



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
IONIC LIQUID
LABORATORIES
QUILL

Hybrid Thermal Runaway Propagation Prevention for Lithium-ion Batteries in EVs

David McAreavey

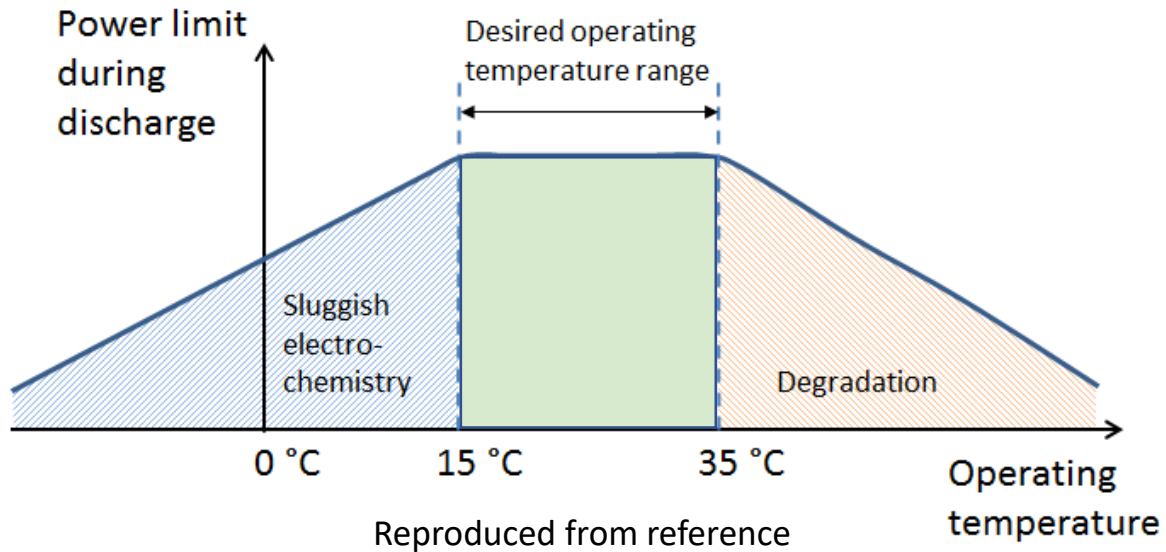
QUILL MEETING, 25/03/2024

Battery electric vehicles (BEV)

	IC Ford F150	Electric Ford F150
Energy density	46.6 MJ/kg	0.46-0.72 MJ/kg
Energy source weight	62.6 kg (23 gallon)	816.5kg (standard range)
Vehicle weight	1845.7 kg	2948.35 kg
Battery/fuel vehicle weight percentage	3.4%	27.7%



Project overview

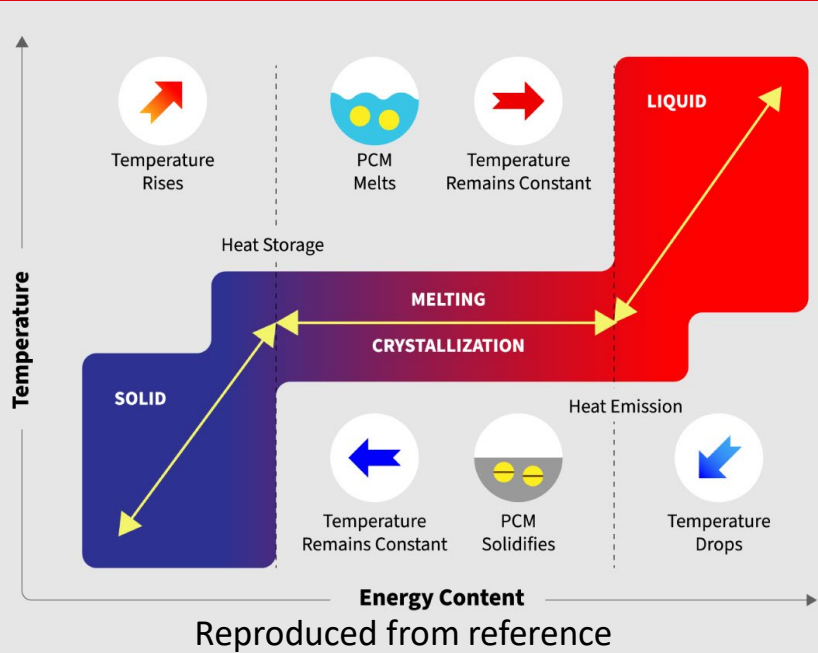


- Inadequate cooling system
- Cells at low states of health
- Cells discharged at too high a rate



Reproduced from reference

Interstitial materials



PCMs

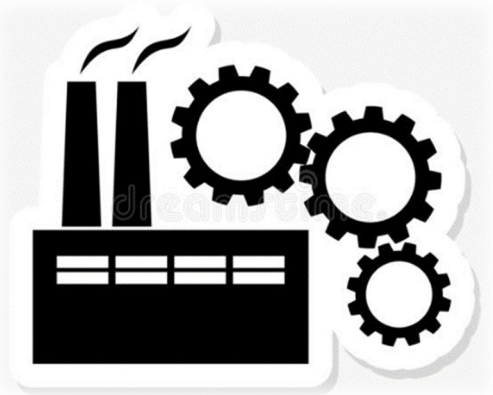
Aerogels



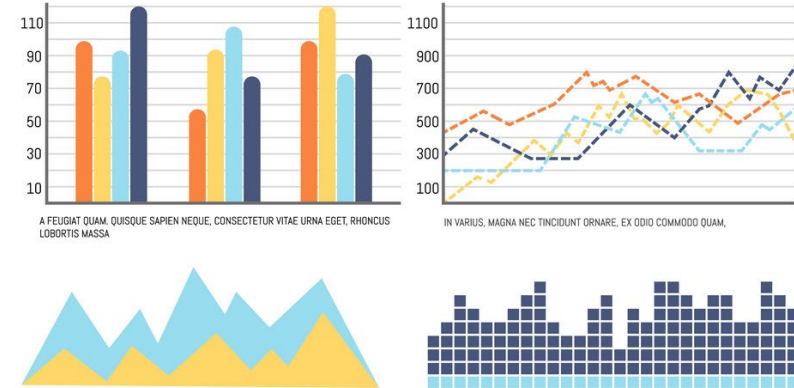
High conductivity
Metal plates
Graphite sheets

Introduction

Industry Trends



Past Data



Consumers



Research



Introduction

Industry Trends

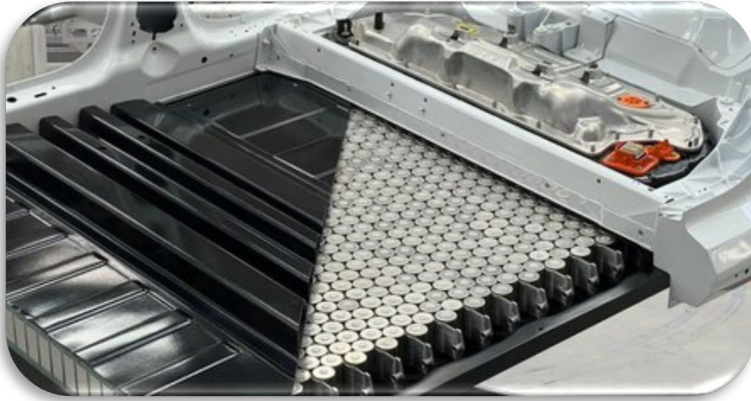
Energy density ↑



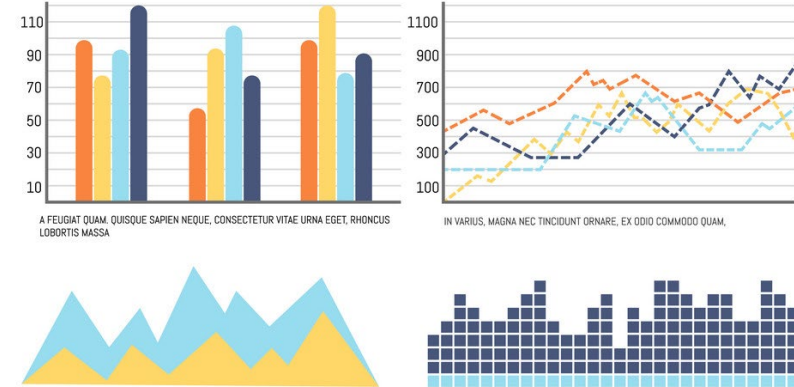
Cell cost ↓



Price parity



Past Data



Consumers



Research



Introduction

Industry Trends

Energy density



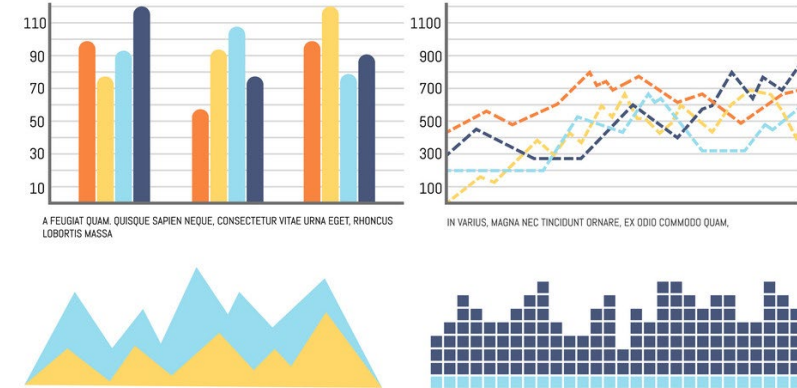
Cell cost



Price parity



Past Data



Consumers

Consumer priorities for EV adoption, 2018 and 2020

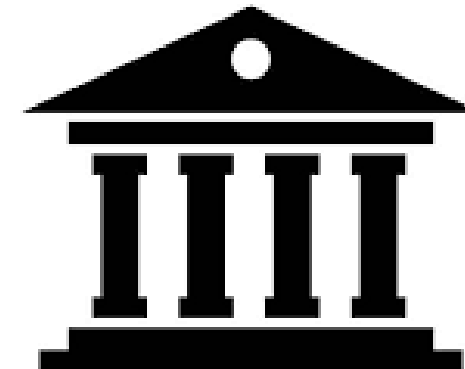
Greater concerns are shown in orange.

