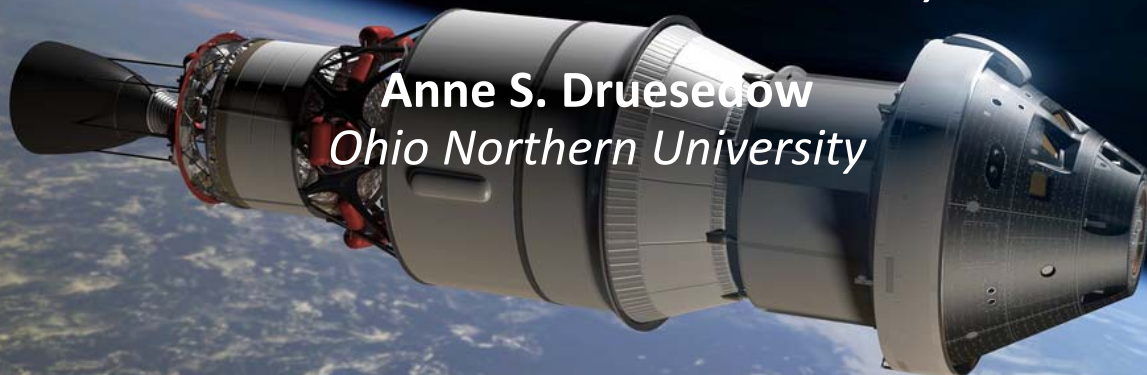


# THE EFFECT OF CORE CONFIGURATION ON THERMAL BARRIER THERMAL PERFORMANCE

**Jeffrey J. DeMange**  
*The University of Toledo*

**Robert H. Bott**  
*Case Western Reserve University*

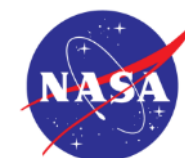
**Anne S. Druese**  
*Ohio Northern University*



Materials Science & Technology  
Thermal Protection Materials and Systems  
Columbus, OH  
October 4-8, 2015



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TOLEDO**  
1872



This research was funded by the U.S. Government under NASA Contracts NNC08CA35C & NNC13BA10B. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Government.

# CONTENTS OF DISCUSSION

- Introduction
  - Description of Compliant Thermal Barriers (CTB's)
  - Construction of CTB's
- Objectives
- Results
  - Experimental Studies
    - Measurement of core density
    - Effect of core density on flow/leakage → permeability
    - Thermal conductivity effect
  - Modeling Studies
    - Setup of model
    - Effect of various parameters on temperature
- Summary

# AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TPS



**Compliant Thermal Barriers  
(CTB's)**

- Often referred to as “thermal seals” or “seals”
- One “class” of thermal barriers
- High-temp. ceramic-based fibrous materials
- Installed in TPS interface gaps
- Roles
  - Thermal – limit inboard temperatures
  - Structural – accommodate deflections



