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# Polymer/fiber composite research activities

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# Outline

- Introduction Division of Applied Mechanics – research approach
- Example activities related to polymer/fiber composites
- UU overview – where does the materials research take place?



# Department of Materials Science and Engineering



Employees: 153 (41% women)

Teachers and researchers: 81 (32% women), of which 24 are professors

Doctoral students: 75 (48% women)

Source: GLIS (figures refer to 2023)

## Our Divisions

Our Department has seven research Divisions that carry out high-quality research in their area of specialisation.

- [Applied Materials Science](#)
- [Applied Mechanics](#)
- [Biomedical Engineering](#)
- [Microsystems Technology](#)
- [Nanotechnology and Functional Materials](#)
- [Solar Cell Technology](#)
- [Solid State Physics](#)

<https://www.uu.se/en/department/materials-science-and-engineering>



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# Division of Applied Mechanics



## Who?

- 2 Professors (K. Gamstedt & P. Isaksson)
- 3 Associate professors
- 2 Assistant professors and senior lecturer
- 2 Postdocs/researchers
- 5 PhD students

## What?

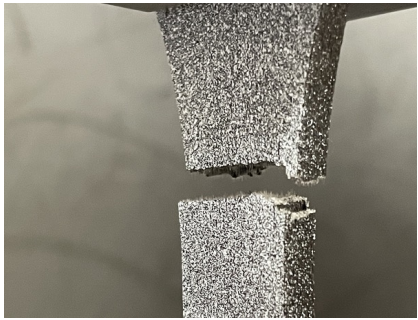
- Teaching
- Computational material modeling
- Lab scale and synchrotron based material characterization

## Why?

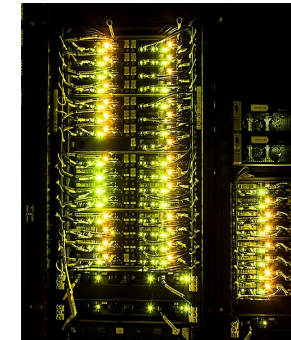
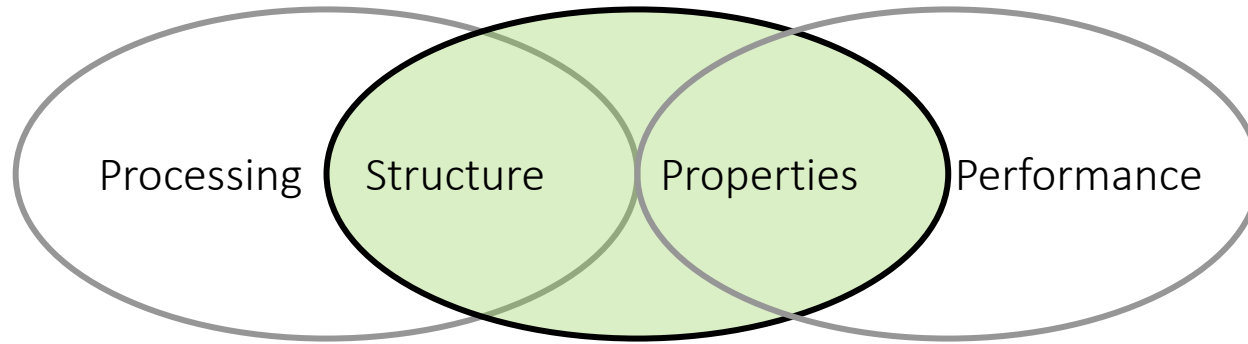
- Material structure-property relationships
- Predictive modeling for material optimization



