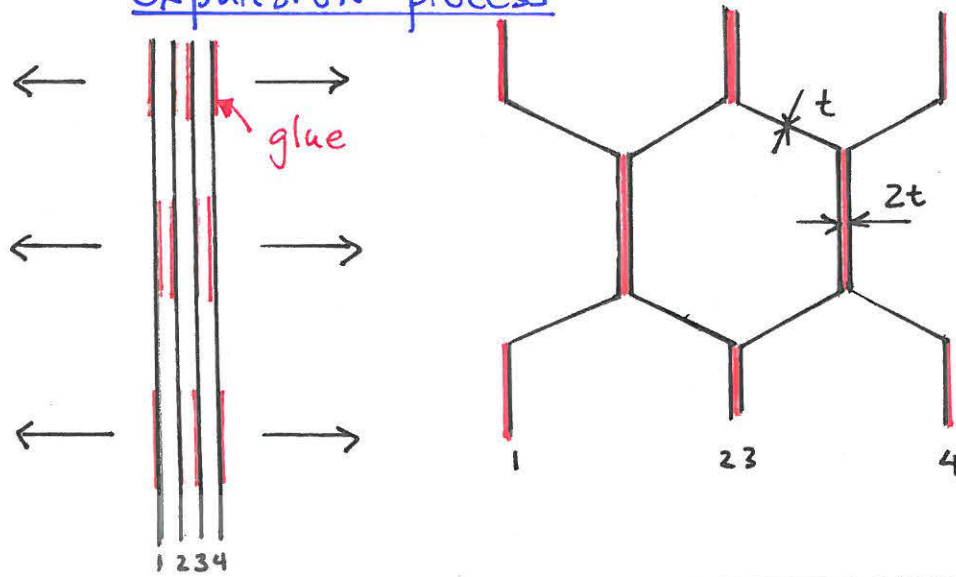


# Processing - Honeycombs.

## • expansion process



- aluminium honeycombs
- paper-resin honeycombs
- Kevlar honeycombs.
- note inclined walls,  $t$   
vertical walls,  $2t$

## Corrugation process

- flat sheet fed through shaped wheel to form  $\frac{1}{2}$  hexagonal sheets which are then bonded together