**Vehicle Penetrations**

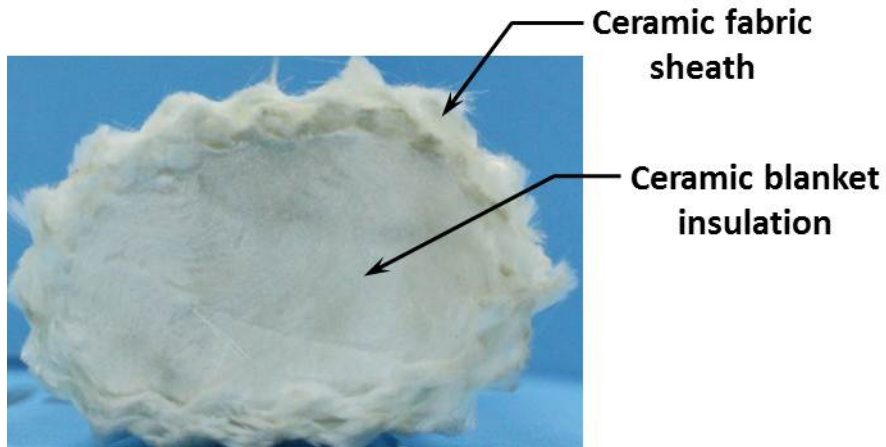


**Doors**

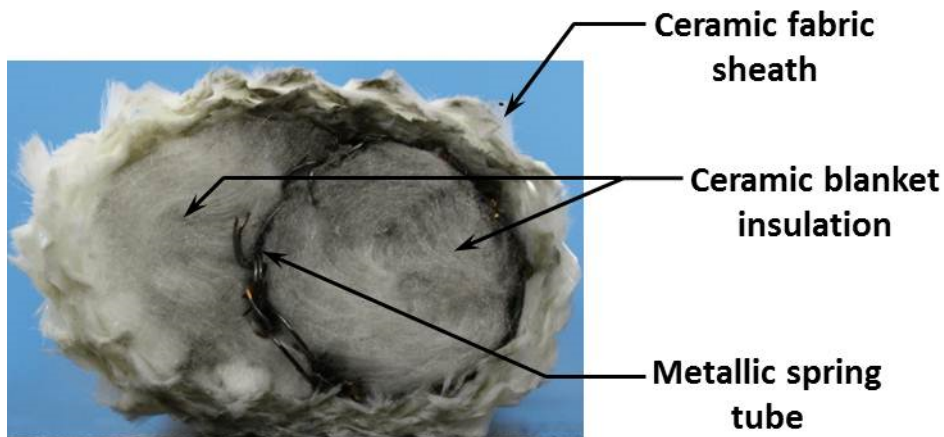


**Control Surfaces**

# COMPLIANT THERMAL BARRIER CONSTRUCTION

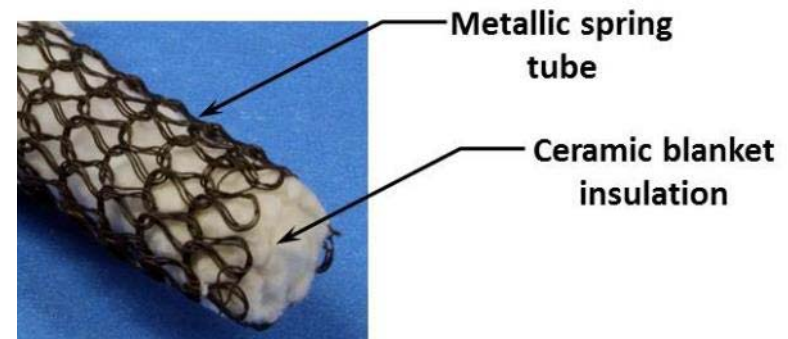


**Blanket Thermal Barrier (BTB)**



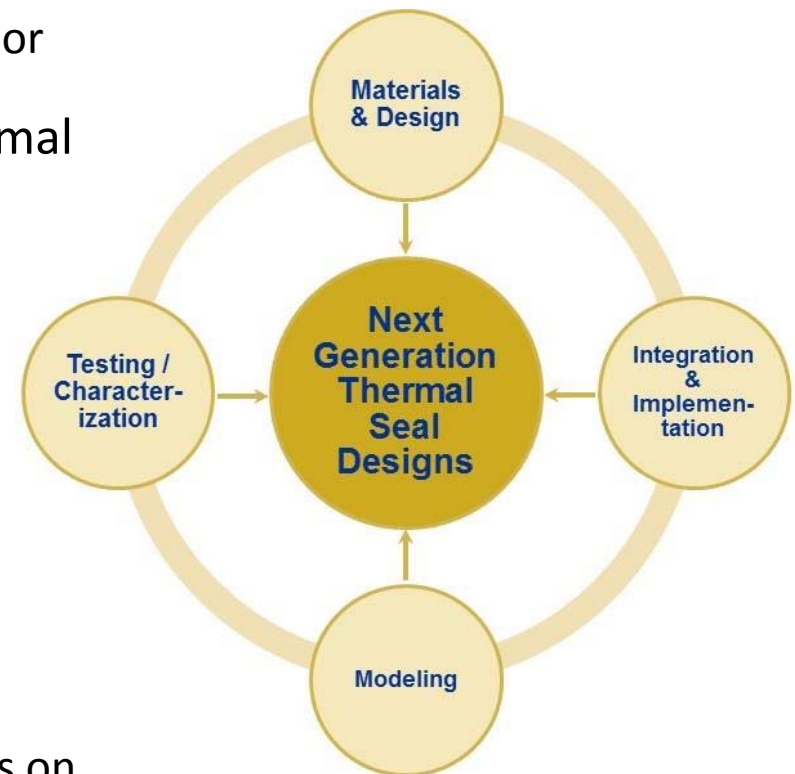
**Hybrid Thermal Barrier (HTB)**

- Outer sheath
  - 1+ layers of aluminosilicate woven fabric (e.g., Nextel™)
  - Coatings: RTV, emissivity, etc.
- Core
  - Aluminosilicate blanket (e.g., Saffil)
  - Metallic spring tube
- Other
  - Stitching to control shape/size and keep insulation intact
  - End treatments/closeouts



# OBJECTIVES

- Thermal barriers are both simple and complex...
  - Simple in basic design and operation
  - Complex in fabrication and mechanistic behavior
- Vehicle designers need help in integrating thermal barriers
  - How big?
  - What configuration? Coatings?
  - How much insulation?
  - How to integrate?
- Objectives: Utilize testing and modeling to
  - Improve understanding of thermal barriers
  - Facilitate improved and more efficient design practices
  - Determine effect insulation core characteristics on thermal barrier performance

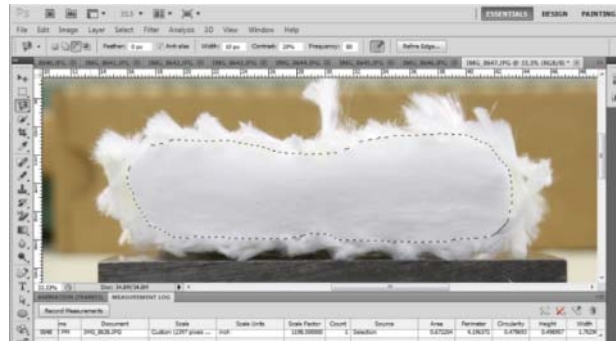


# MEASUREMENT OF CORE DENSITY

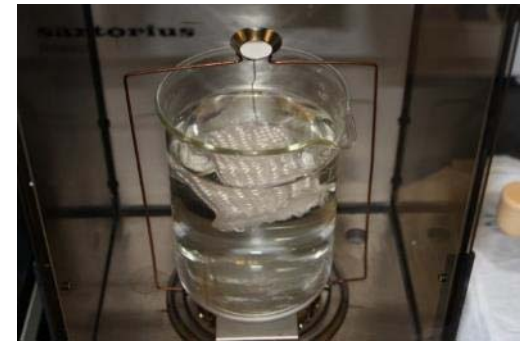
- 3 different methods to measure core density
  - Laser dimensional measurement
  - Photographic dimensional measurement
  - Volume measurement (Archimedes' Principle)
- Each method has pro's and con's
  - Laser and photographic methods quick, but rely on assumptions about core shape
  - Archimedes' is most accurate, but more complicated
- Core density as a function of compression ("effective density") required for current study



Laser



Photographic



Archimedes

# MEASUREMENT OF “EFFECTIVE DENSITY”

- “Effective density” accounts for volume change and densification of core with respect to compression
- Method
  - Compressed thermal barrier using thick Plexiglass plate to prescribed compression amount set by gage pins
  - Used 2D laser to measure width and thickness in 5 locations along length
  - Estimated core volume from “cross-sectional” and length measurements
- “Effective density” calculated for 3 compression levels (gaps)



Large Gap

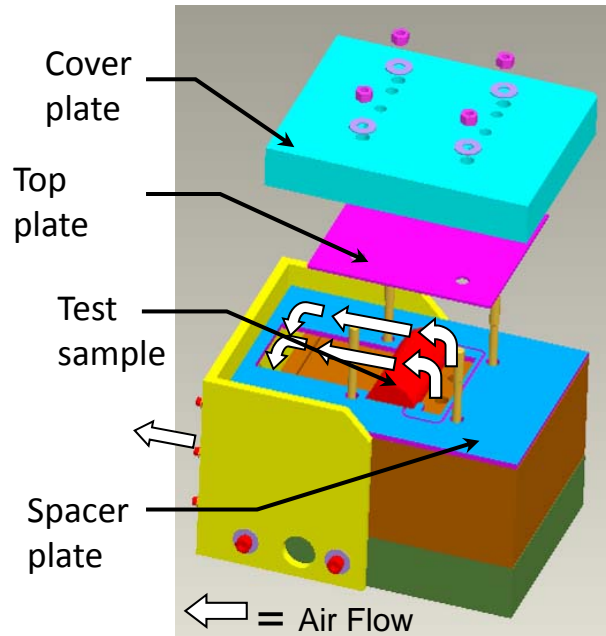


Medium Gap



Small Gap

# MEASUREMENT OF LEAKAGE



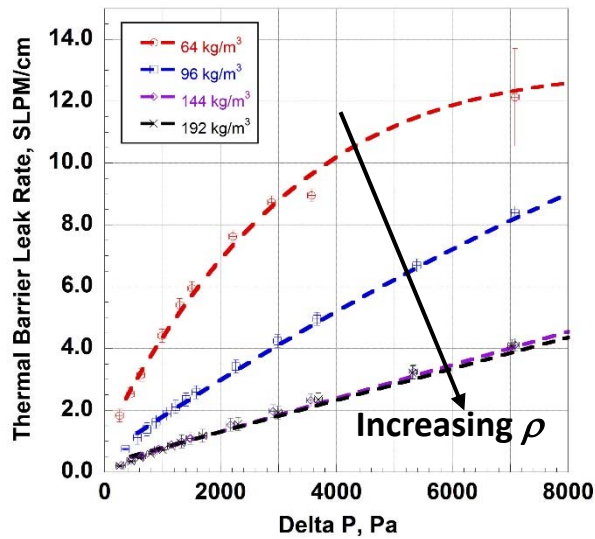
- Thermal barrier tested in Linear Flow Fixture #2 (LFF#2)
- 2 CTB types
  - Blanket (BTB): 64, 96, 144, 192 kg/m<sup>3</sup> nominal core density
  - Hybrid (HTB): 64, 144 kg/m<sup>3</sup> nominal core density
- Test parameters
  - Ambient temperature
  - 3 different gap/compression levels
  - Evaluated between smooth metal plates
  - Delta P: 0 – 7000 Pa
  - Flow measured as function of  $\Delta P$  across seal



