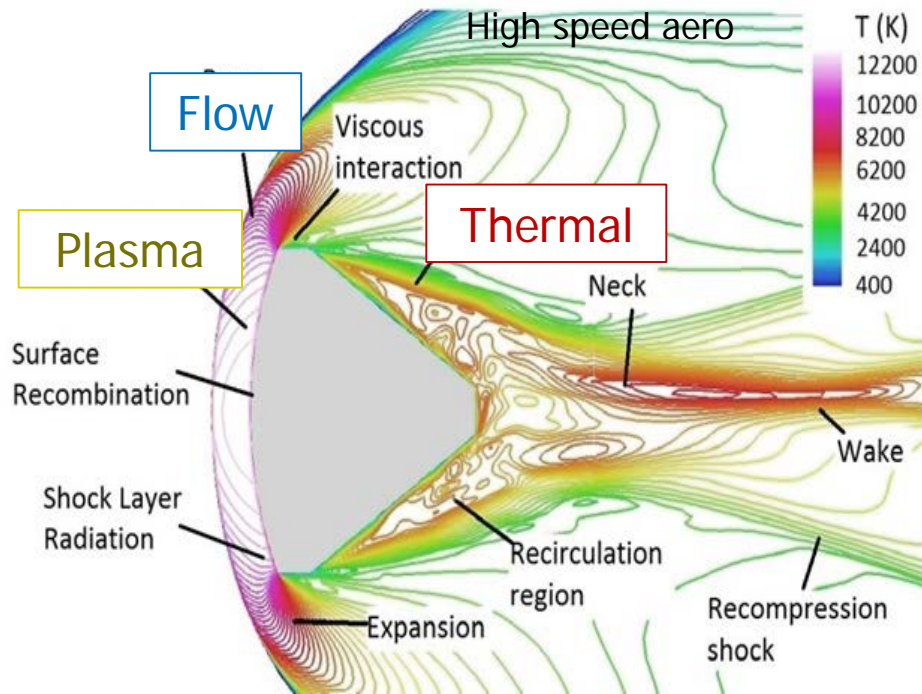


Photo credit: Jan Vandenbrande

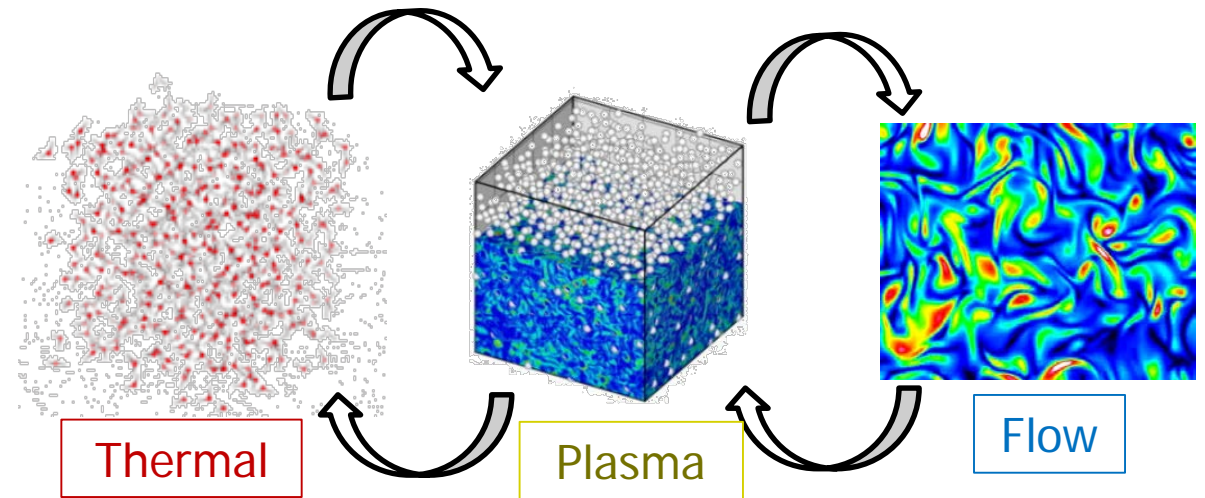


**Challenge:** Lack of efficient ways to generate and compose computations for multiple physics limits our ability to simulate important DoD/DoE platform missions

Many DoD/DoE systems push the limits of physics and are test limited



Can we rethink how we build multi-physics models?



- **Transition to turbulence/shock wave predictions**
  - **Predictions:** Uncertainty = 60% length of body
  - **Impact:** 8x heating rate difference
  - **Testing:** Cannot be reproduced in wind tunnels
  - **Important for:** Thermal protection, materials, ablation
  - **Effort:** Scales unfavorably with the amount of interacting physics

Source: Ivette Leyva, <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.3.3762>

**Questions? Ideas? Let's talk!**



[www.darpa.mil](http://www.darpa.mil)

Jan Vandenbrande

[Jan.Vandenbrande@darpa.mil](mailto:Jan.Vandenbrande@darpa.mil)

DSO