- inclined walls  $t$   
vertical walls  $2t$

- aluminium/metals

# Honeycombs: expansion and corrugation

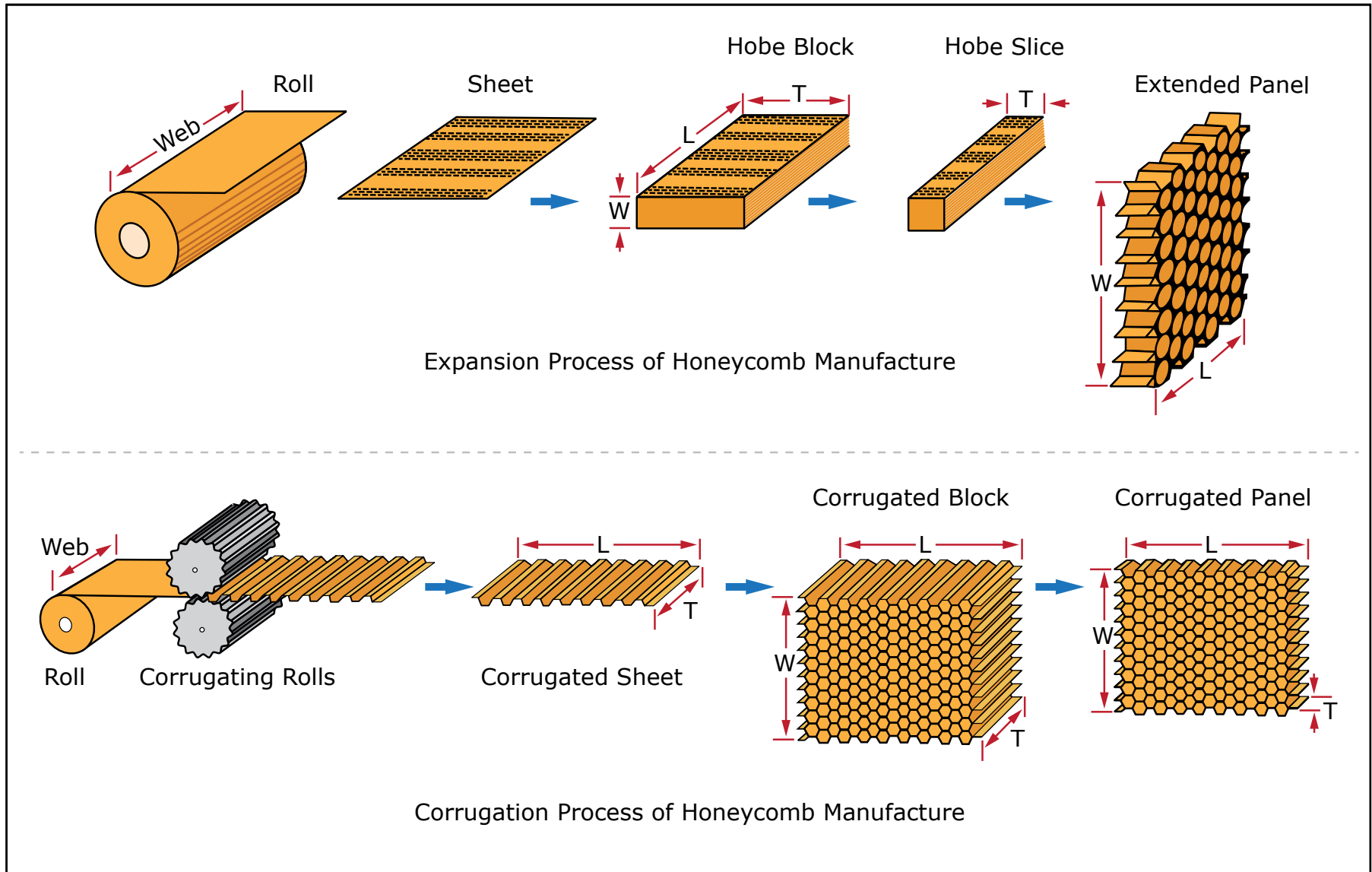


Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.

## Honeycombs

- extrusion process
  - ceramic honeycombs made by extrusion of a ceramic slurry through a die
- rapid prototyping
  - 3D printing
  - scan photo sensitive polymer with laser.
- casting
  - silicone rubber honeycombs made by casting liquid rubber into a mold

- biocarbon template
  - wood has honeycomb-like structure (with cell size  $\sim 50\mu\text{m} \times \sim 1\text{mm}$ )
  - biocarbon template replicates wood structure
  - wood is pyrolyzed at  $800^\circ\text{C}$  in an inert atmosphere (biocarbon template)
  - structure is maintained, although significant shrinkage ( $\sim 30\%$ )
  - carbon replica can then be further processed
    - e.g. infiltrate with gaseous Si to form SiC wood replica
  - possible applications: high temperature filters, catalyst carriers
    - small cell size gives high surface area/volume