	2020 Global Auto Consumer Study											
	FRANCE		GERMANY		ITALY		UK		CHINA		US	
In your opinion, what is the greatest concern regarding all battery-powered electric vehicles?	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020
Driving range	31%	28%	35%	33%	4%	27%	26%	22%	25%	22%	24%	25%
Cost/price premium	32%	22%	22%	15%	19%	13%	24%	16%	9%	12%	26%	18%
Time required to charge	11%	15%	11%	14%	18%	16%	13%	16%	12%	15%	10%	14%
Lack of electric vehicle charging infrastructure	16%	22%	20%	25%	44%	32%	22%	33%	18%	20%	22%	29%
Safety concerns with battery technology	4%	11%	5%	10%	7%	10%	6%	12%	22%	31%	8%	13%
Others	6%	2%	7%	3%	8%	2%	9%	1%	14%	0%	10%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sample size	1,083	1,266	1,287	3,002	1,048	1,274	965	1,264	1,606	3,019	1,513	3,006

Source: Deloitte Global Auto Consumer Study¹⁸

Deloitte Insights | deloitte.com/insig

Research



Introduction

Industry Trends

Energy density



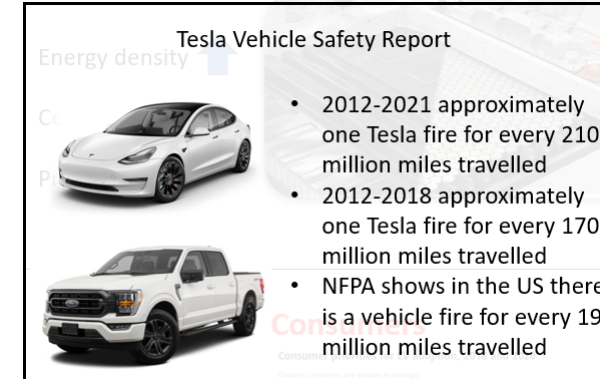
Cell cost



Price parity



Past Data



- Inconsistent picture of the frequency of EV fires/runaway events
- Small data sets

Consumers

Consumer priorities for EV adoption, 2018 and 2020

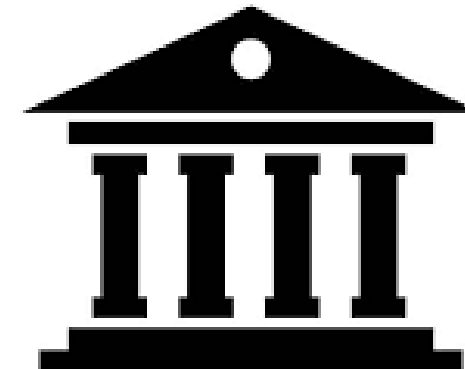
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Research



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Industry Trends

Energy density ↑



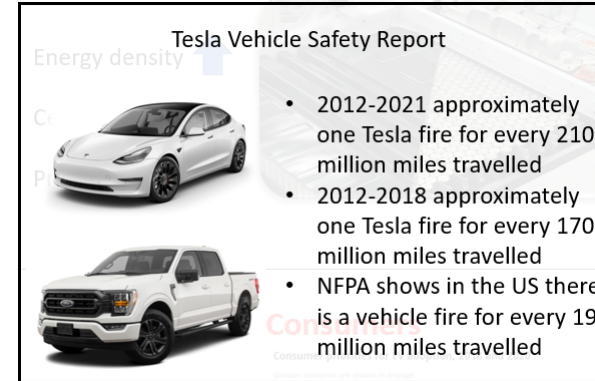
Cell cost ↓



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Deloitte Insights | deloitte.com/insig

Range demand ↓



Safety concerns ↑



Commercial

Nissan leaf
BMS -Air cooled battery pack

Commercial

Tesla model 3
BMS -Indirect liquid cooling with intumescent foam

Commercial

BMW
BMS -AC cooling system (refrigerant)

Research
Phase change materials

- Paraffin wax
- Rubitherm (RT15)

Research
Dedicated suppressants

- Water mist
- Dry powders
- CO₂

Research
Cell material modification

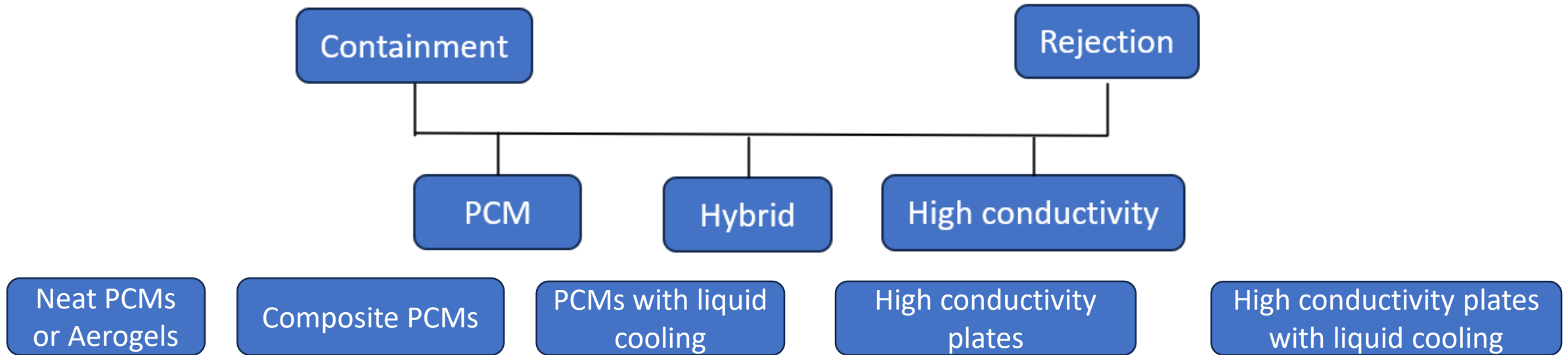
- Electrolyte
- Separator
- electrodes

Research
Early detection

- Vent gases
- Cell swelling
- Temperature based detection

- <https://www.patentsencyclopedia.com/app/20100086844>
- LaMonica M. MIT Technology Review . 2012. Available from: <https://www.technologyreview.com>
- Koch S, Birke KP, Kuhn R. Fast thermal runaway detection for lithium-ion cells in large scale traction batteries. Batteries. 2018;4(2):1–11.
- Kshetrimayum KS, Yoon YG, Gye HR, Lee CJ. Preventing heat propagation and thermal runaway in electric vehicle battery modules using integrated PCM and micro-channel plate cooling system. Appl Therm Eng . 2019;159(May):113797. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applthermaleng.2019.113797>
- Liu Y, Duan Q, Xu J, Li H, Sun J, Wang Q. Experimental study on a novel safety strategy of lithium-ion battery integrating fire suppression and rapid cooling. J Energy Storage . 2020;28(December 2019):101185. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.est.2019.101185>

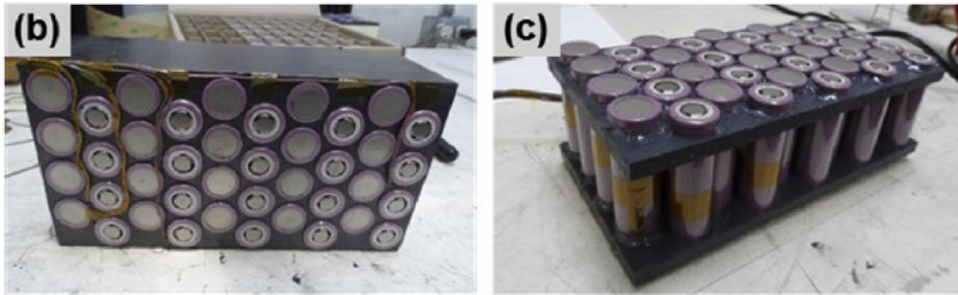
Interstitial materials



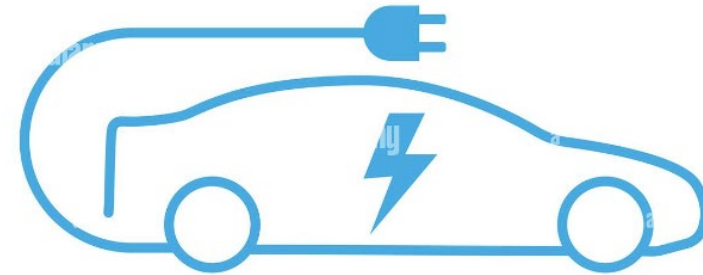
- Spectrum of interstitial materials and options.
- Optimisation of these systems for the pack design is important – considering thermal conductivity and conduction paths.
- The combination of systems often shows greater success than any single approach.
- Flammability of PCMs remains a sticking point.

Novelty

- This work wants to look at the viability of applying interstitial materials to an EV when considering:
 - Weight
 - Volume
 - Energy
- Consider the integration of a thermal runaway propagation system alongside thermal management.



