

1. VITCEA Workshop

17th February 2015

BAM Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung

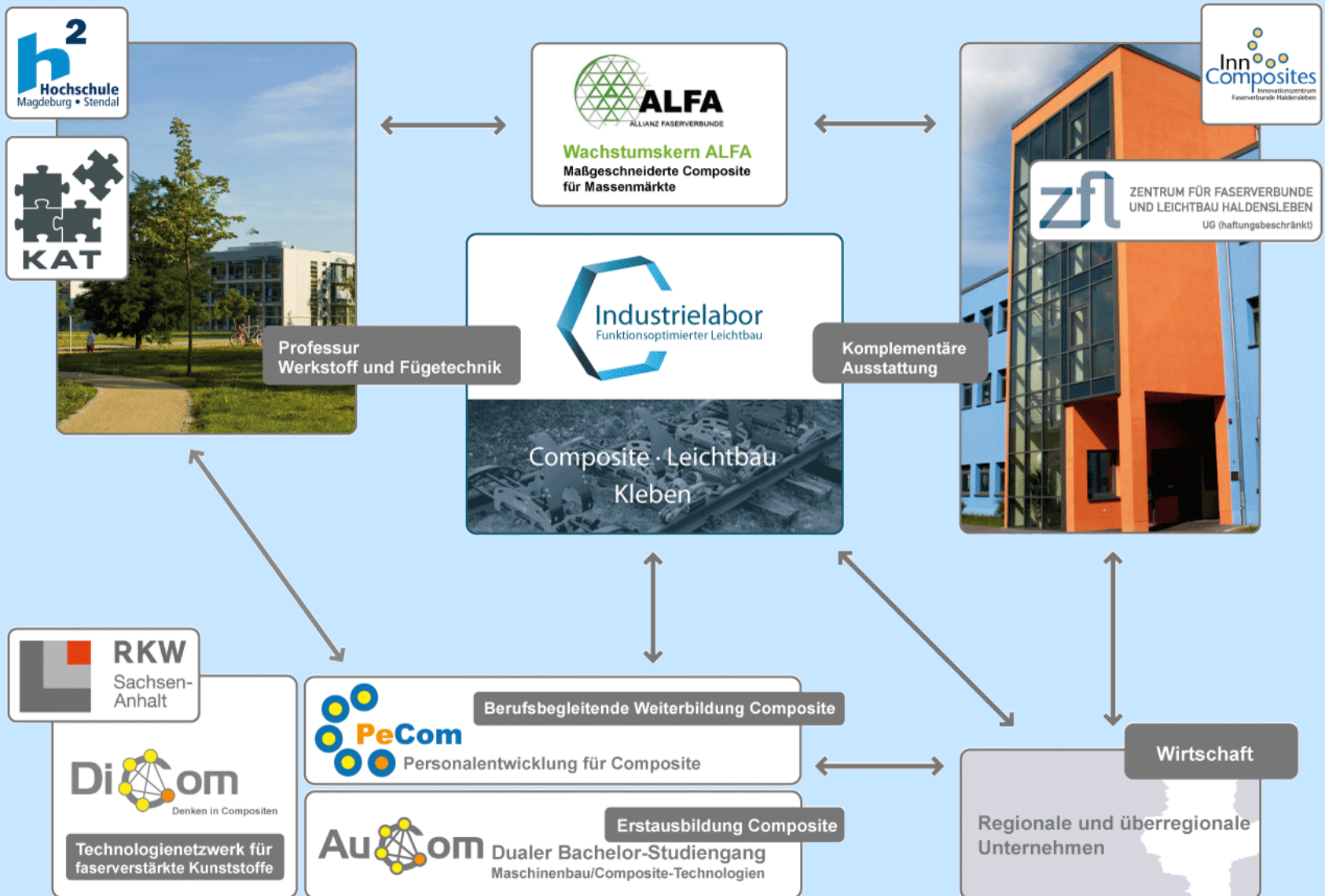
PRODUCTION-INTRODUCED DEFECTS IN CFRP: LIMITS OF NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING

PROF. DR.-ING.
JÜRGEN HÄBERLE

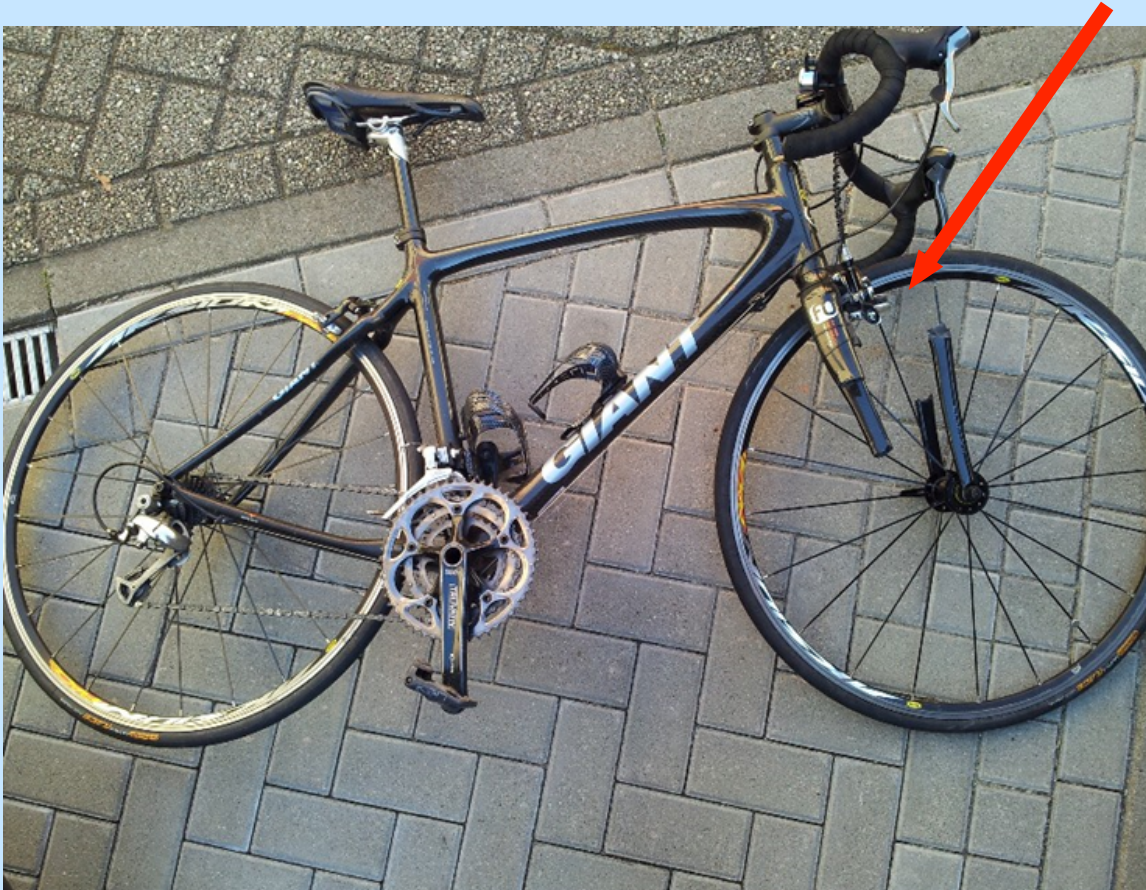
ZENTRUM FÜR FASERVERBUNDE UND
LEICHTBAU HALDENSLEBEN

HOCHSCHULE MAGDEBURG-STENDAL

REGIONAL COMPOSITE NETWORK



Evidence base



Near-lethal accident after fracture of a CFRP fork blade of a high-end racing bicycle during „standard cycling“

Comment of manufacturer

„Only a previous accident/misuse can have been the cause of the sudden failure...“

„No responsibility/liability will be taken!“

Fractured fork blade



Causes of failure are difficult to detect in CFRP since fracture causes secondary damages