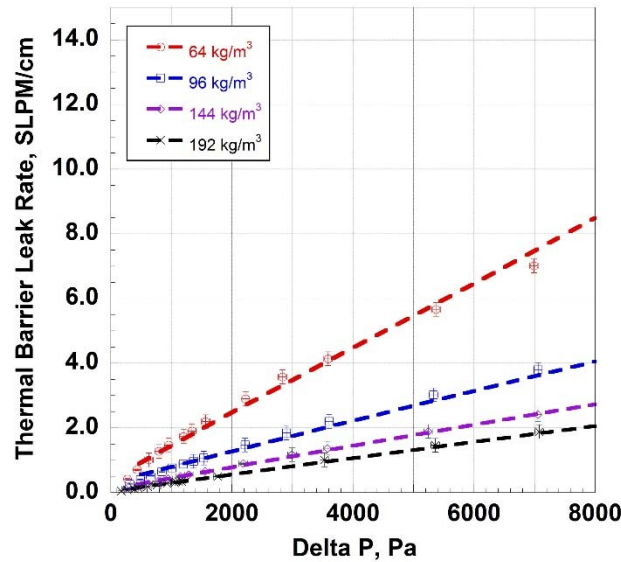


# LEAKAGE RESULTS: BLANKET THERMAL BARRIER

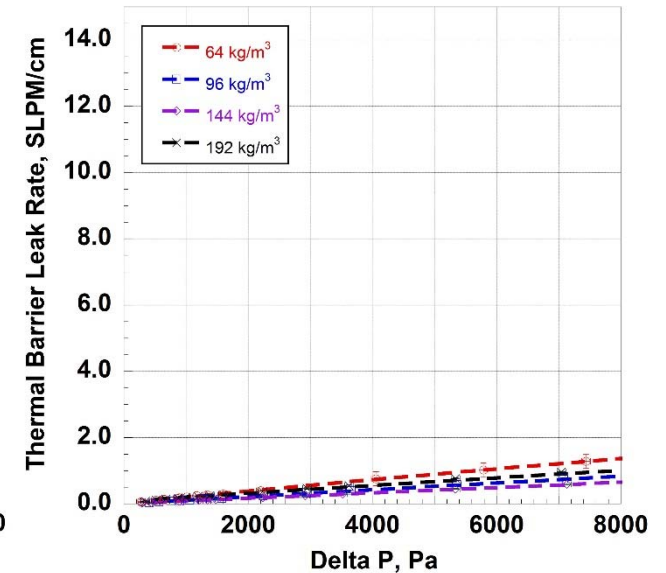
### Large Gap



### Medium Gap

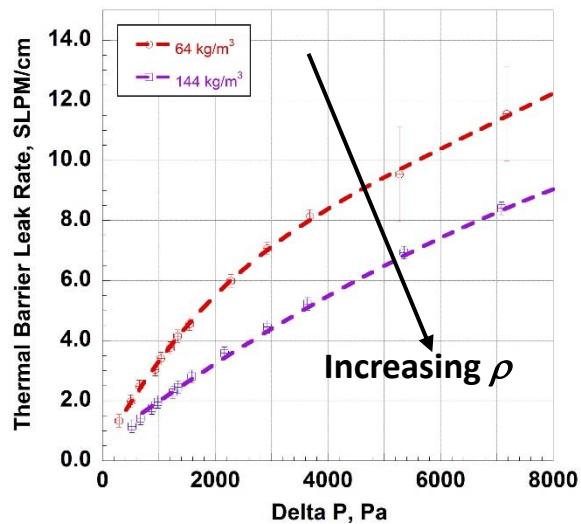


### Small Gap

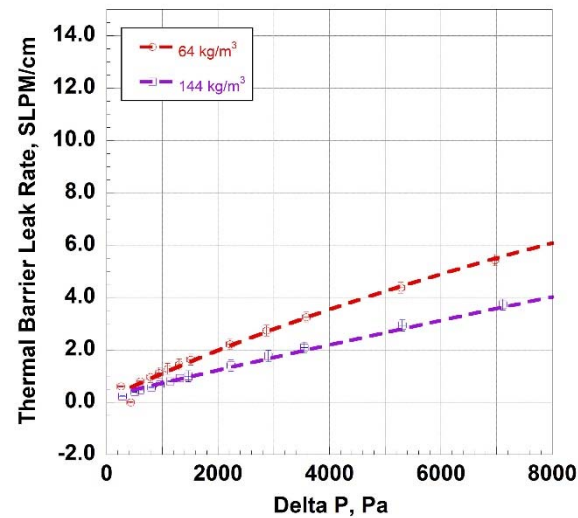


# LEAKAGE RESULTS: HYBRID THERMAL BARRIER

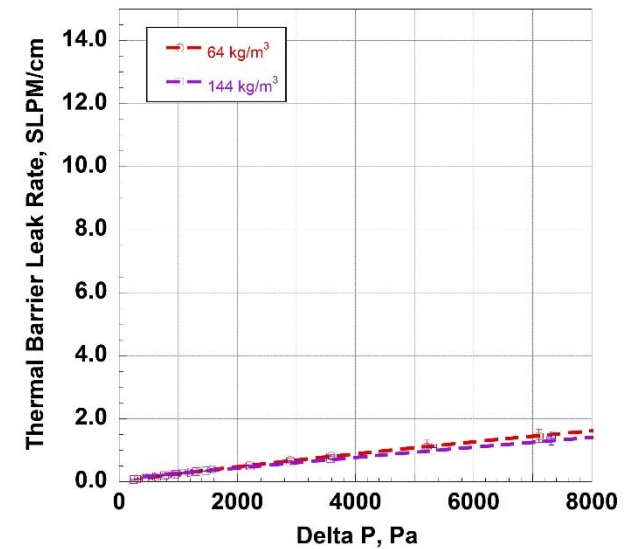
## Large Gap



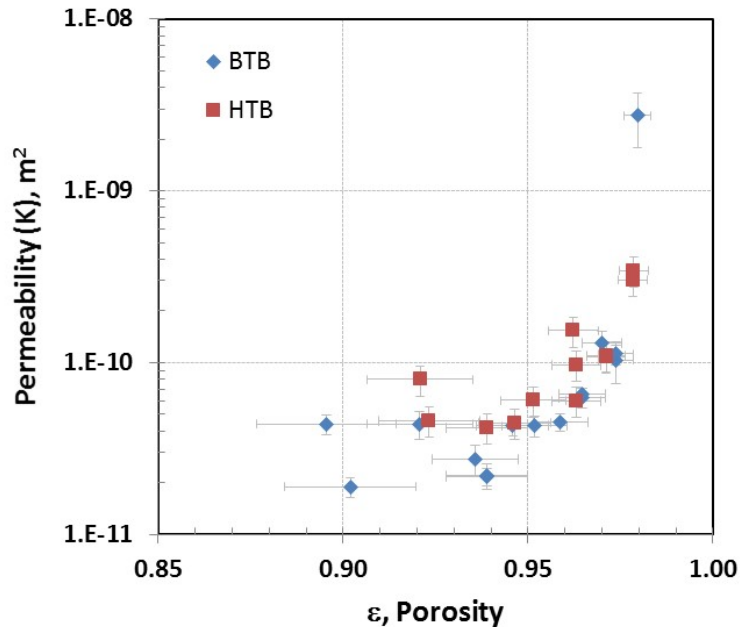
## Medium Gap



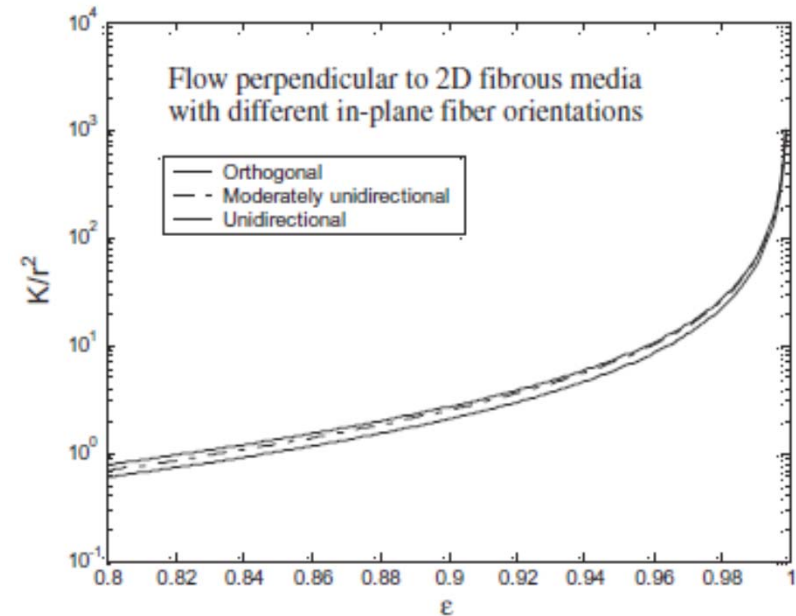