# Honeycomb extrusion

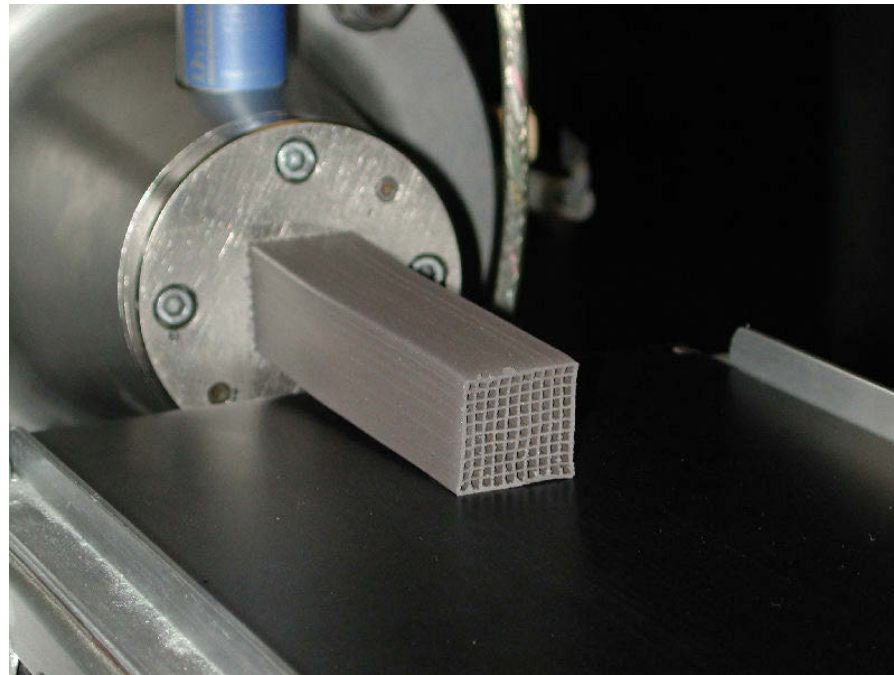
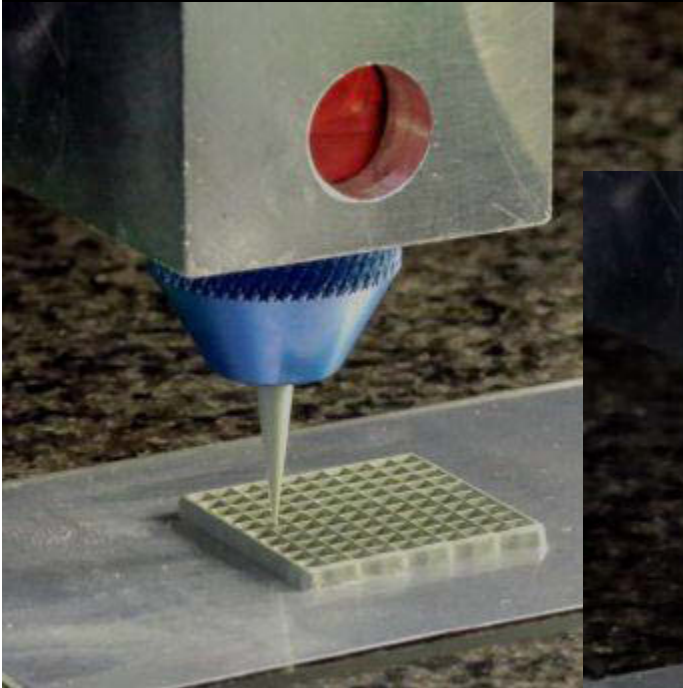


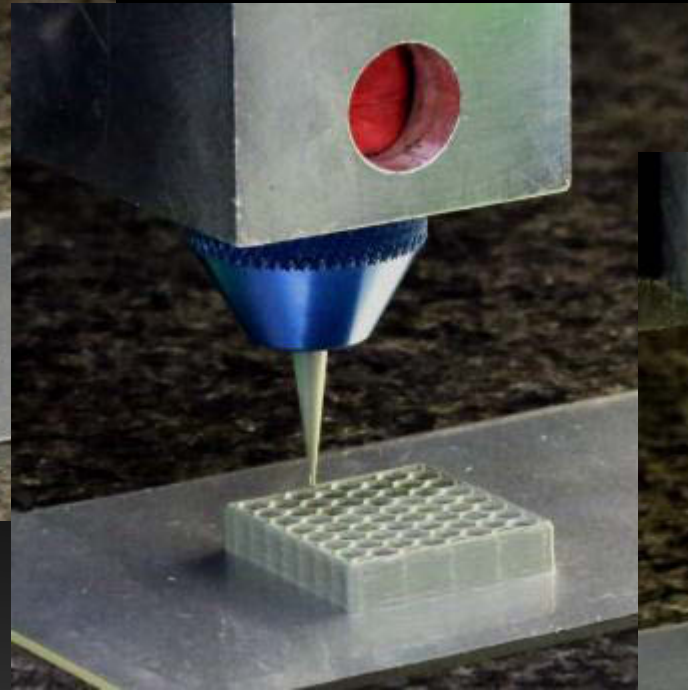
Image © Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

[www.ikts.fraunhofer.de](http://www.ikts.fraunhofer.de)