Surprising secondary damage

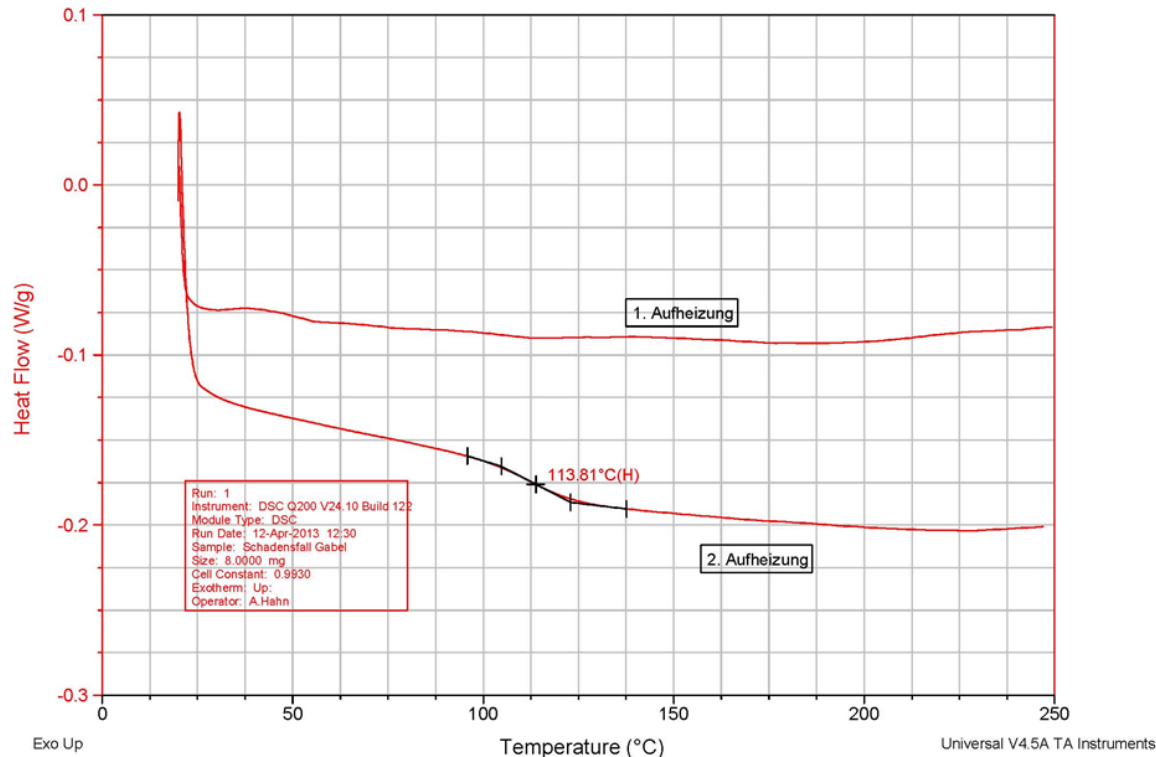


Experimental findings: DSC-Analysis

Sample: Schadensfall Gabel
Size: 8.0000 mg

DSC

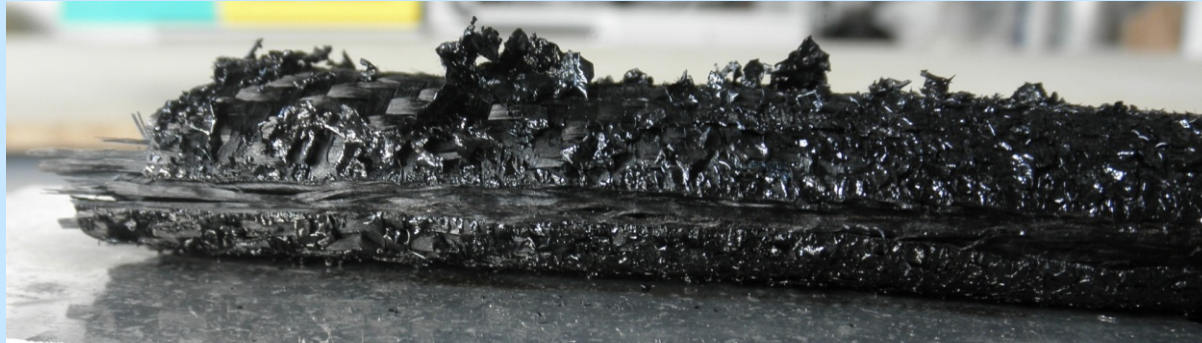
File: C:\TA\Data\DSC\Schadensfall Gabel.001
Operator: A.Hahn
Run Date: 12-Apr-2013 12:30
Instrument: DSC Q200 V24.10 Build 122



Perfect
DSC-result.