Preventing thermal runaway propagation

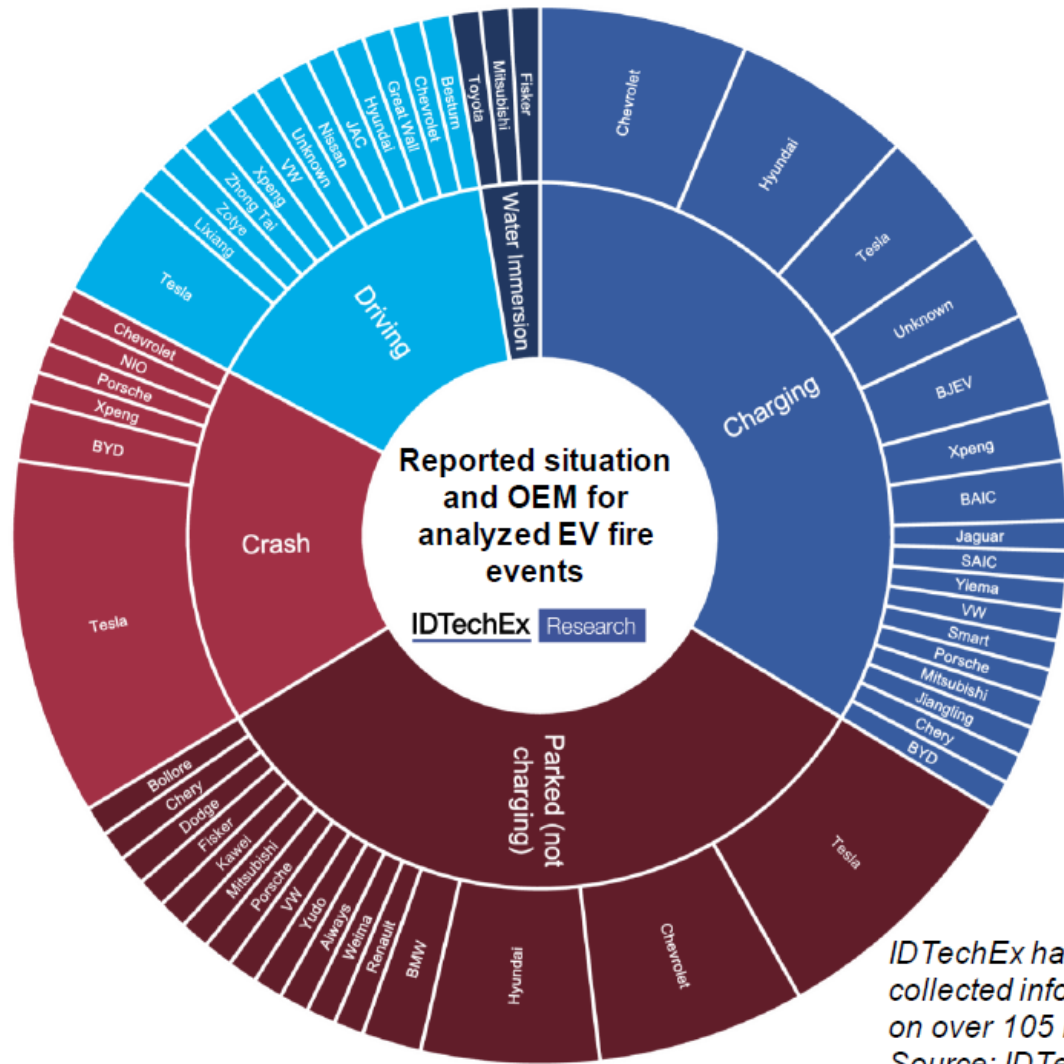


Lab testing
and theory



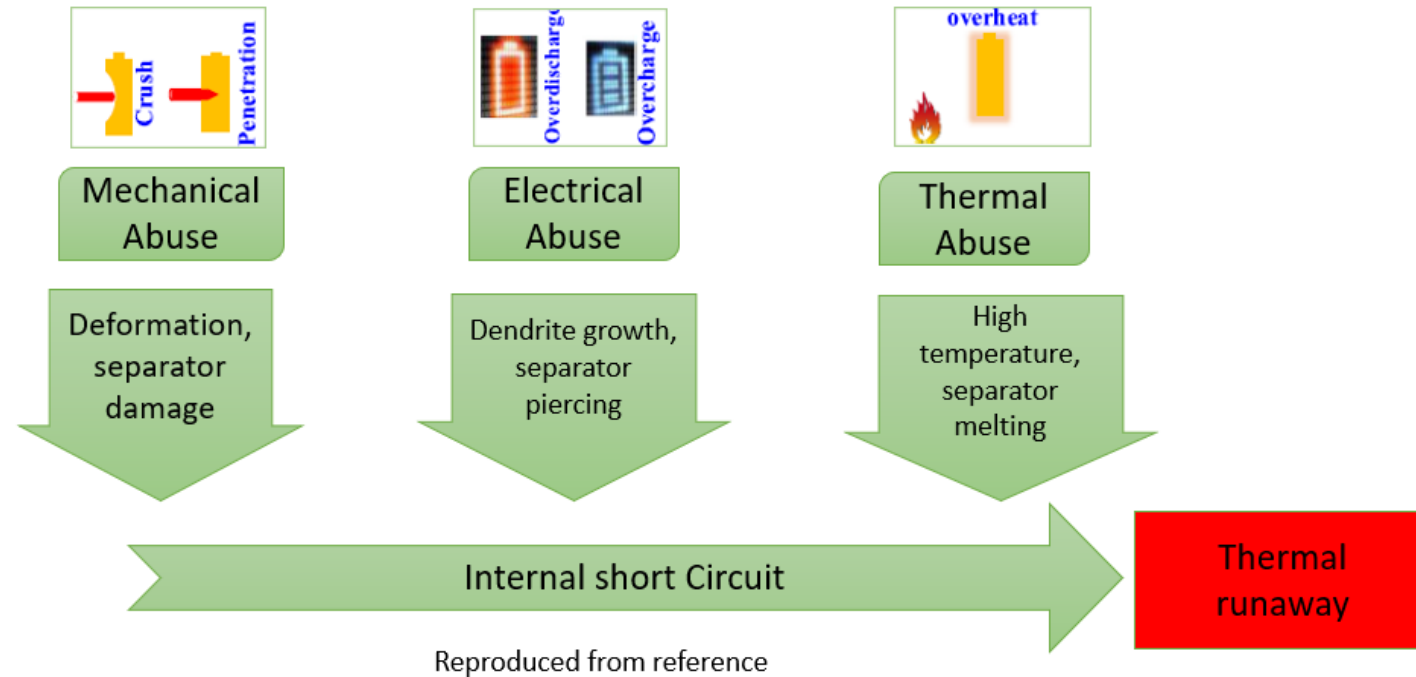
Application
specific
parameters

Initiation Scenarios



Reproduced from reference

- Electrical abuse - Dendrite growth
- Thermal abuse – Separator damage
- Physical abuse – Crash scenario



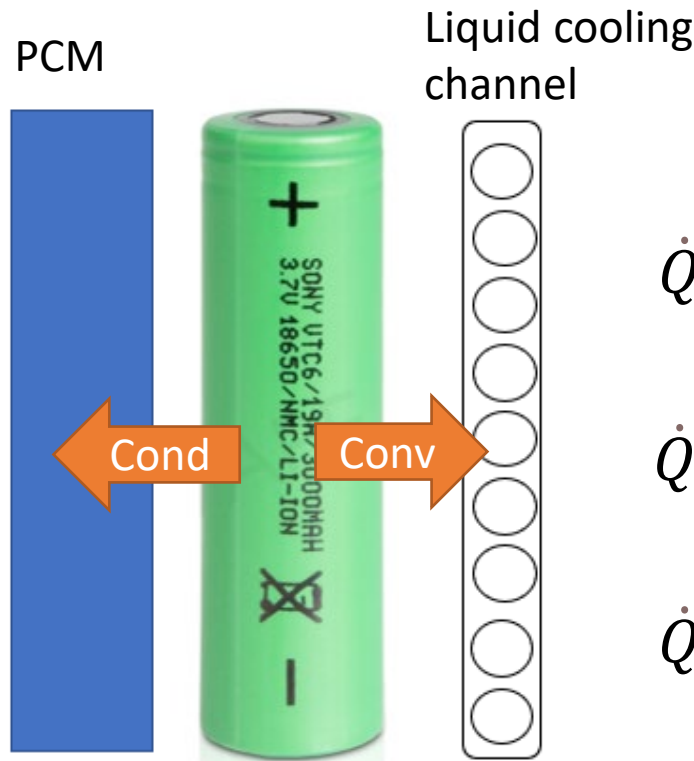
Lai X, et al. Mechanism, modelling, detection, and prevention of the internal short circuit in lithium-ion batteries: Recent advances and perspectives. Energy Storage Mater 2021;35(October 2020):470–99. Available from:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ensm.2020.11.026>

Edmondson, J., & Collins, R. (n.d.). Slide 1 Fire Protection Materials for Electric Vehicle Batteries 2023-2033 Fire protection and thermal runaway propagation limiting materials for electric.