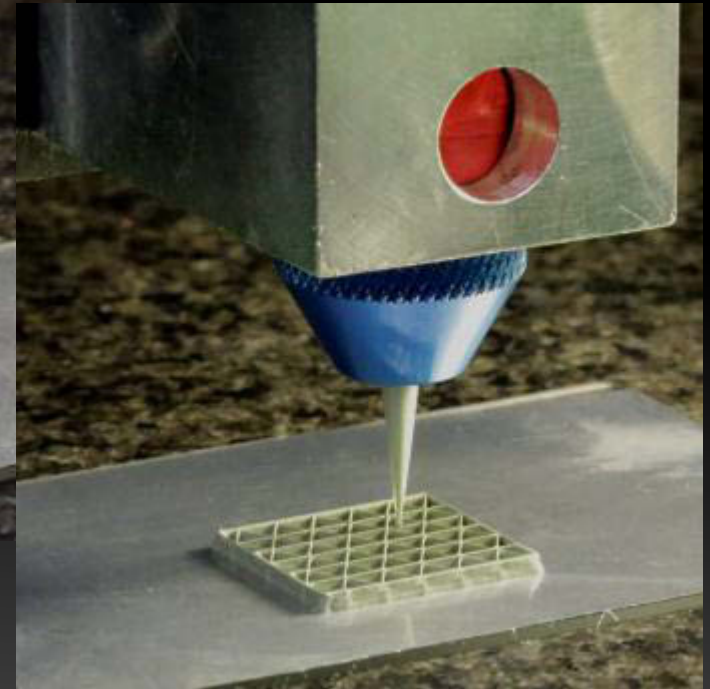
# *Printing honeycomb specimens*



Square honeycomb



Hexagonal honeycomb

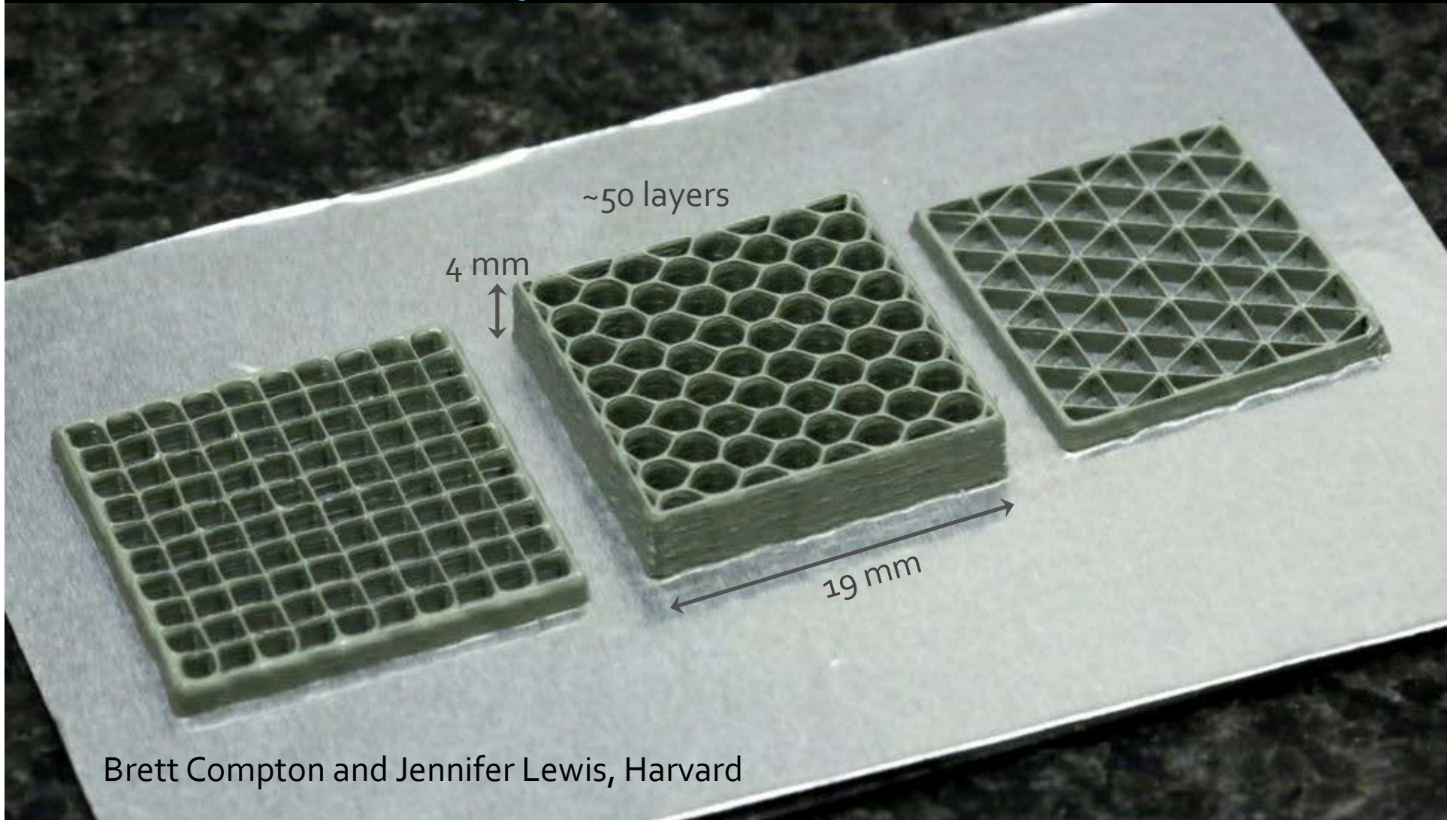


Triangular honeycomb