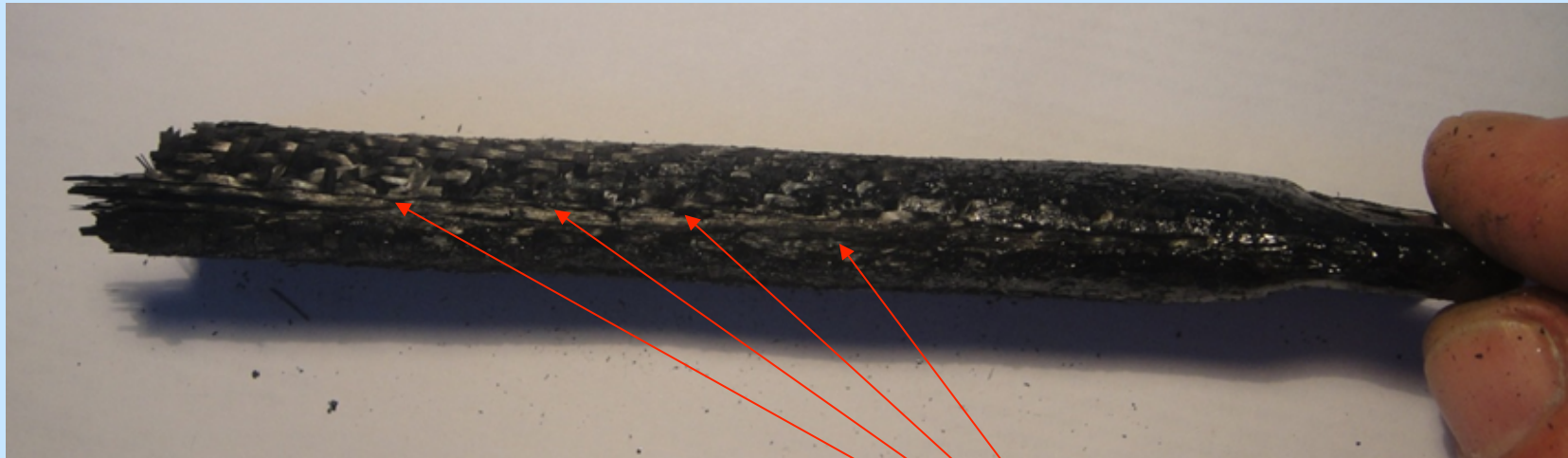
Laminate is
fully cured!

Experimental findings: Ashing/Incineration



Layer# from outside to inside	Orientation (°)	Orientation symbolic	Layer thickness after ashing (mm)*
1	0/90 Fabric (C)	I-	0,24
2	0 (C)	I	0,16
3	+ 45 (C)	/	0,16
4	- 45 (C)	\	0,16
5	0 (C)	I	0,25
6	+45 (C)	/	0,16
7	- 45 (C)	\	0,16
8	0 (C)	I	0,16
9	0/90 (G)	I-	0,22
			Sum 1,67