## Small Gap



# EFFECT OF CORE DENSITY ON PERMEABILITY



(DeMange, unpublished)



(Shuo *et al.*, 2011)

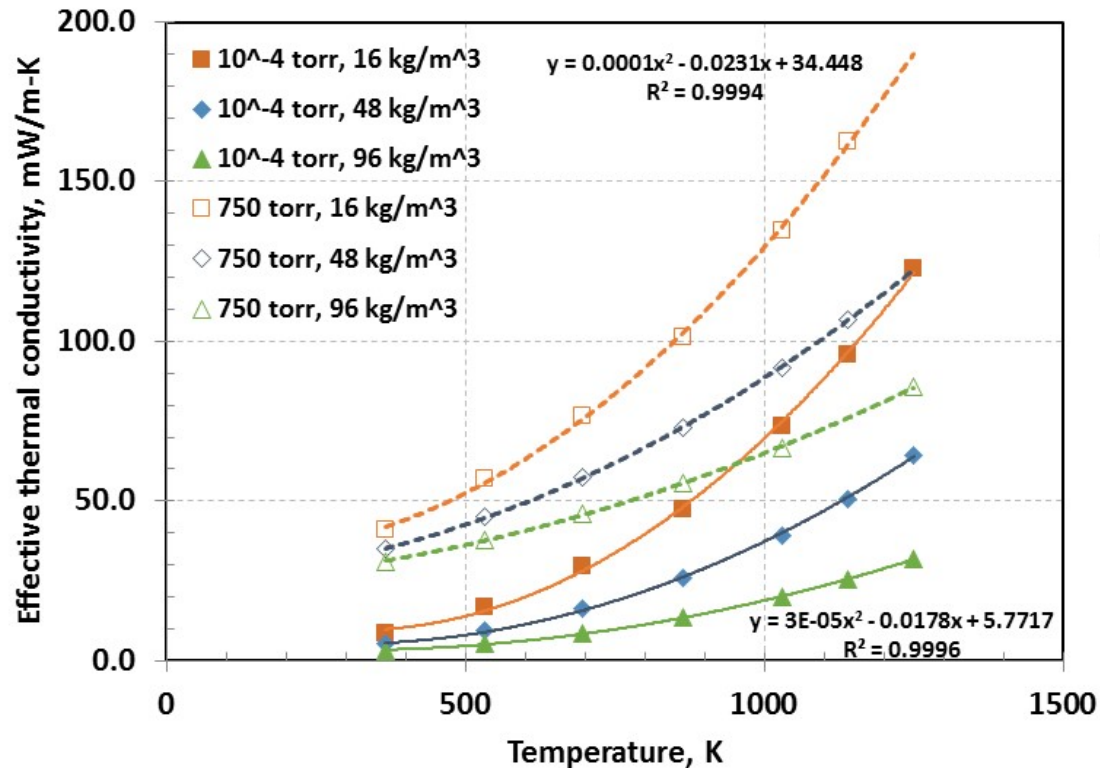
$$-\nabla P = \frac{\mu}{K} \vec{u} + \rho C |\vec{u}| \vec{u}$$

(Stanek & Szekely, 1974)

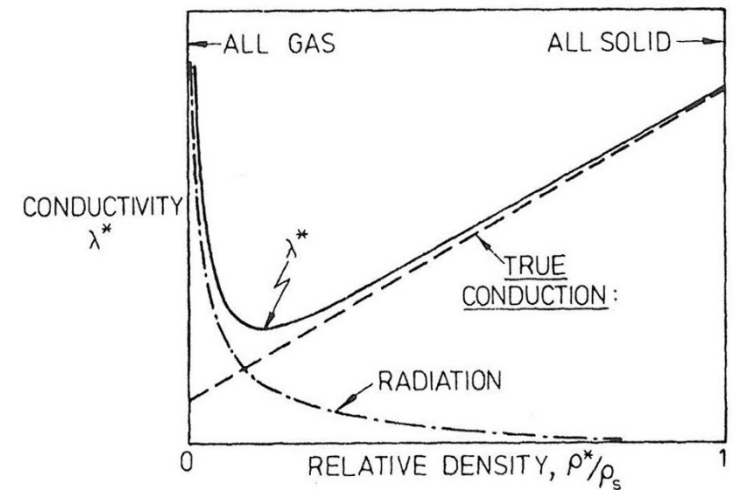


$$\frac{(P_1^2 - P_0^2)A}{2\dot{m}\mu RTL} = \frac{1}{K} + C \frac{\dot{m}}{A\mu}$$

# EFFECT OF CORE DENSITY ON EFFECTIVE THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY



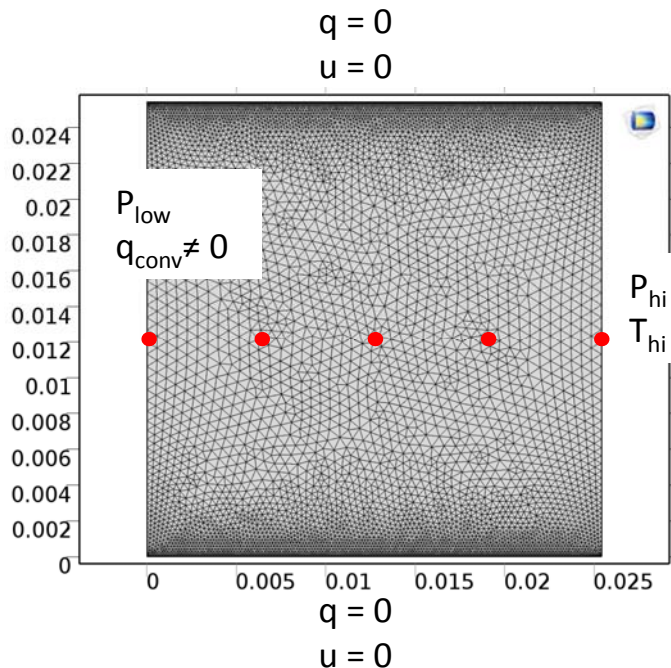
(Daryabeigi, 1999)