200  $\mu\text{m}$  nozzle  
6 mm/s nozzle speed  
126 psi

Brett Compton and Jennifer Lewis, Harvard

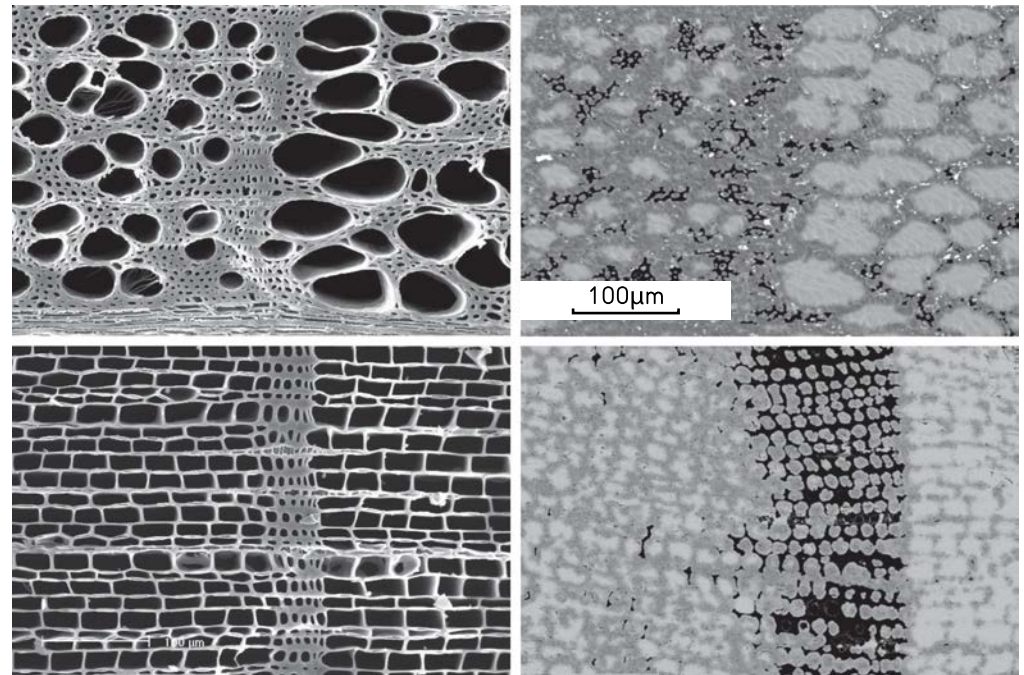
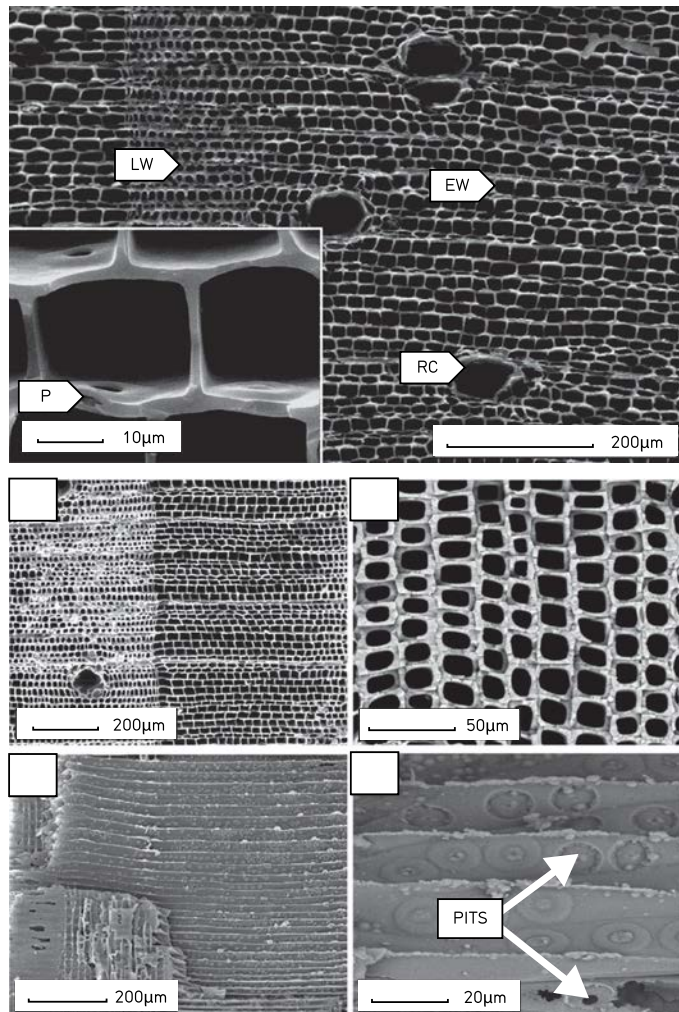
# Honeycomb specimens