www.IDTechEx.com/FPM/research@IDTechEx.com

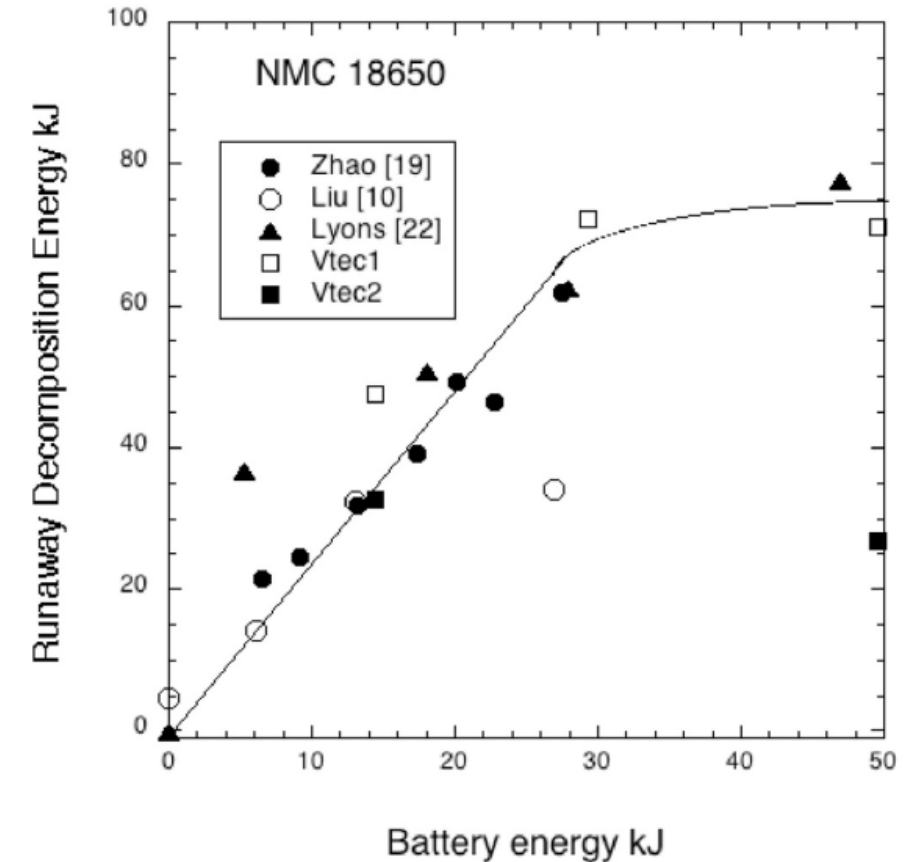
Governing Equations of Calculations



$$\dot{Q}_{cond} = -kA \frac{dT}{dx} \quad (\text{W})$$

$$\dot{Q}_{conv} = hA_s(T_s - T_\infty) \quad (\text{W})$$

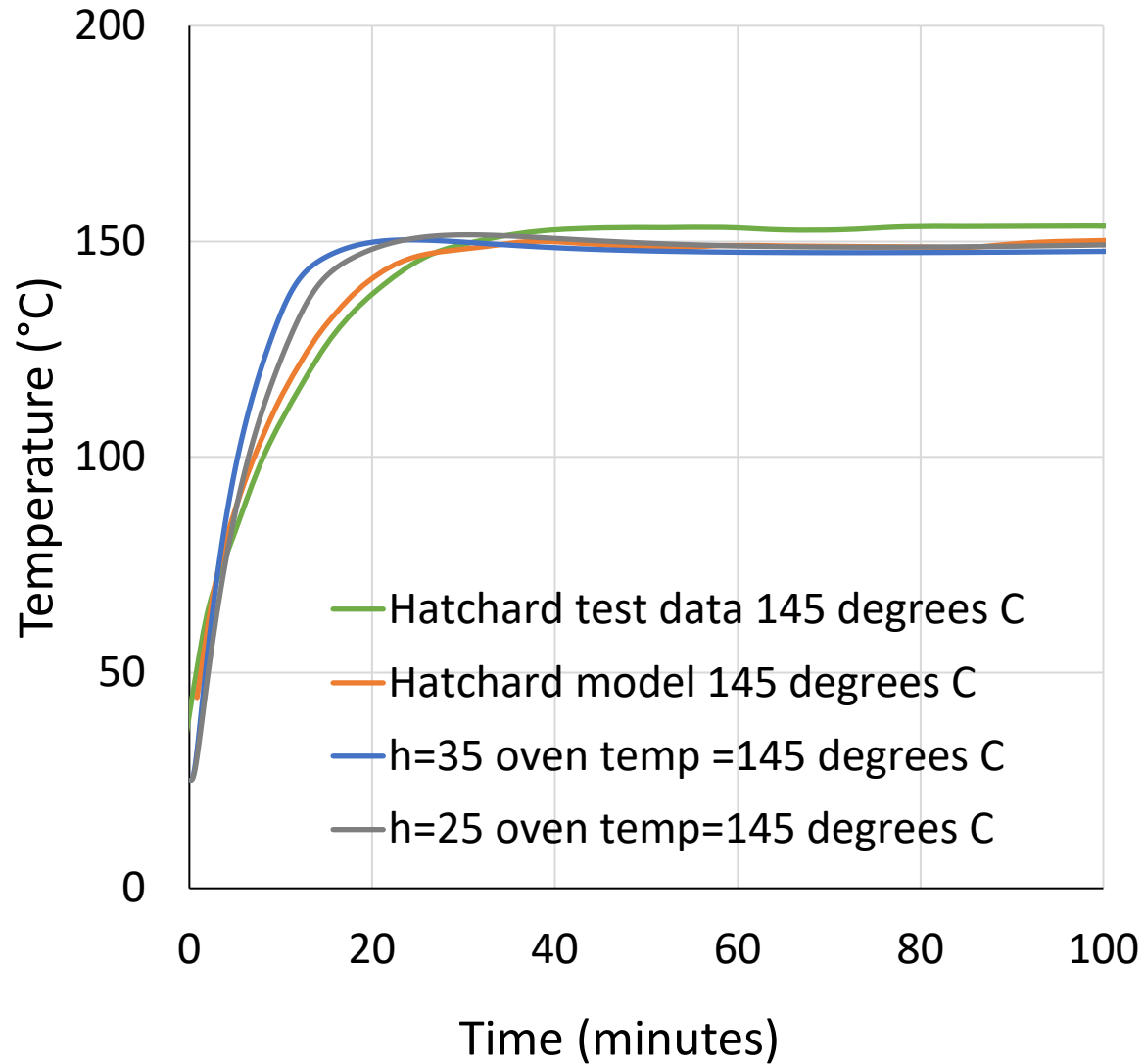
$$\dot{Q}_{rad} = \sigma \epsilon A (T_s^4 - T_{amb}^4) \quad (\text{W})$$



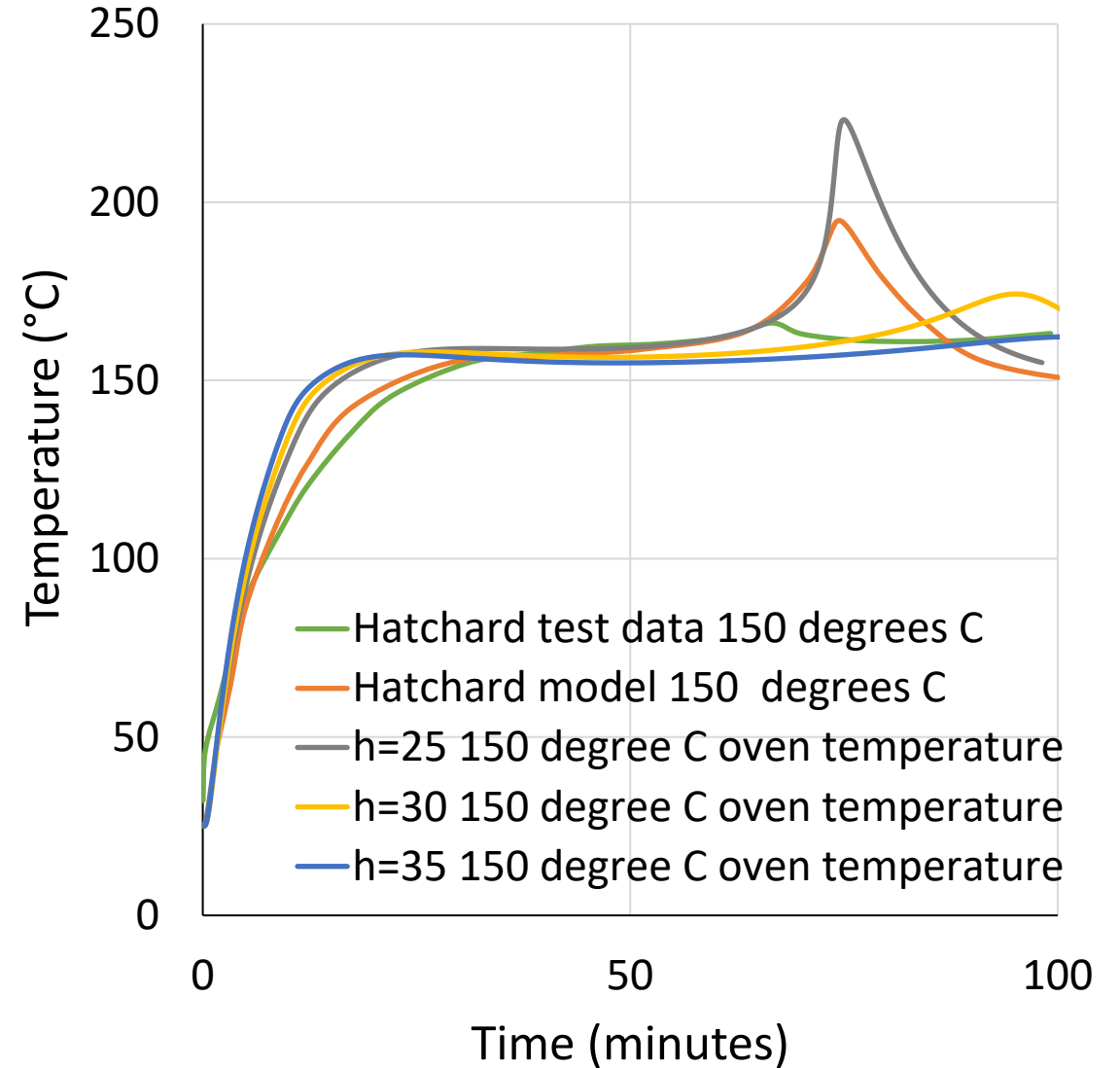
Reproduced from reference

Oven tests 2D MATLAB

Oven test simulation 145°C



Oven test simulation 150°C

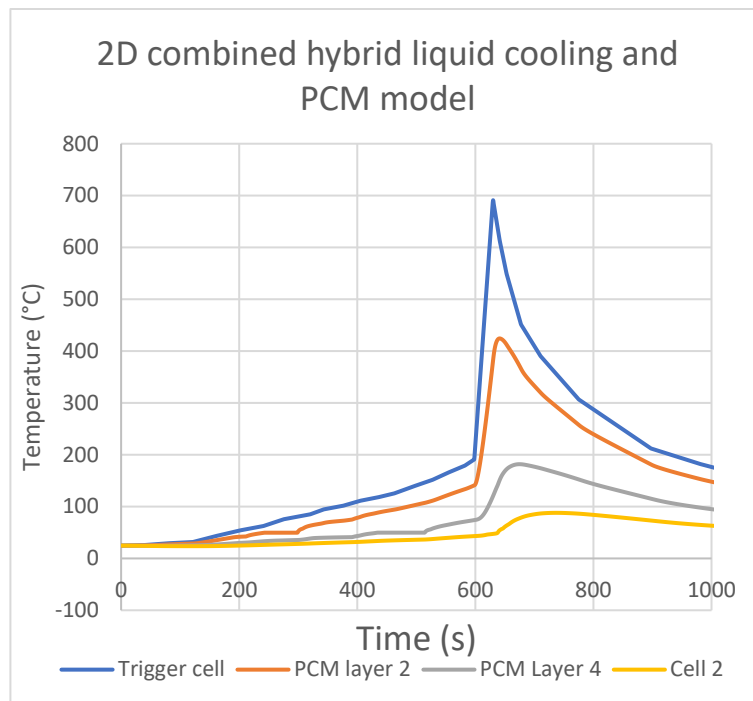


Model development

Excel

Simplified 2D model

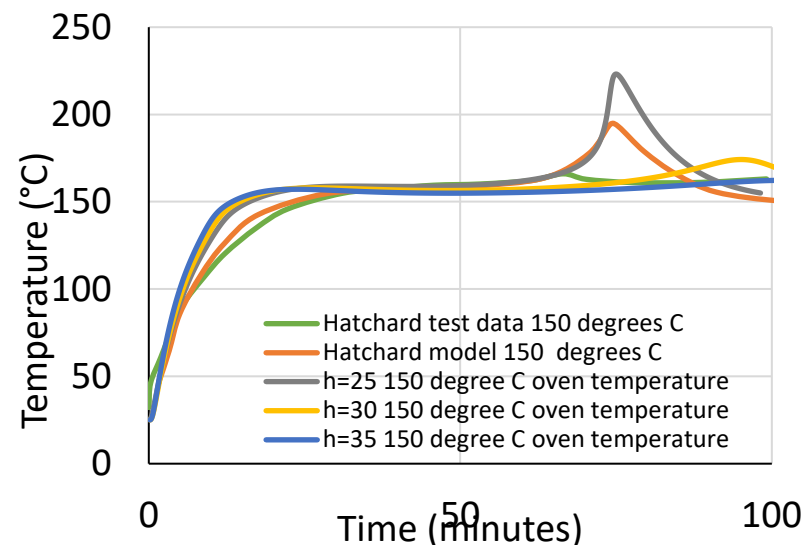
Difficulty in calculating with small enough time steps and dealing with thermal gradients.