(Gibson & Ashby, 1997)

# THERMAL MODELING OF SOFT GOOD THERMAL BARRIERS

User-controlled mesh  
Fluid dynamics – Extra fine  
11524 Elements  
DOF = 82300 (886 internal DOF)

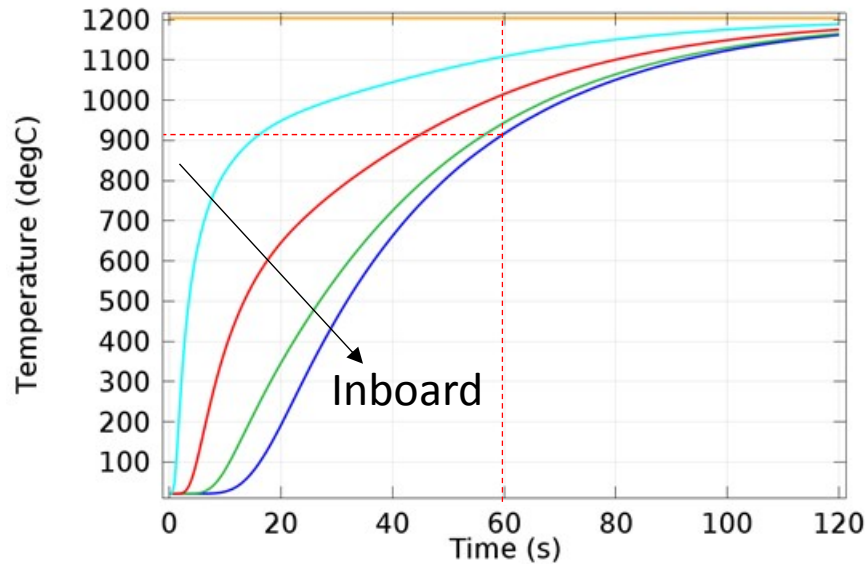


- Modeled using COMSOL 5.0
  - Heat Transfer in Porous Media
  - Free and Porous Media Flow
  - Standard Transient Navier-Stokes Formulation
- Geometry and Boundary conditions
  - Geometry: 2.54 x 2.54 cm square
  - Monitor pts: 5 equally spaced centrally along flow length
  - Outboard
    - $P_{hi}$ : 1500 Pa - 3500 Pa
    - $T_{hi}$ : 1204°C
  - Inboard
    - $P_{low}$ : 100 Pa
    - $T_{low}$ : Outflow (convection-dominated)
  - Top and bottom: Insulative, no slip
- Material properties
  - Density: 60 – 144 kg/m<sup>3</sup>
  - Permeability:  $0.20 \times 10^{-10}$  –  $27 \times 10^{-10}$  m<sup>2</sup>
  - Porosity: 90 - 95%
  - Thermal conductivity: High and low
  - $C_p = 1000$  J/kg-K

# EFFECT OF POROSITY

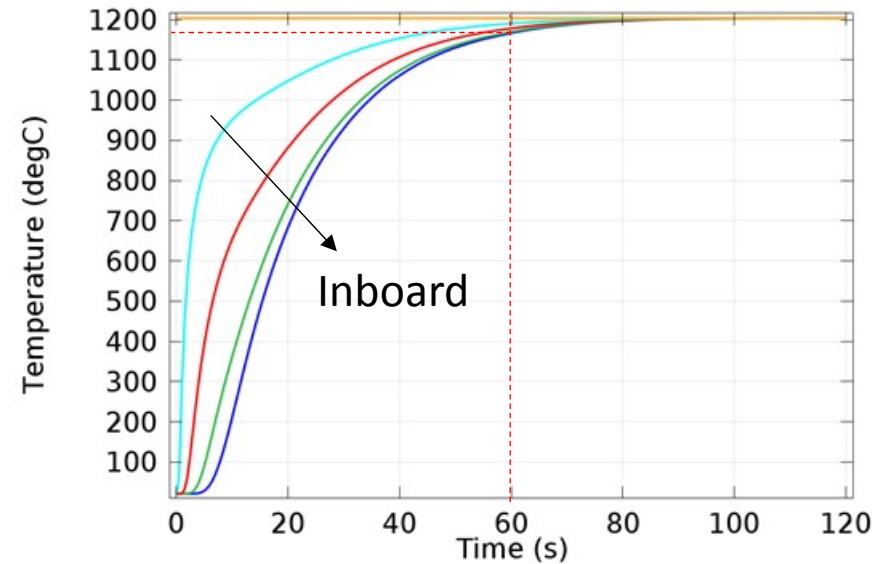
$\varepsilon = 0.90$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$\varepsilon = 0.95$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$$\rho = 120 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$K = 3.5\text{E-}10 \text{ m}^2$$