Brett Compton and Jennifer Lewis, Harvard

Relative density  $\sim 0.25$

# Biocarbon template



Source: Zollfrank, Cordt, and Heino Sieber. "Microstructure and Phase Morphology of Wood Derived Biomorphous SiSiC-ceramics." *Journal of the European Ceramic Society* 24 (2004): 495. Courtesy of Elsevier. Used with permission.

Zollfrank and Sieber (2004) *J Europ Ceram Soc* **24** 495

Source: Vogli, E., H. Sieber, and P. Griel. "Biomorphic SiC-ceramic Prepared by Si-vapor Phaseinfiltration of Wood." *Journal of the European Ceramic Society* 22 (2002): 2663. Courtesy of Elsevier. Used with permission.

Vogli Sieber and Griel (2002) *J Europ Ceram Soc* **22**, 2263

## Foams

- different techniques for different types of solids

### Polymer foams

- introduce gas bubbles into liquid monomer or hot polymer  
allow bubbles to grow & stabilize & solidify by cross-linking or cooling
  - gas introduced by either mechanical stirring or mixing blowing agent into the polymer
- 
- physical blowing agents (eg.  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ ) forced into solution in hot polymer at high pressure + expanded into bubbles by reducing pressure
    - or, low melting point liquids (eg. methyl chloride) mixed into polymer + volatilize on heating to form vapour bubbles
  - chemical blowing agents: either decompose on heating  
or combine to release gas
  - open/closed cell structure depends on rheology + surface tension of melt
  - syntactic foams: thin-walled hollow microspheres in polymer



## Polymer foams

- polymer foams sometimes have "skin" on surfaces
- in some cases, process is controlled to give sufficiently thick skin so that it acts like a sandwich structure  $\Rightarrow$  increased stiffness + strength/weight.

## Metal foams

- bubbling gas into molten Al, stabilized by SiC or  $Al_2O_3$  particles
    - particles increase the viscosity of the melt, reducing drainage from gravity, + stabilizing bubbles until solidification occurs
- 
- consolidation of metal powder (eg. Al) with particulate  $TiH_2$ , followed by heating;  $TiH_2$  releases  $H_2$  gas expanding the material
  - or,  $TiH_2$  can be stirred into molten metal & then pressure controlled during <sup>foam</sup> cooling
  - infiltration of metal into open cell mold; fill open cell polymer/<sup>foam</sup> with sand; burn off foam; infiltrate with metal; remove sand
  - vapour phase deposition or electrodeposition of metal onto polymer foam precursor (which is subsequently burned out)
  - trapping of high pressure inert gas in pores by powder hot isostatic pressing, followed by expansion of gas at elevated temperature

# Bubbling of gas into molten Al

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.2: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

# Combine metal and $\text{TiH}_2$ powder, consolidate and heat

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.4: Ashby, M. F.,  
A. Evans, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

Ashby, Evans, Fleck, Gibson,  
Hutchinson, Wadley (2000) *Metal  
Foams: A Design Guide*, Butterworth  
Heinemann

# TiH<sub>2</sub> powder in molten Al

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.3: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, N. A. Fleck, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

Ashby, Evans, Fleck, Gibson, Hutchinson,  
Wadley (2000) *Metal Foams: A Design  
Guide*, Butterworth Heinemann

# Replication by casting

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.5: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, N. A. Fleck, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

Ashby, Evans, Fleck, Gibson, Hutchinson, Wadley (2000) *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*, Butterworth Heinemann

# Replication by vapour deposition

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.6: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, N. A. Fleck, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

# Entrapped gas expansion

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.7: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, N. A. Fleck, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

# Hollow sphere synthesis and sintering

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.8: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, N. A. Fleck, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.