# Linking (multi-scale) structure to properties – combining models and experiments



Lab-scale characterisation



National supercomputer resources

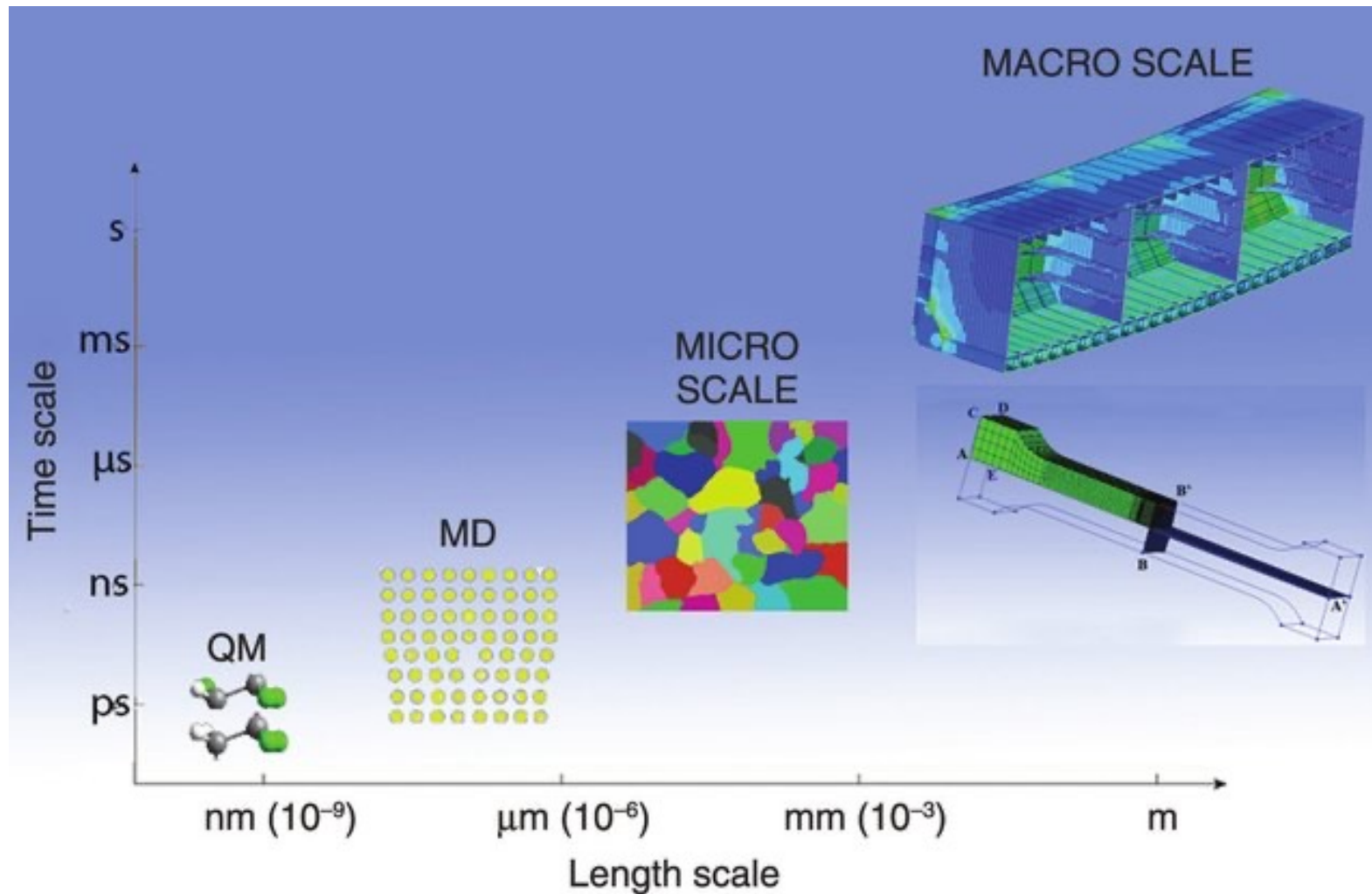


Synchrotron radiation facilities

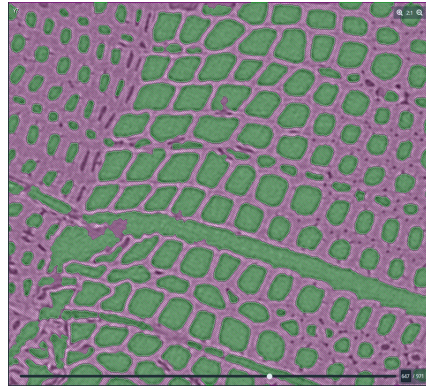


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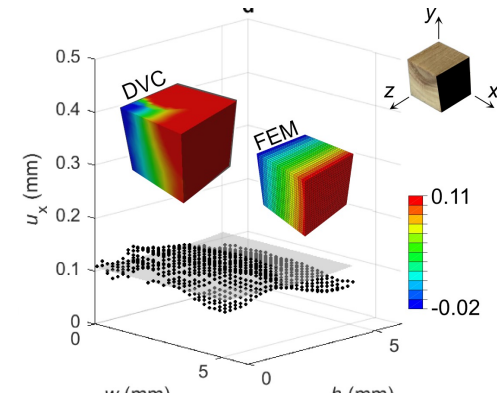
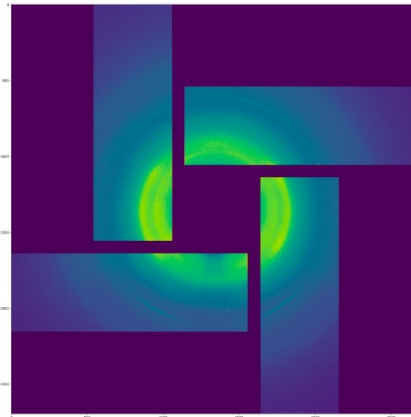
# Modelling at multiple length and time scales