$$P_{hi} = 1500 \text{ Pa}$$

$$P_{low} = 100 \text{ Pa}$$

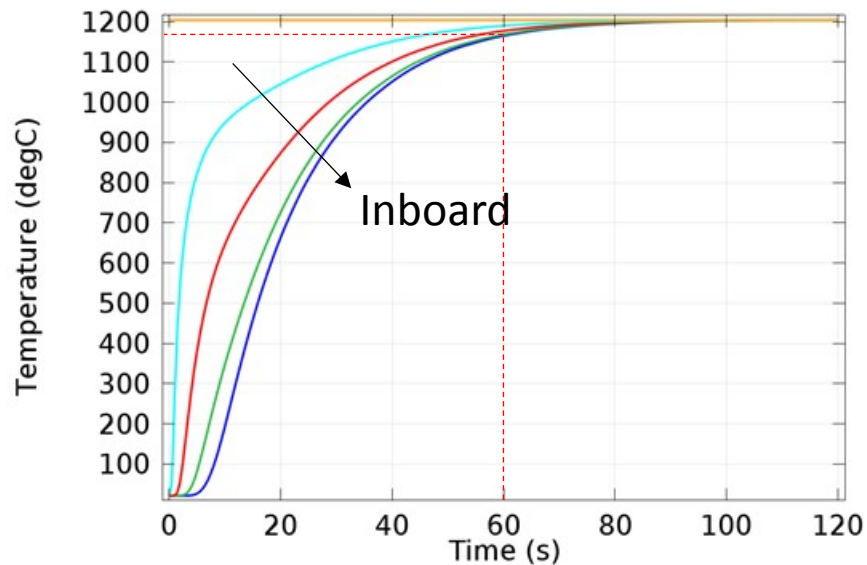
$$T_{hi} = 1204^\circ\text{C}$$

$$k = (3\text{E-}05 * T^2 - 0.0178 * T + 5.7717) / 1000 \text{ W/m-K}$$

# EFFECT OF INSULATION DENSITY

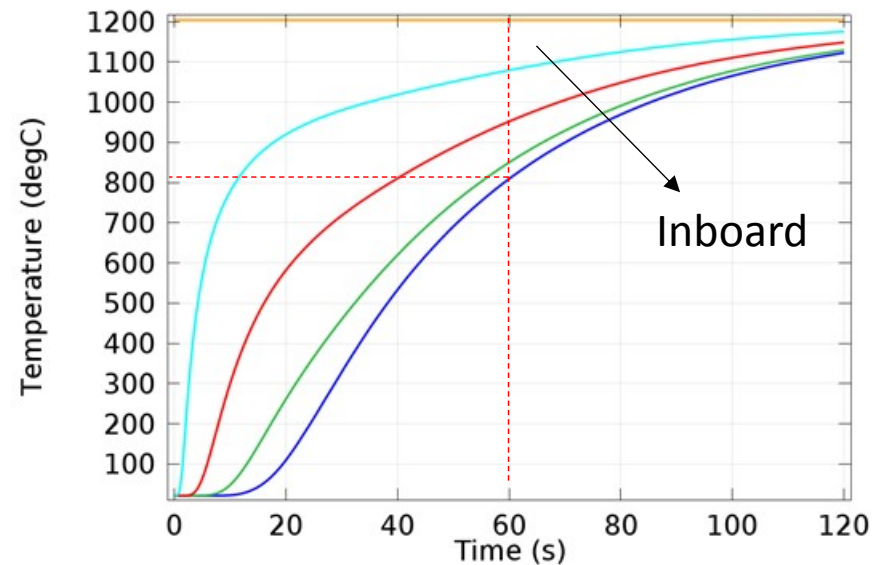
$\rho = 60 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$\rho = 144 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$$K = 3.5E-10 \text{ m}^2$$

$$P_{hi} = 1500 \text{ Pa}$$

$$P_{low} = 150 \text{ Pa}$$

$$T_{hi} = 1204^\circ\text{C}$$

$$k = (3E-05 * T^2 - 0.0178 * T + 5.7717) / 1000 \text{ W/m-K}$$

Introduction

Objective

Approach

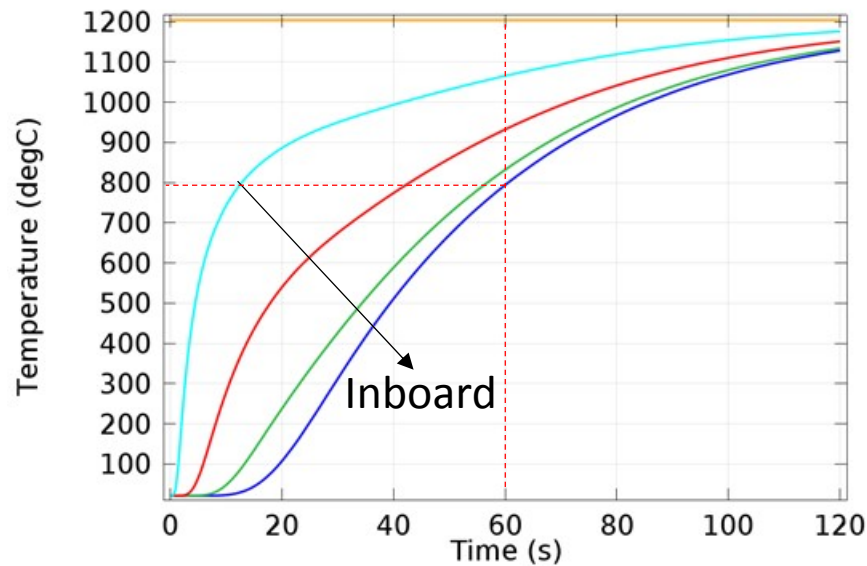
Results

Summary

# EFFECT OF PERMEABILITY

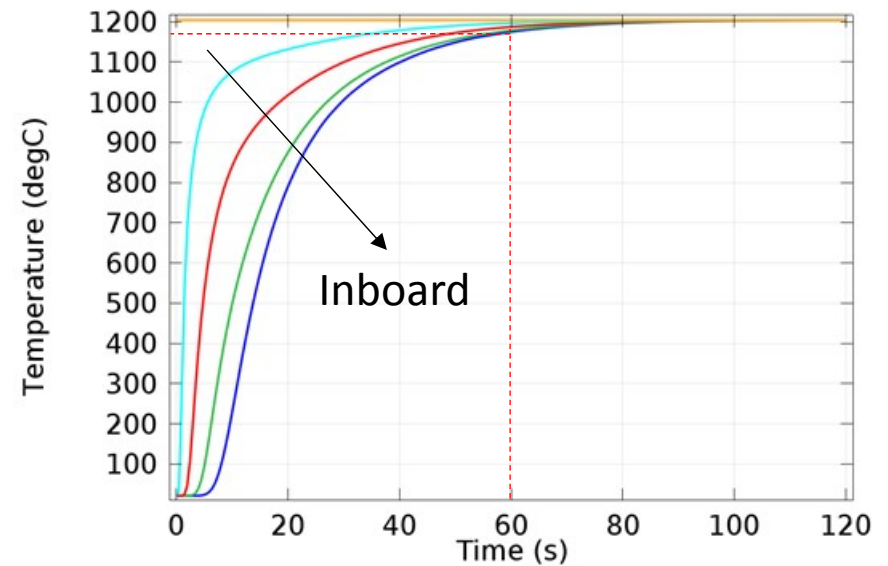
$$K = 0.20 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$$K = 27 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$$\rho = 120 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$P_{hi} = 1500 \text{ Pa}$$