Experimental findings: Production-introduced defects



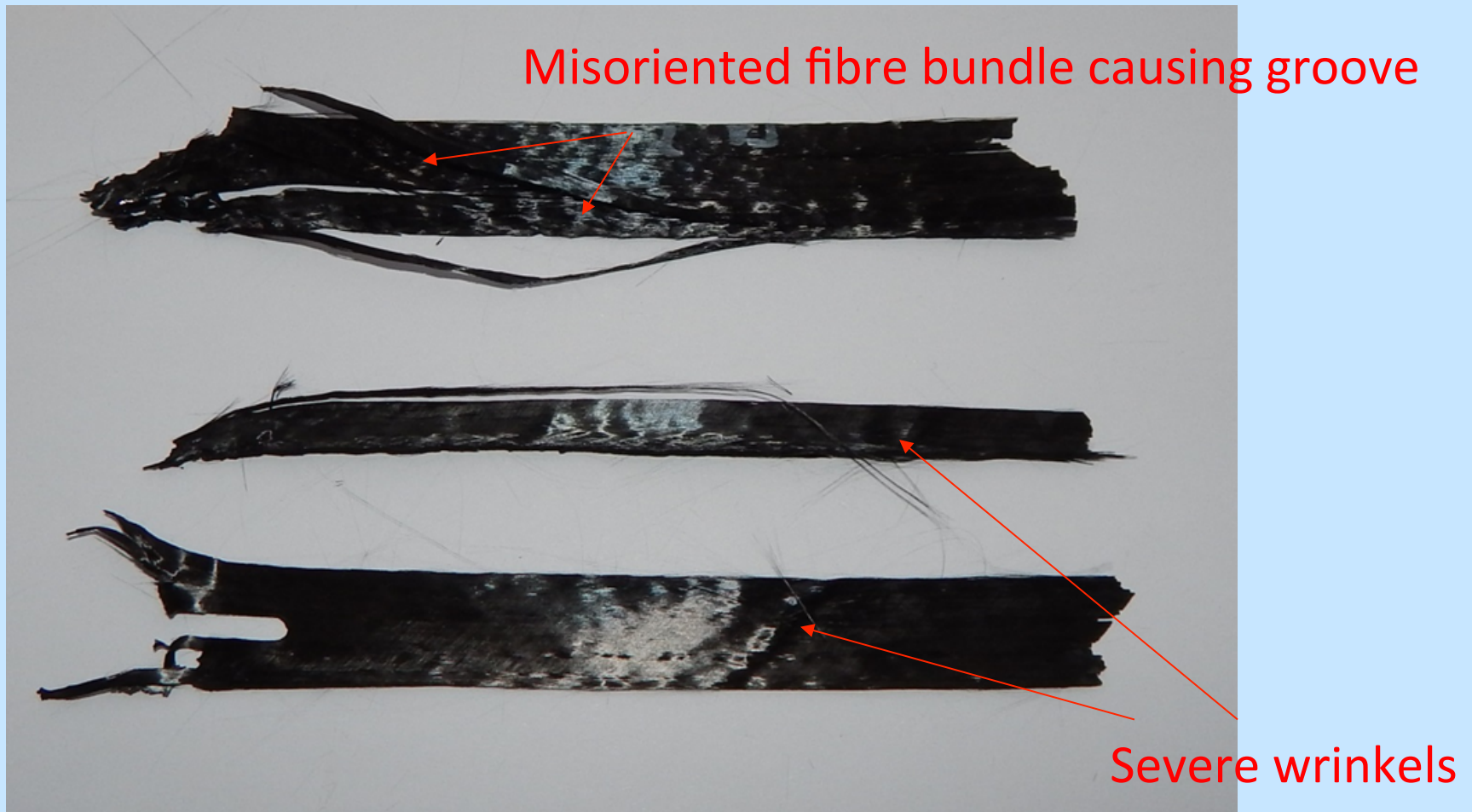
Cut fabric layer# 1

Fabric „layer“ #1 – Victim of grinding



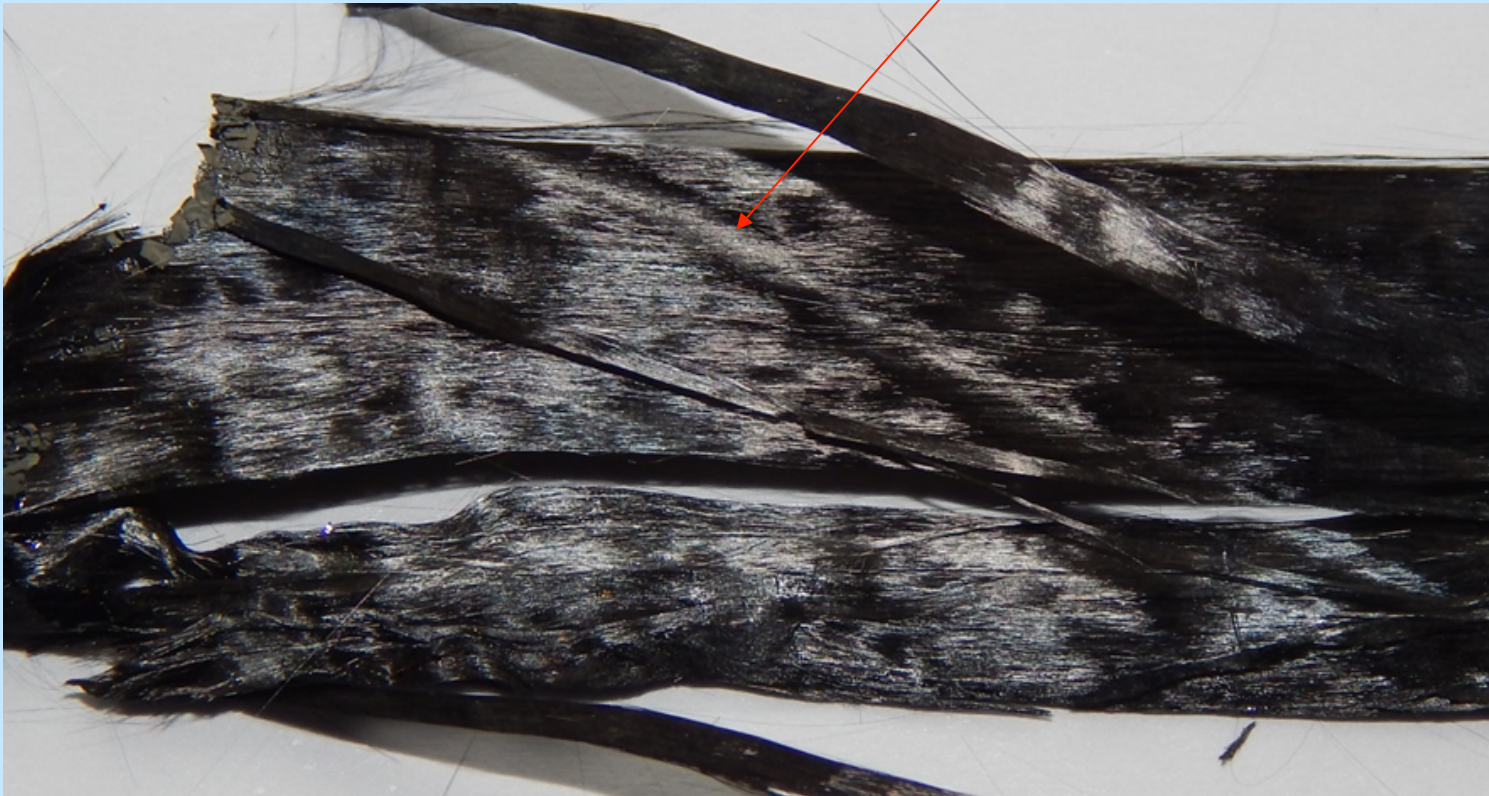
← Overlap

UD-layer #2



Detail of groove UD-layer #2