MATLAB

More developed 2D kinetics model

- Improvements calculating with a small time interval and dealing with thermal gradients.
- Still some problems with instability, some safeguards installed in early versions.



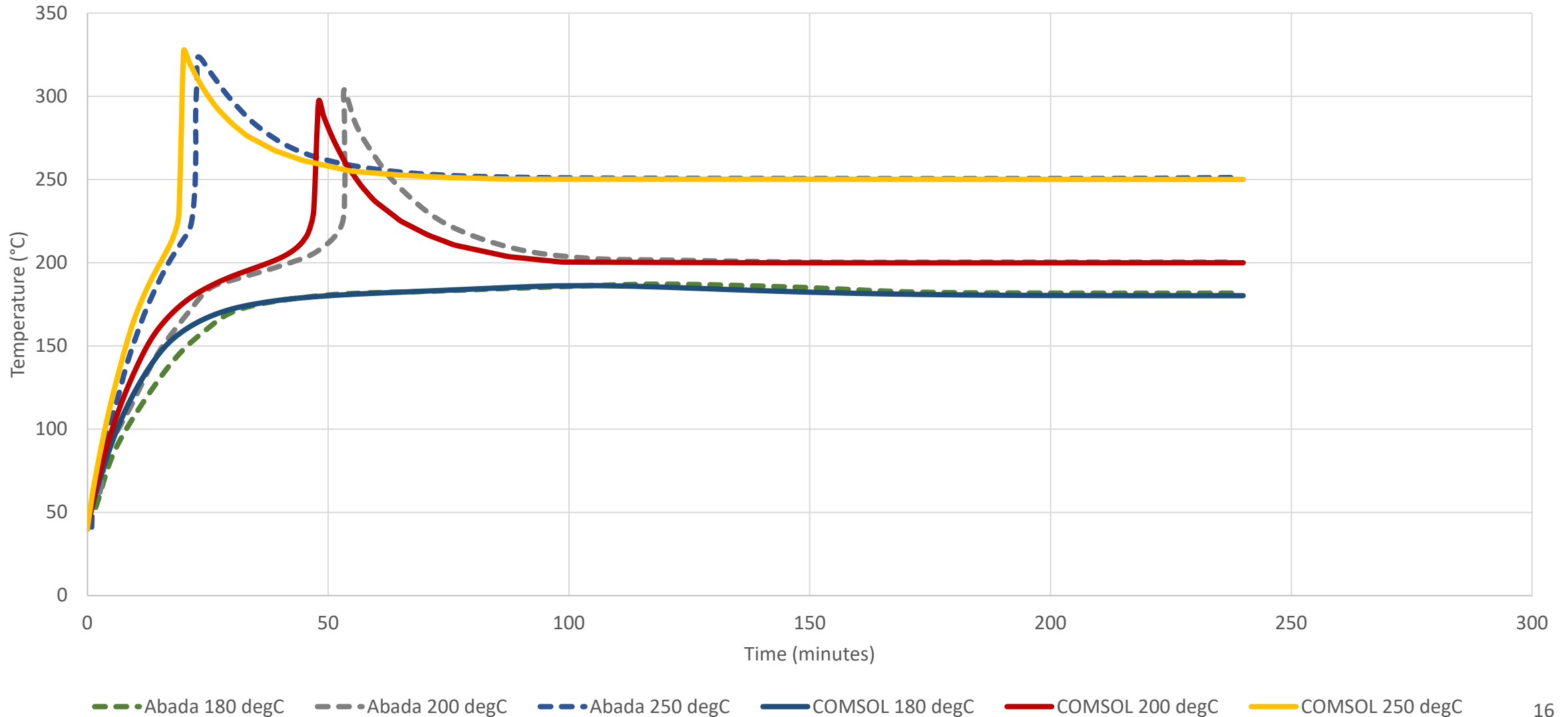
COMSOL

3D model, resolving shell, lumped jelly roll and active material and mandrel.

Further improvements with steep gradients and accuracy of the simulations.

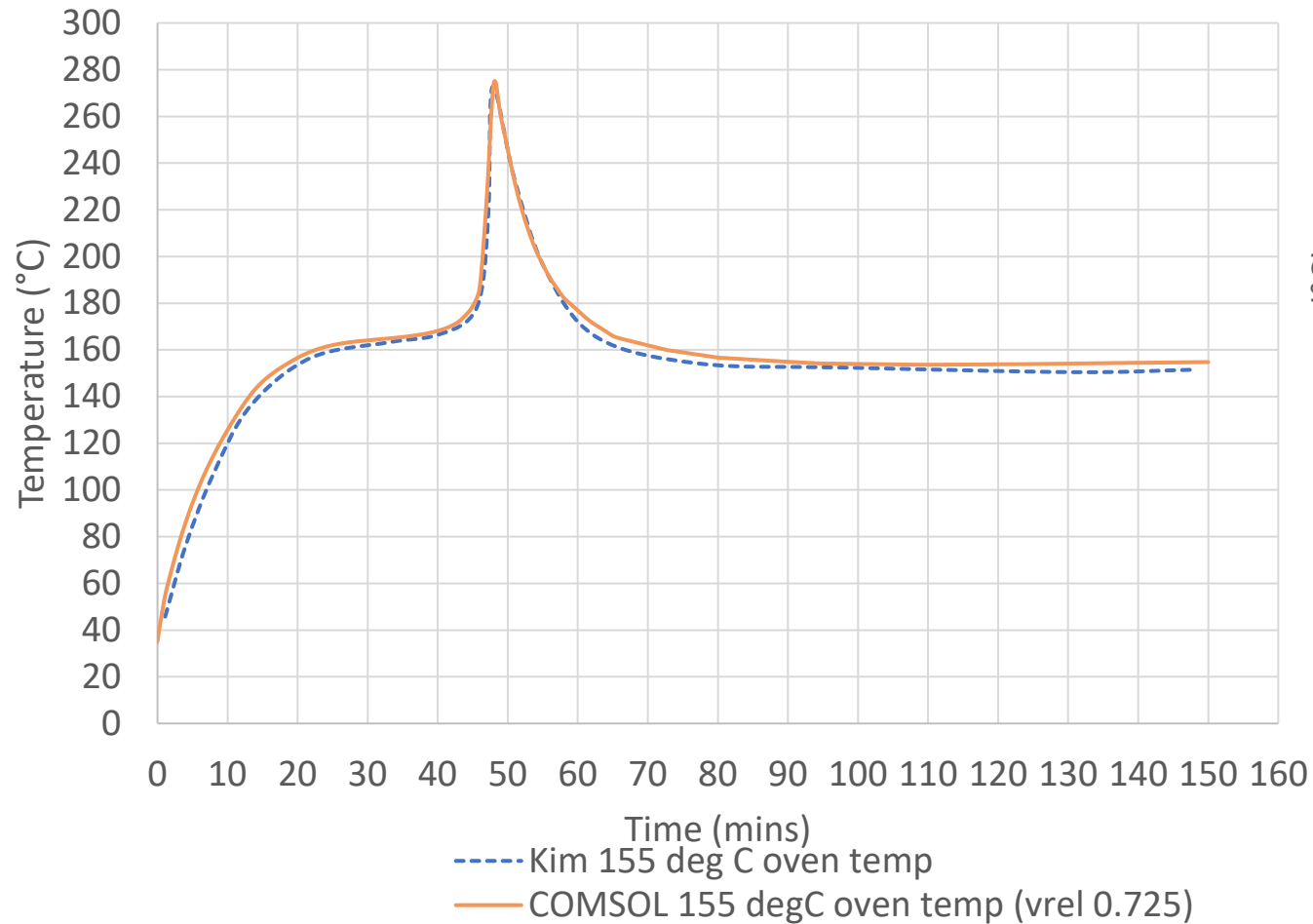
Validation of LFP against oven model

Comparing the temperature plots from oven test models at 180, 200, 250 degrees Celcius