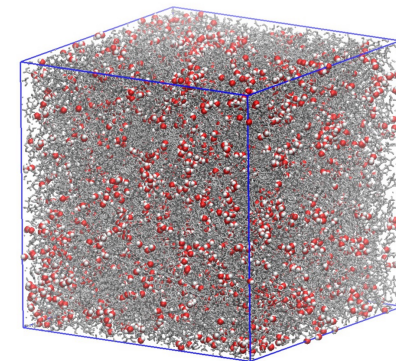
# Wood and cellulose based materials research



CT /SWAXS



FEM/MD



# Interfacial structure and adhesion in lignin-based thermoset fiber composites



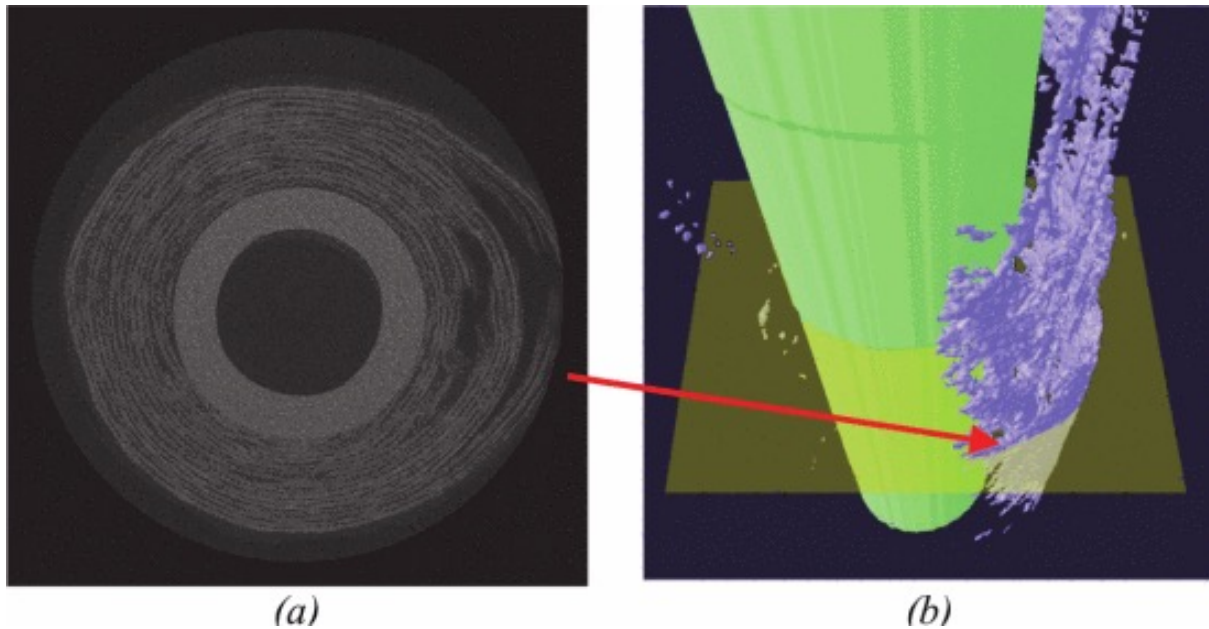
LIGNISET®



## Lignin-based thermoset resins with natural fibers

- Current application in traffic signs
- Characterization of interfacial structure
- Linking molecular and microscopic structure to mechanical properties
- Structural characterization, interfacial performance quantification + multi-scale modelling

# Failure mechanisms in electrical motors' composite insulation



## Mica/glass fiber/epoxy composite

- Use CT and image analysis to identify weak links in electrical breakdown in composites
- Identifying the mica layer to act as a barrier
- Suggest improvements

(Saxén, Gamstedt, Afshar, Paulsson and Sahlén, "A micro-computed tomography investigation of the breakdown paths in mica/epoxy machine insulation", *IEEE Transactions on Dielectrics and Electrical Insulation*, 2018)