Imprint of fibre bundle



UD angled layer #3

Wrinkles



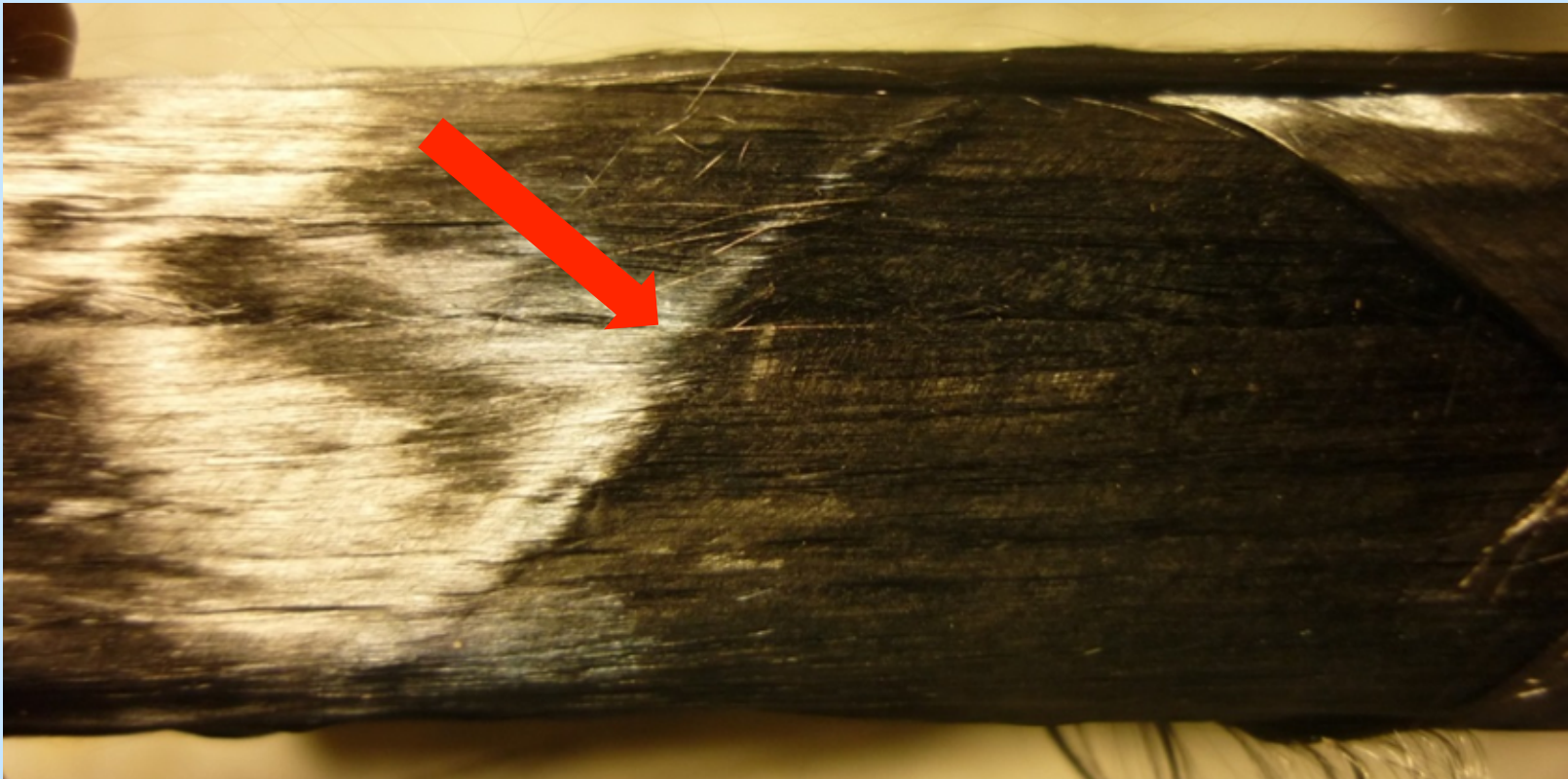
UD angled layer #4

Strong in-plane undulations and gaps



UD-layer #5

Wrinkle in thickest UD-layer #5



UD angled layer #6/#7

No anomalies in these layers (!)