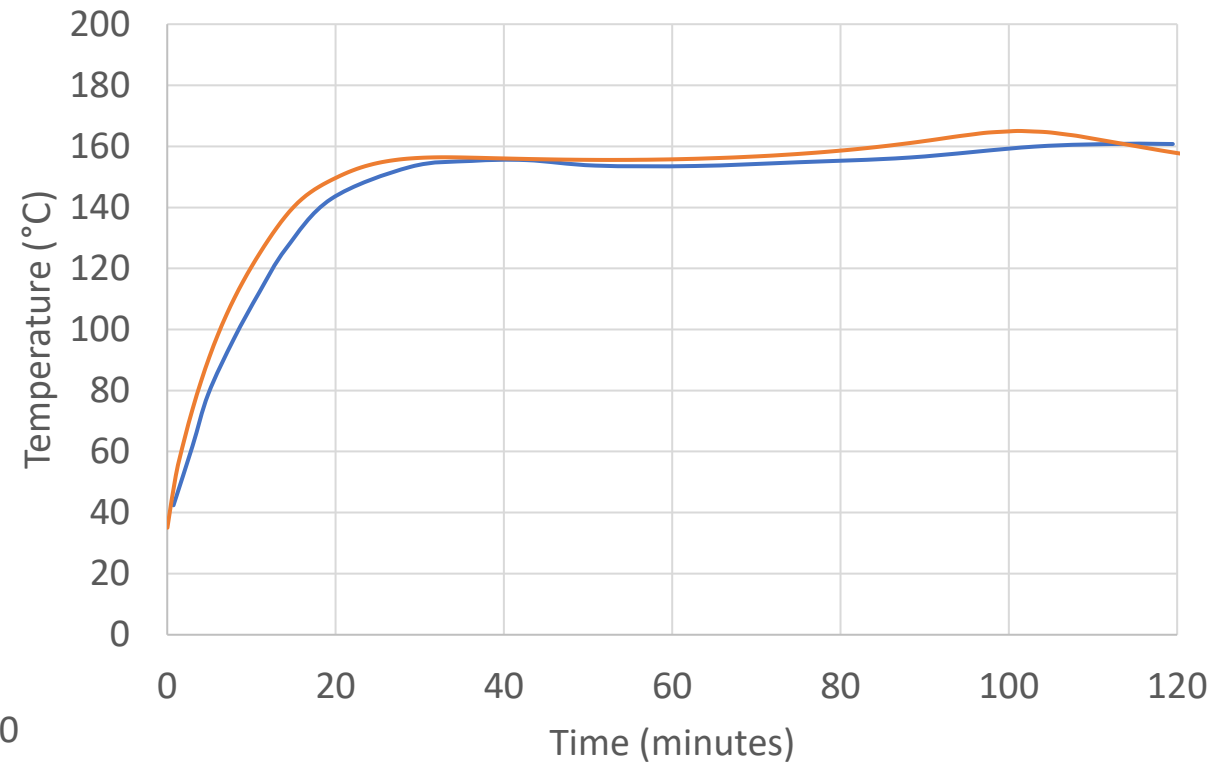


LCO oven test model

Comparing Kim 155 deg C data to COMSOL model

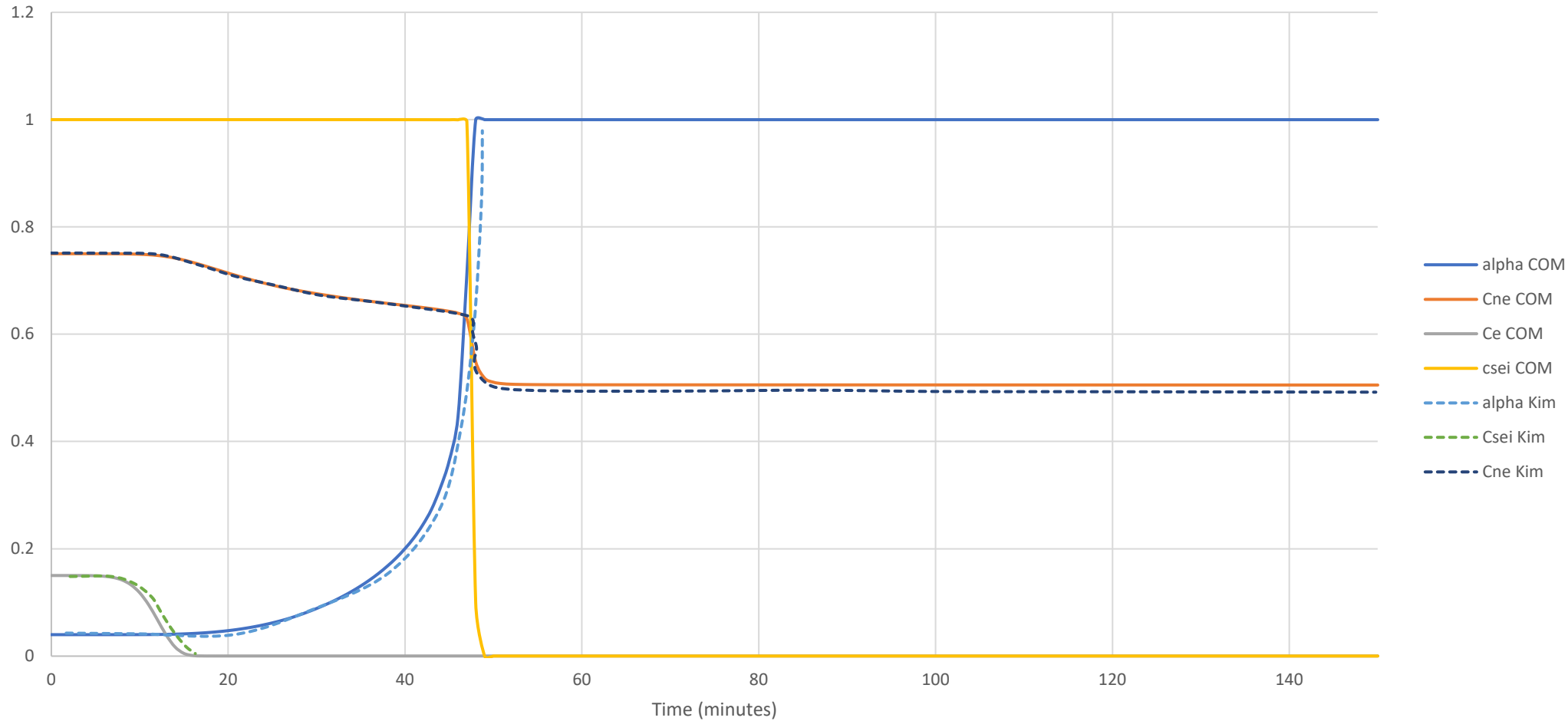


Kim vs COMSOL 150 deg C oven test



Comparison of conversion metrics

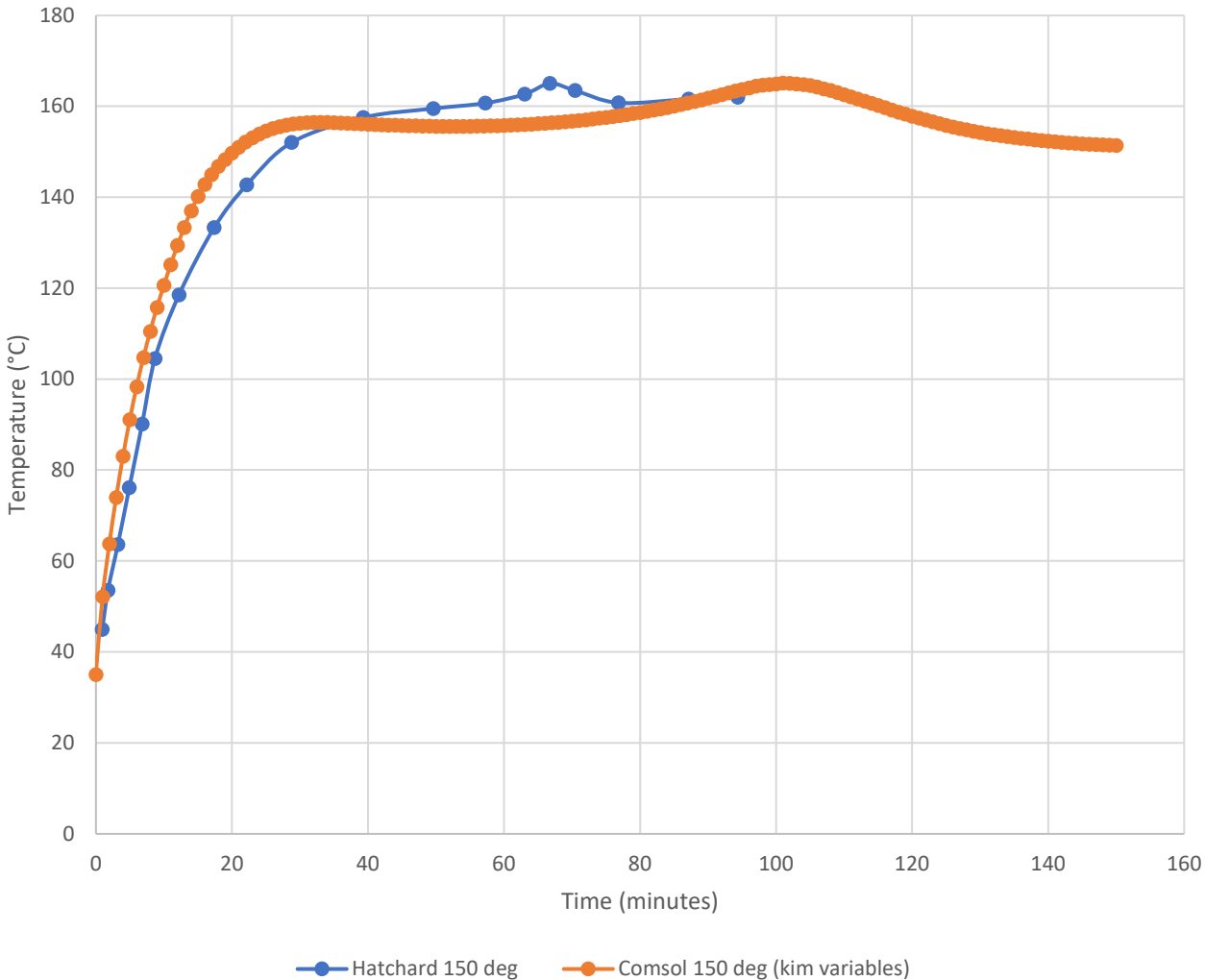
Comparing conversion parameters for oven test simulations by Kim et al to COMSOL model