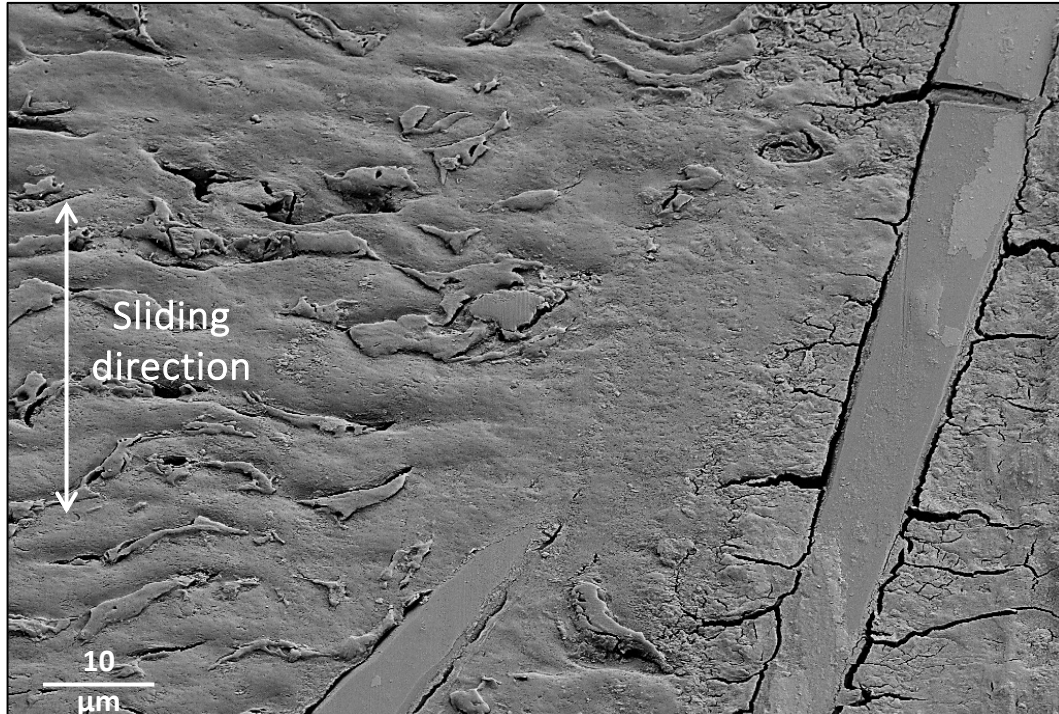


Collaboration with ABB Motion – Motors and Generators  
Contact: Reza Afshar, Kristofer Gamstedt



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# Energy saving transmission control for heavy duty vehicles



## Fiber/polymer composites used in automotive components close to the engine (eg glass fiber/PPS)

- Sliding steel ball on top
- Analysis of worn surface
- Suggestions to decrease friction wear

Collaboration with Kongsberg Automotive  
Contact: Jonna Holmgren, Jannica Heinrichs Lindgren  
Division of Applied Materials Science

# Education and Research in Three Disciplinary Domains



Humanities and  
Social Sciences

6 faculties



Medicine och  
Pharmacy

2 faculties



Science and  
Technology

1 faculty



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Environmental Toxicology  
 Physiological Botany  
 Molecular Biophysics  
 Molecular Systems Biology  
 Plant Ecology and Evolution  
 Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Evolutionary Biology  
 Animal Ecology  
 Microbiology  
 Molecular Evolution  
 Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Human Evolution  
 Evolution and Development  
 Limnology  
 Systematic Biology  
 Comparative Physiology  
 Molecular Biology  
 Structural Biology

**BIOLOGY**

Computer Architecture & Communication Systems  
 Computing Education Research  
 Computational Science  
 Automatic Control  
 Algebra and Geometry

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Numerical Analysis  
 Image Analysis & Human-Computer Interaction  
 Computer Systems  
 Computing Science  
 Artificial Intelligence  
 Applied Mathematics and Statistics

**MATHEMATICS**

Analysis and Probability Theory

Solid-State Electronics  
 Solid State Physics  
 Microsystems Technology  
 Signals and Systems  
 Applied Materials Science

**ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

Industrial Engineering and Management  
 Nanotechnology and Functional Materials  
 Applied Mechanics  
 Electricity  
 Solar Cell Technology  
 Civil Engineering and Built Environment

Mineralogy, Petrology and Tectonics  
 Palaeobiology  
 Geophysics

**EARTH SCIENCES**

Natural Resources and Sustainable Development  
 Air, Water and Landscape Sciences

Structural Chemistry  
 Molecular Biomimetics  
 Inorganic Chemistry

**CHEMISTRY**

Analytical Chemistry  
 Organic Chemistry  
 Physical Chemistry  
 Polymer Chemistry  
 Biochemistry  
 Synthetic Molecular Chemistry

Instrumentation and Accelerators  
 High Energy Physics  
 Materials Physics  
 Materials Theory  
 Applied Nuclear Physics  
 Theoretical Physics

**PHYSICS**

Physics Education Research  
 Quantum Matter Theory  
 Chemical and Biomolecular Physics  
 Observational Astrophysics  
 Condensed Matter Physics of Energy Materials  
 Nuclear Physics  
 Theoretical Astrophysics  
 Space and Plasma Physics



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Thank you!

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