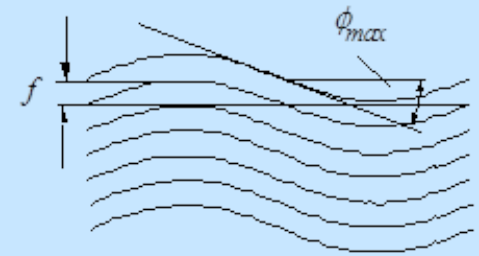
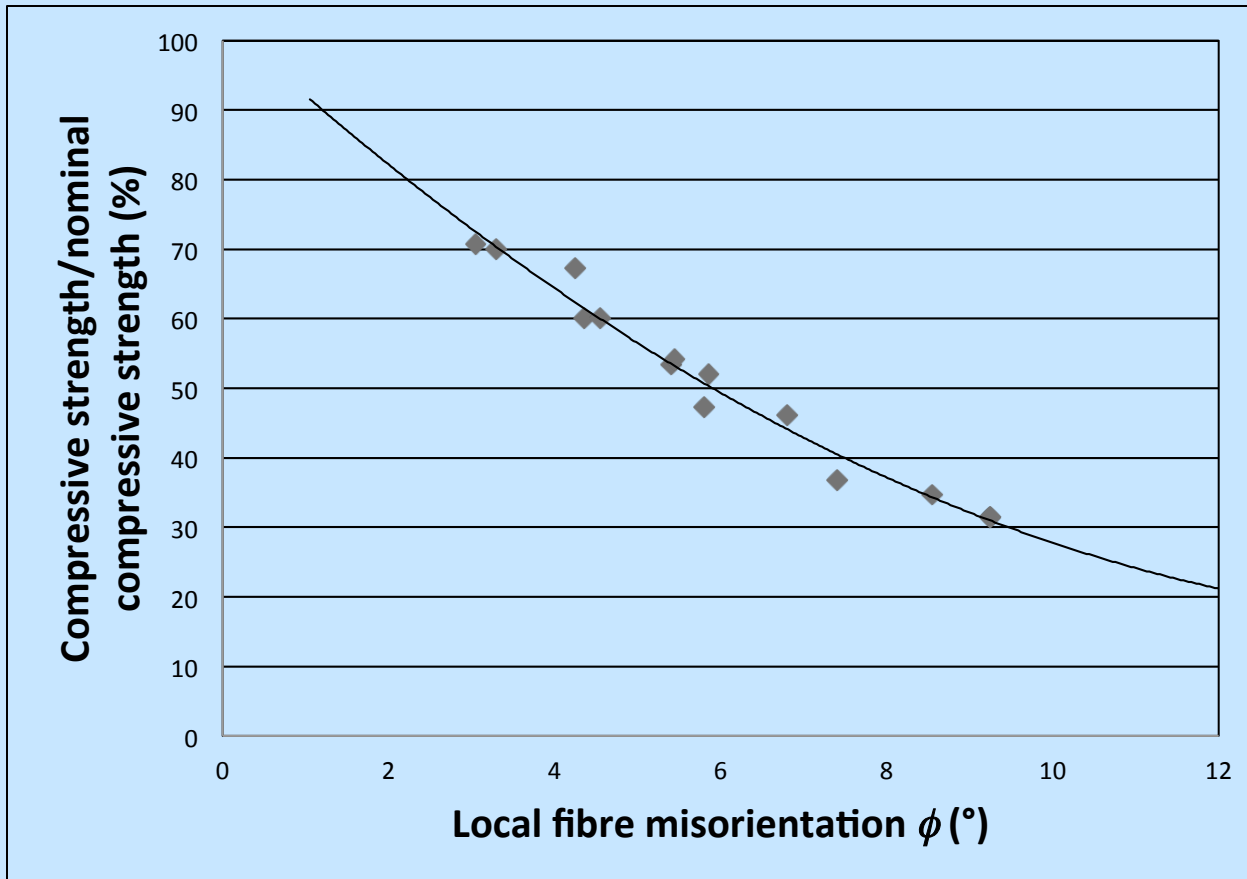