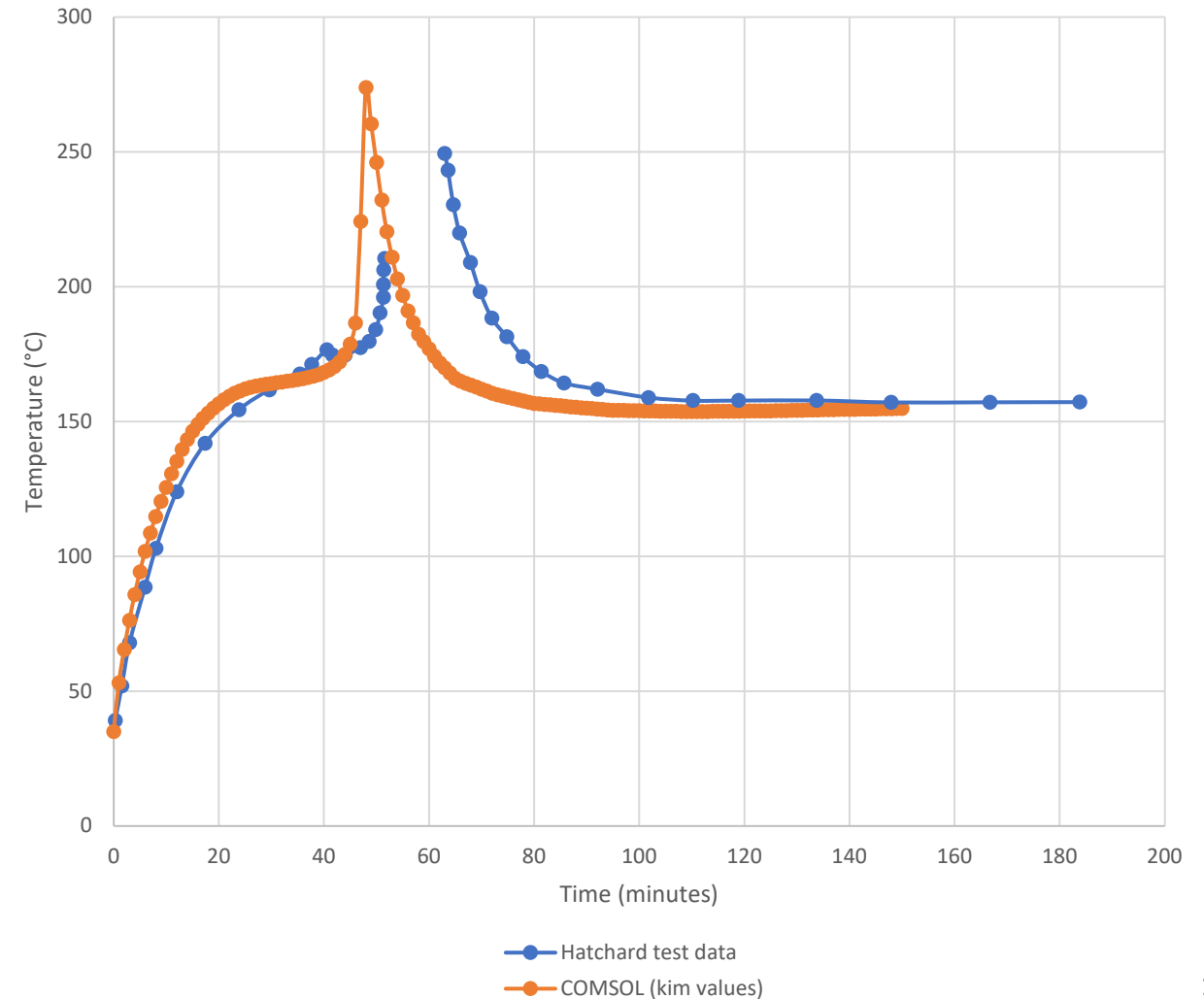
Alpha – conversion degree of positive electrode
Cne – reaction of intercalated lithium at anode
Ce – proportion of electrolyte remaining
Csei – sei decomposition

Comparison with test data

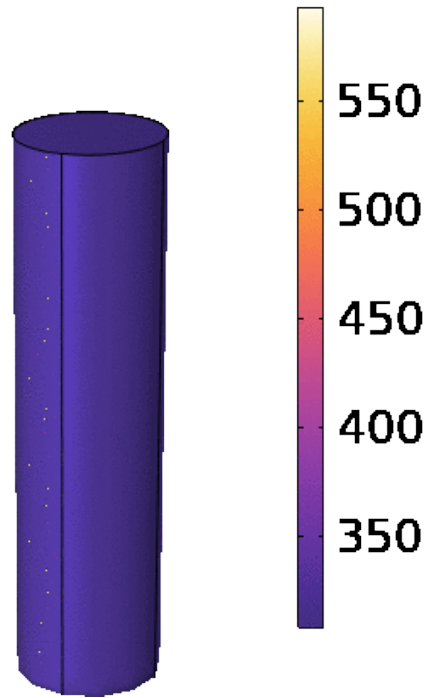
Comparing Hatchard 2001 physical test data to COMSOL model using Kim inputs for 150 deg oven test



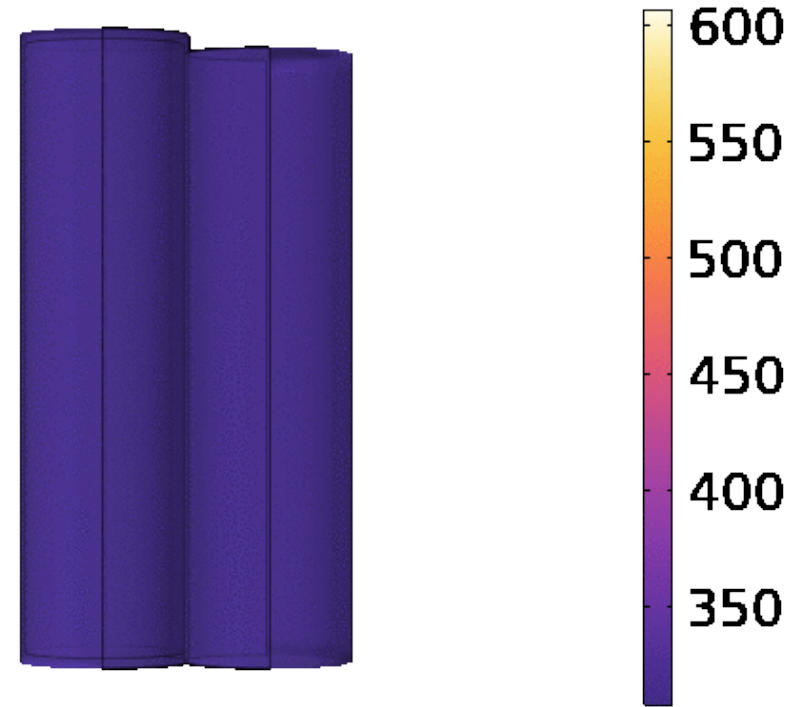
Comparing Hatchard 2001 physical test data to COMSOL model using Kim inputs for 155 deg oven test



Animations

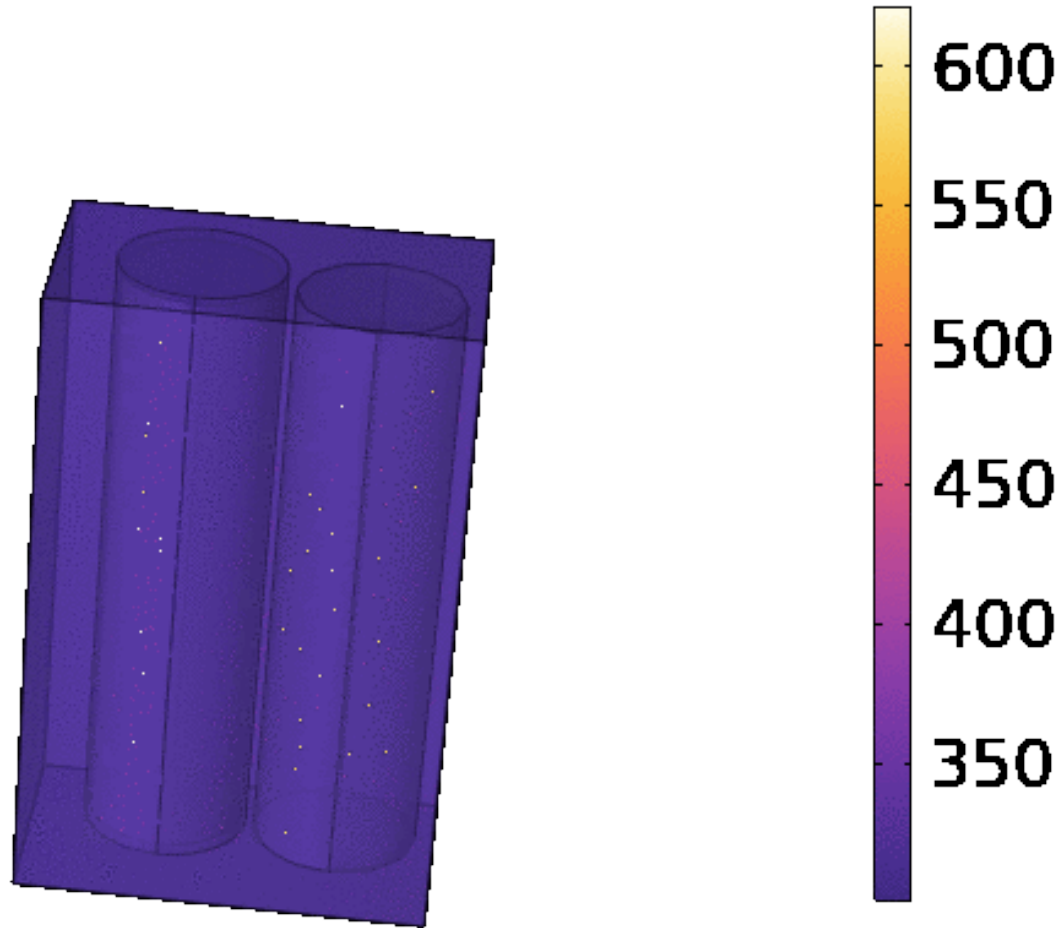


Single body, no can
(confirms spatial dependence)