# Fugitive phase with leachable particles

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 2.9: Ashby, M. F., A. Evans, N. A. Fleck, et al. *Metal Foams: A Design Guide*. Butterworth Heinemann, 2000.

Ashby, Evans, Fleck, Gibson, Hutchinson, Wadley (2000)  
Metal Foams: A Design Guide, Butterworth Heinemann

## Metal foams

- sintering of hollow metal spheres
- fugitive phase methods
  - compaction of metal + leachable powders followed by leaching (eg. Al/salt)
  - pressure infiltration of a bed of leachable particles by liquid metal, followed by leaching
- dissolution of gas in liquid metal under pressure, with controlled release during solidification.

## Carbon foams

- heat polymer foam to high temp in inert atmosphere - similar to bio carbon template of wood (or making carbon fibers)

## Ceramic foams

- infiltrate open-cell polymer foam with ceramic slurry + fire; polymer burns off leaving hollow cell walls
- chemical vapour deposition onto open-cell carbon foam

## Glass foams

- processes similar to polymer foams

## Lattice materials

### Polymer lattices

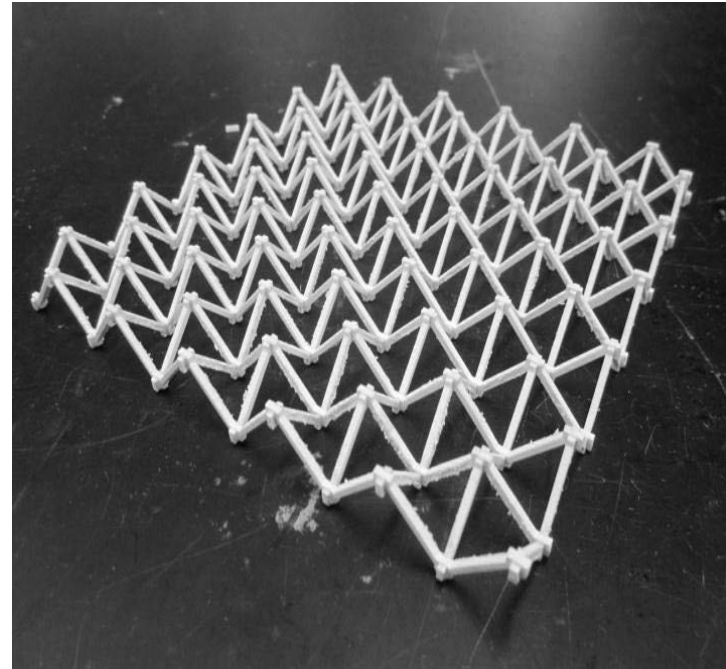
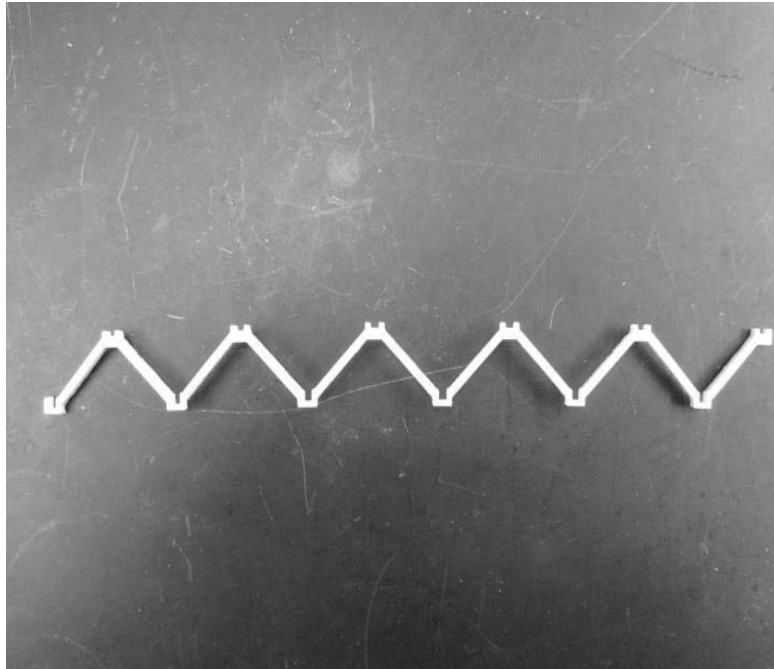
- injection molding
- 3D printing
- snap-fit 2D trusses
- micro-truss from self propagating polymer waveguides
  - photosensitive monomer below mask with holes
  - shine collimated UV light through holes in mask

- 
- as light shines through, polymerization  $\rightarrow$  solidifies
  - solid polymer acts as waveguide to transmit light deeper into the photosensitive monomer

### Metal lattices

- infiltrate polymer lattice with ceramic, then burn off polymer + infiltrate metal.