UD layer #8



Again:
In-plane fibre
ondulation in
this 0°-layer

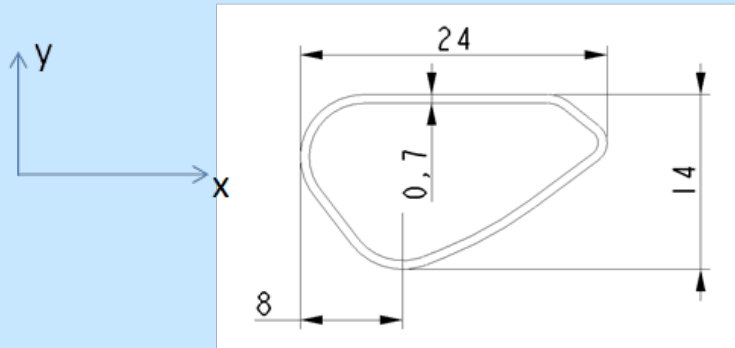
Compressive strength vs local fibre misorientation



$$\phi_{mca} = \pi \frac{f}{\gamma}$$

Test results:
ZFL Haldensleben

Static analysis



$$I_x = 9.7022296e+02 \text{ mm}^4$$

$$I_y = 2.2886428e+03 \text{ mm}^4$$

Schwerpunkt in Bezug auf den Koordinatenrahmen PRT_CSYS_DEF:

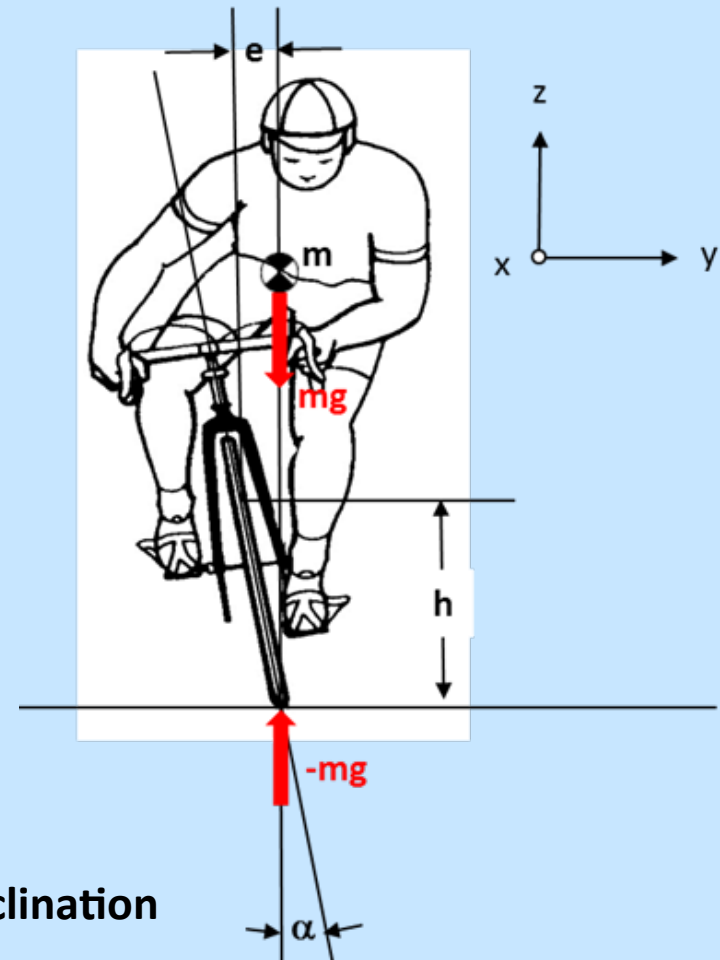
X Y 3.377e+00 -1.6e-00

Im Bezug auf den geraden Teil des Profils (oben) 5,71 mm

y: maximaler Abstand Schwerpunkt/Außenfläche 8,29 mm

x: Maximaler Abstand Schwerpunkt Außenfläche in x-Richtung: 12,62 mm

damit: $W_x = 117,04 \text{ mm}^3$, $W_y = 181,31 \text{ mm}^3$



α : cyclist's declination

Result of static analysis

Maximum angle of cyclist's declination which would cause fork blade fracture:

$$\alpha_{max} = \arctan\left(4 \frac{\sigma_D W_x}{mgh}\right)$$

Experimental values yield a maximum angle of **14,6°**!

Assuming a slight (reasonable) load factor of 1,5 the maximum declination angle reduces to **9,8°**!

... which is easily achieved in ambitious cycling!



Summary

Wrinkles/local fibre undulations are often introduced during various manufacturing processes. They usually can not be detected from the surface.

Fibre undulations can lead (and they do) to catastrophic failure in brittle CFRP!

In particular in-plane undulations are difficult (if at all) to detect with NDT!

Last but not least

Comment of the manufacturer's lawyer to the experimental findings:

„Ok... what are your damage claims?“