$$P_{low} = 100 \text{ Pa}$$

$$T_{hi} = 1204^\circ\text{C}$$

$$k = (3E-05 * T^2 - 0.0178 * T + 5.7717) / 1000 \text{ W/m-K}$$



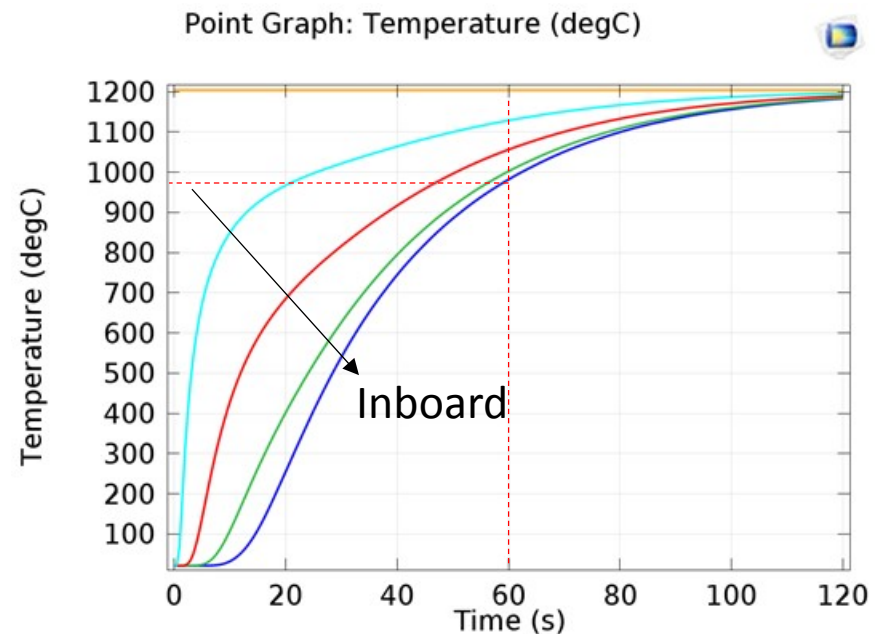
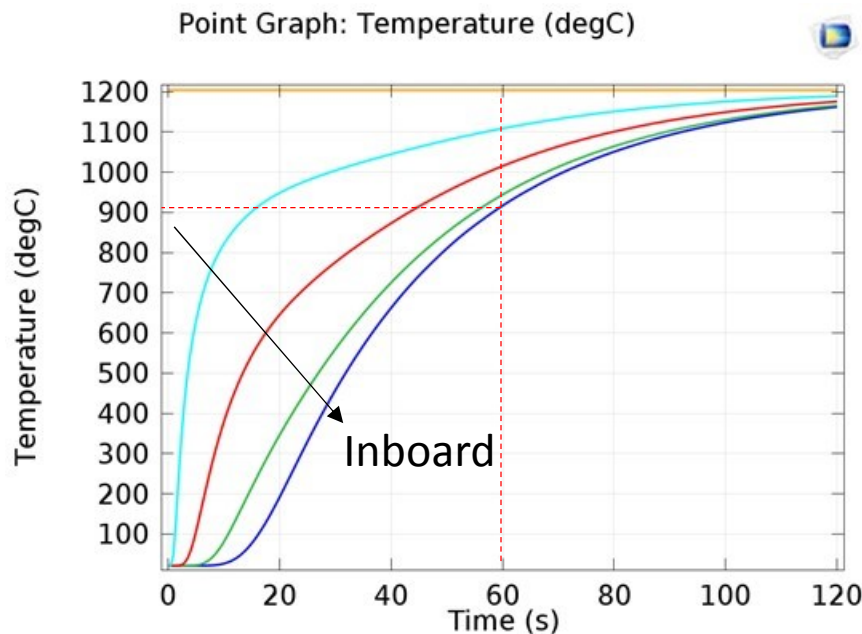
# EFFECT OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

$$k = 3E-05 * T^2 - 1.78E-2 * T + 5.772 \text{ mW/m-K}$$

(lower)

$$k = 1E-4 * T^2 - 2.31E-2 * T + 34.448 \text{ mW/m-K}$$

(higher)



$$\rho = 120 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$K = 3.5E-10 \text{ m}^2$$

$$P_{hi} = 1500 \text{ Pa}$$

$$P_{low} = 100 \text{ Pa}$$

$$T_{hi} = 1204^\circ\text{C}$$

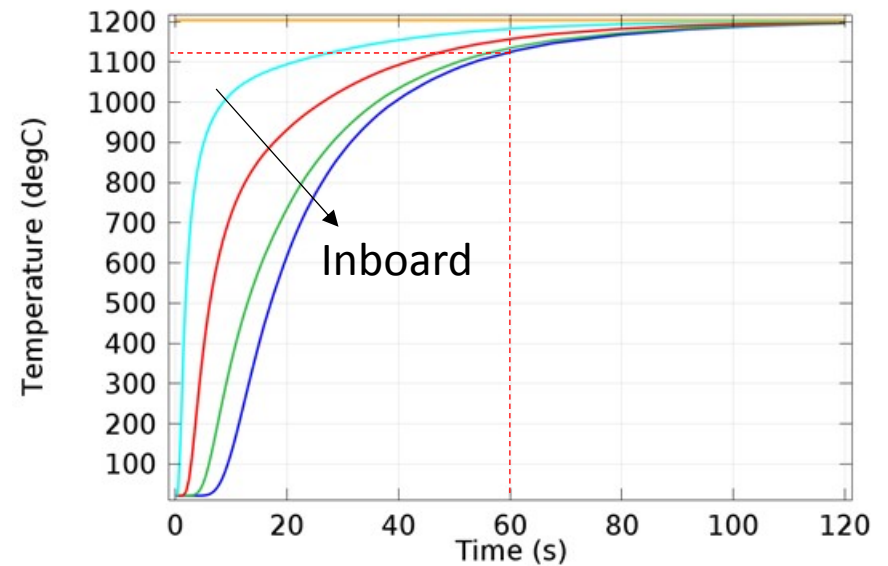
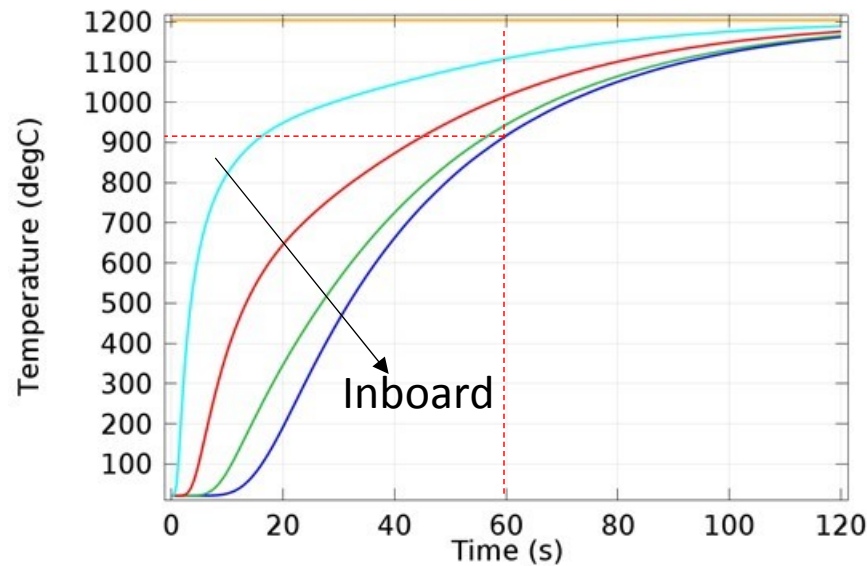
# EFFECT OF PRESSURE DIFFERENTIAL

$P_{hi} = 1500 \text{ Pa}$

$P_{hi} = 3500 \text{ Pa}$

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)

Point Graph: Temperature (degC)



$$K = 3.5E-10 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\rho = 120 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$P_{low} = 100 \text{ Pa}$$