# Lattice materials: snap fit trusses



Source: Chen, K., A. Neugebauer, et al. "[Mechanical and Thermal Performance of Aerogel-filled Sandwich Panels for Building Insulation.](#)" *Energy and Buildings* 76 (2014): 336–46. Courtesy of Elsevier. Used with permission.

Chen K, Neugebauer A, Goutierre T, Tang A, Glicksman L and Gibson LJ (2014) *Energy and Buildings* 76, 336-346

# Micro-truss from self-propagating polymer waveguides

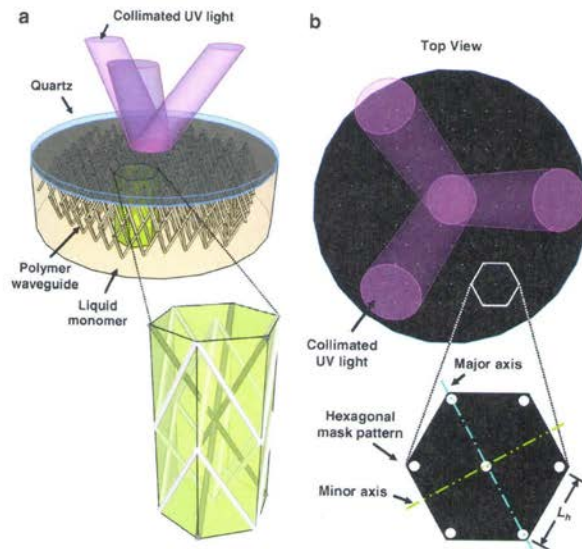
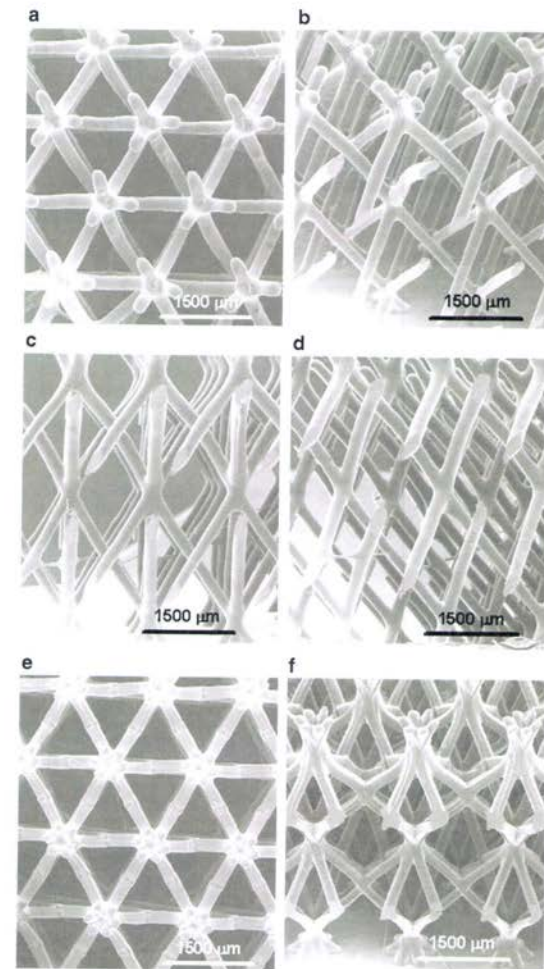


Fig. 1. (a) Schematic of the set-up for creating micro-truss structures with an interconnected array of self-propagating waveguides and (b) the top view of the mask with a hexagonal pattern of circular apertures.

A.J. Jacobsen et al. / Acta Materialia 56 (2008) 2540–2548



Jacobsen, Barvosa-Carter and Nutt (2008) Acta Mat. **56**, 2540

Source: Jacobsen, Alan J., William Barvosa-Carter, et al. "Micro-scale Truss Structures with Three-fold and Six-fold Symmetry Formed from Self-propagating Polymer Waveguides." *Acta Materialia* 56 (2008): 2540-28. Courtesy of Elsevier. Used with permission.

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

3.054 / 3.36 Cellular Solids: Structure, Properties and Applications  
Spring 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.