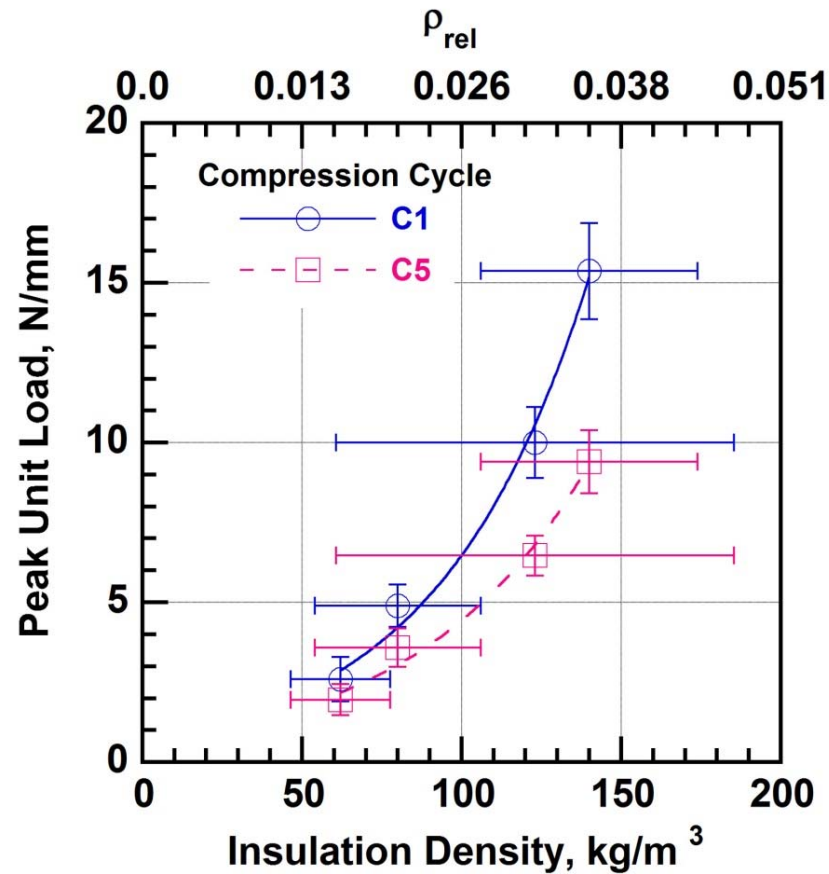
$$T_{hi} = 1204^\circ\text{C}$$

$$k = (3E-05 * T^2 - 0.0178 * T + 5.7717) / 1000 \text{ W/m-K}$$

# THE TRADEOFF

**But...**

What may be good thermally, may not be so good structurally.



# SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- More insulation = better thermal performance
  - Convective heat transfer
    - Flow testing and modeling
    - Lower porosity/higher density, higher compression → reduced permeability, reduced leakage
    - Higher pressure differential → more convective heat transfer
  - Conductive heat transfer
    - Thermal testing and modeling
    - Increasing density → lower  $k_{\text{eff}}$
    - But...effect is likely asymptotic, may not improve much after a given core density
- More insulation = higher mechanical loads
  - 60 → 144 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, peak loads increase by a factor of 3
  - May be issue if installed adjacent to delicate components (e.g., TPS)
- Vehicle designer/integrator needs to optimize design to account for both thermal and mechanical requirements
  - Integrated thermo-structural model would be beneficial
  - Efforts for both thermal and structural models are ongoing

# REFERENCES

Daryabeigi, K., *et. al.*, “Effective Thermal Conductivity of High Temperature Insulations for Reusable Launch Vehicles,” NASA TM-1999-208972, February 1999.

Gibson, L. J. and Ashby, M. F., *Cellular Solids - Structures and Properties*, 2nd Ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 1997.

Shou, D., Fan, J., and Ding, F., “Hydraulic permeability of fibrous porous media,” *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*, Vol. 54, 2011, 4009-4018.

# APPENDIX

# COMPLIANT THERMAL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS & CHARACTERISTICS

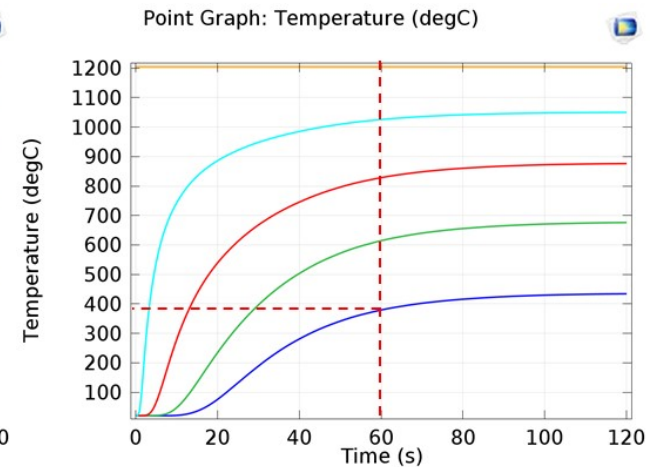
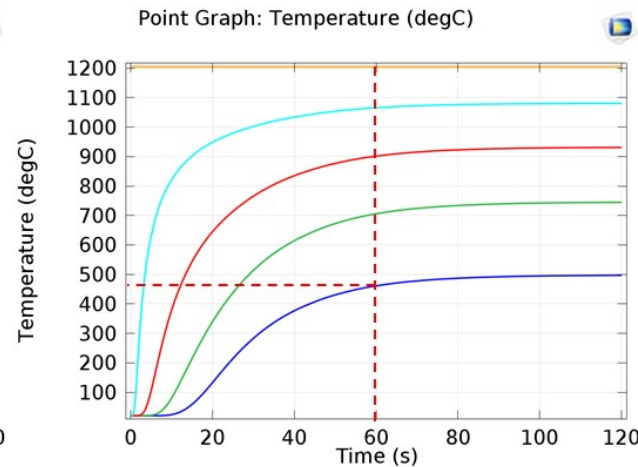
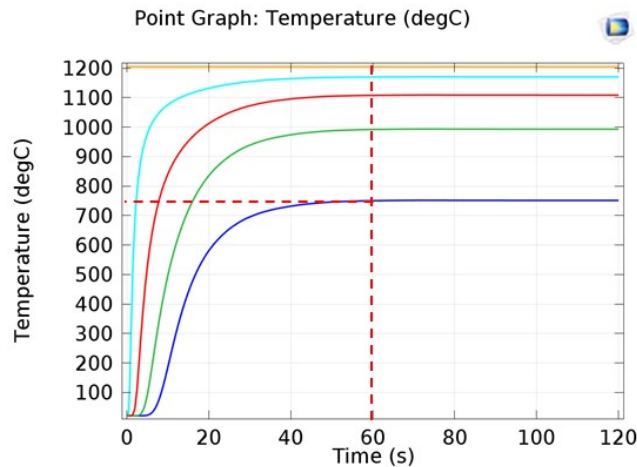
- General Requirements
  - Survive in harsh environments (thermally, chemically, tribologically)
  - Mitigate heat transfer
    - Good thermal insulators
    - Minimize convective flow (in combination with inboard environmental barriers)
    - Mitigate radiation heat transfer
  - Exhibit flexibility/conformability
  - Remain resilient
  - Meet load requirements
- Characteristics
  - Made of high temperature ceramic fiber-based materials
  - Utilize high-performance insulation
  - Permeable
  - Compliant
  - Exhibit set/compaction (even at ambient temperatures)
  - Non-linear hysteretic loading behavior

# EFFECT OF PERMEABILITY AND REAR BOUNDARY CONDITION

$$K = 27 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$$

$$K = 3.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$$

$$K = 0.20 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$$



$$\rho = 120 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$P_{hi} = 1500 \text{ Pa}$$

$$P_{low} = 100 \text{ Pa}$$

$$T_{hi} = 1204^\circ\text{C}$$

$$k = (3\text{E-}05 \cdot T^2 - 0.0178 \cdot T + 5.7717) / 1000 \text{ W/m-K}$$

Backside convective heat boundary ( $h = 5 \text{ W/m}^2\text{-K}$ )