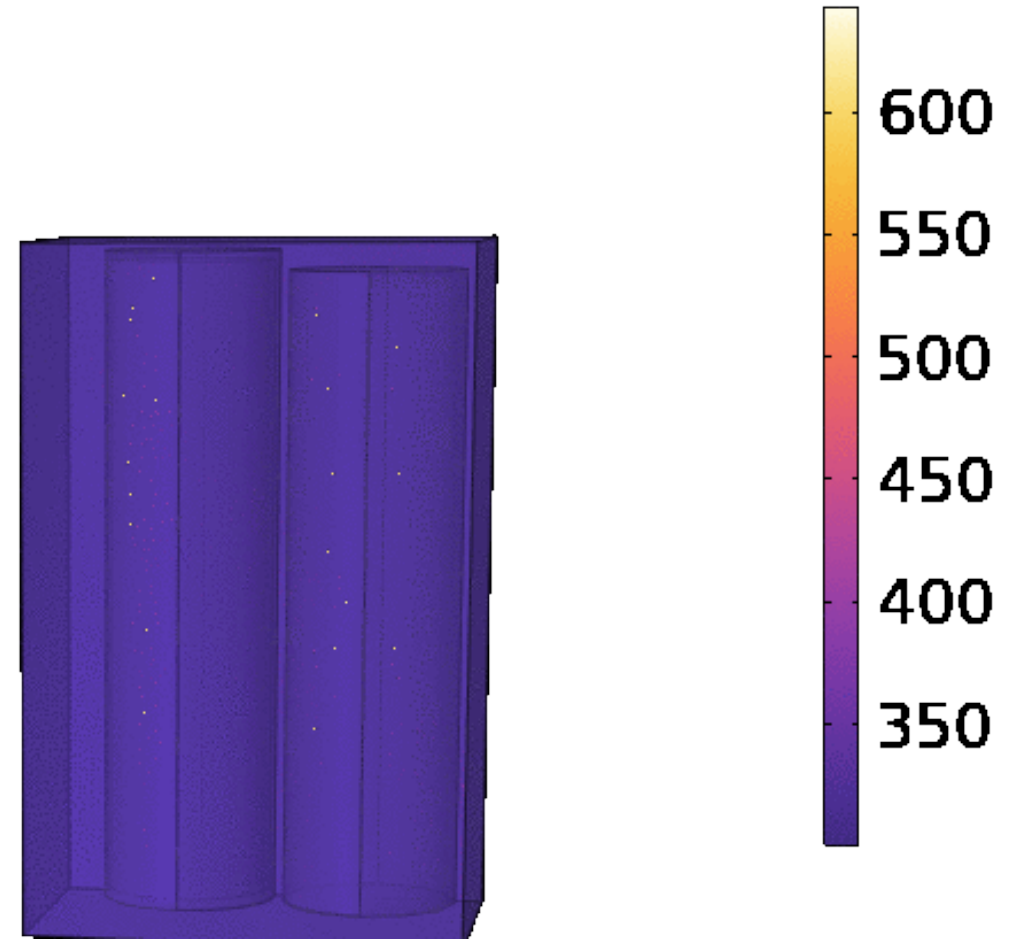


Two cells, multi body, conduction

Animations



Control volume convection, radiation



Control volume, flowing air, convection,
radiation

Project direction

Trigger



Heat transfer



Cell response

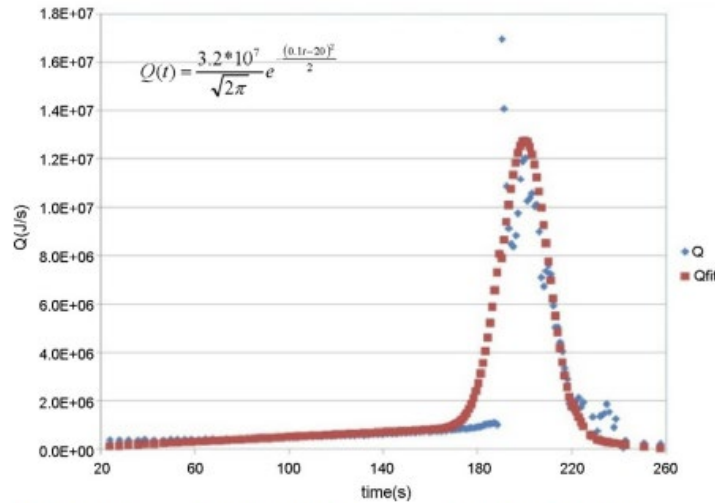


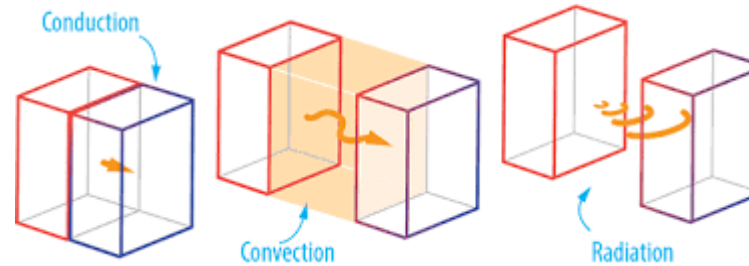
Fig. 3. Rate of heat generation per unit time based on measurements by ARC for Type 18,650 high power cells. An alternative cooling system to enhance the safety of Li-ion battery packs

Trigger profile

- Calorimetry
- Bell curve

Validation

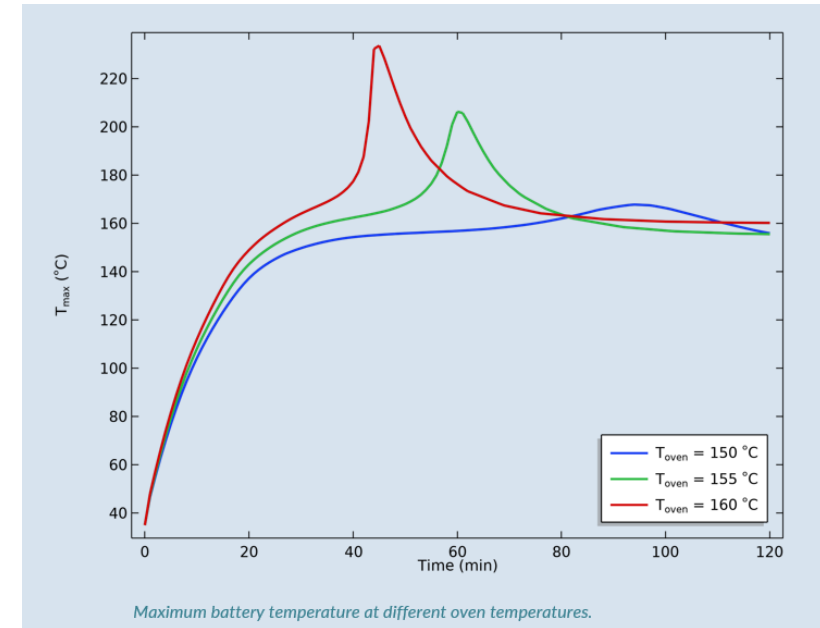
- Directly from test data



- Conduction
- Convection
- Radiation

Validated

- From low power cartridge physical test



- Chemical kinetics

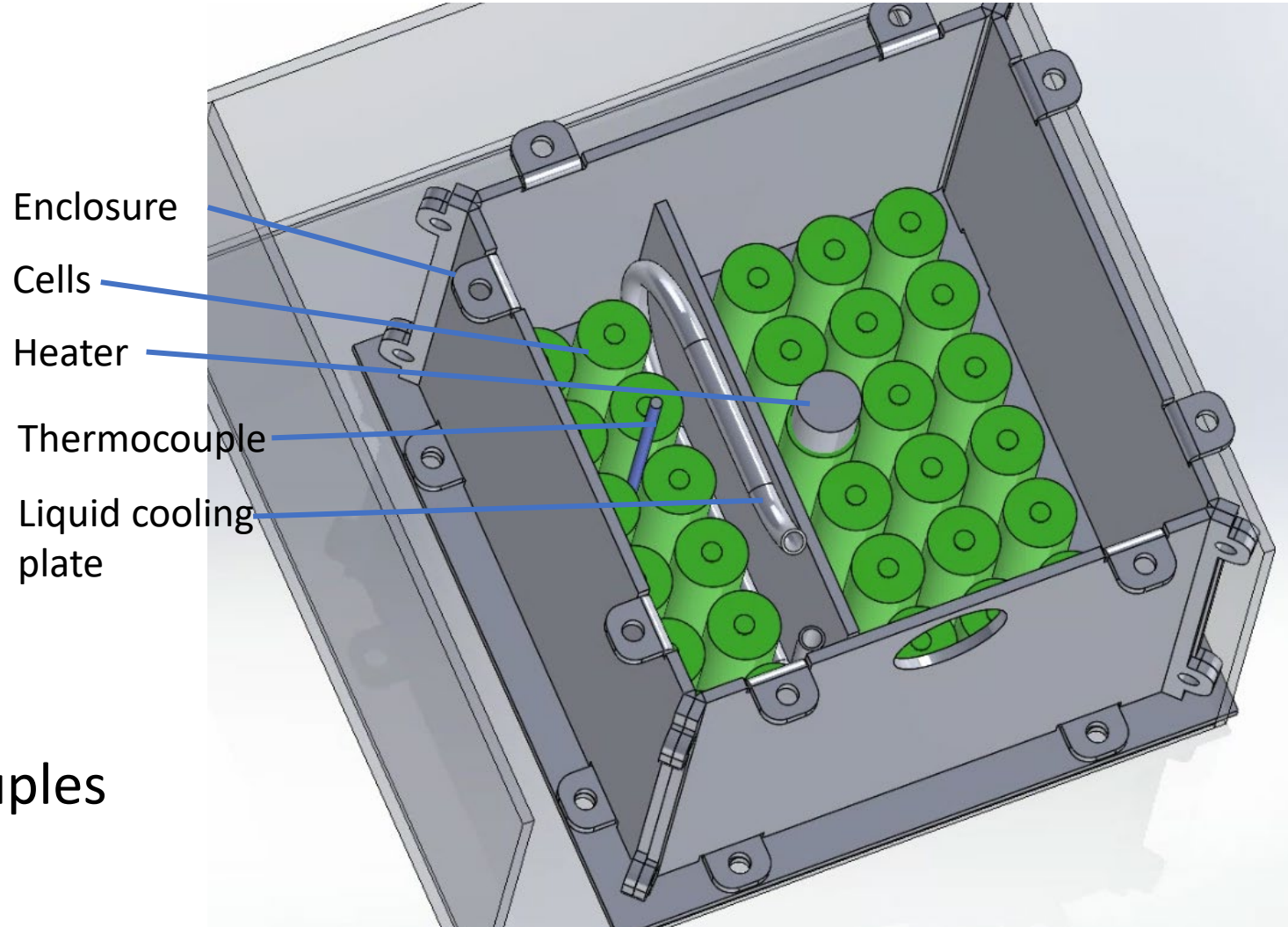
Validated

- From oven tests

Rig Design

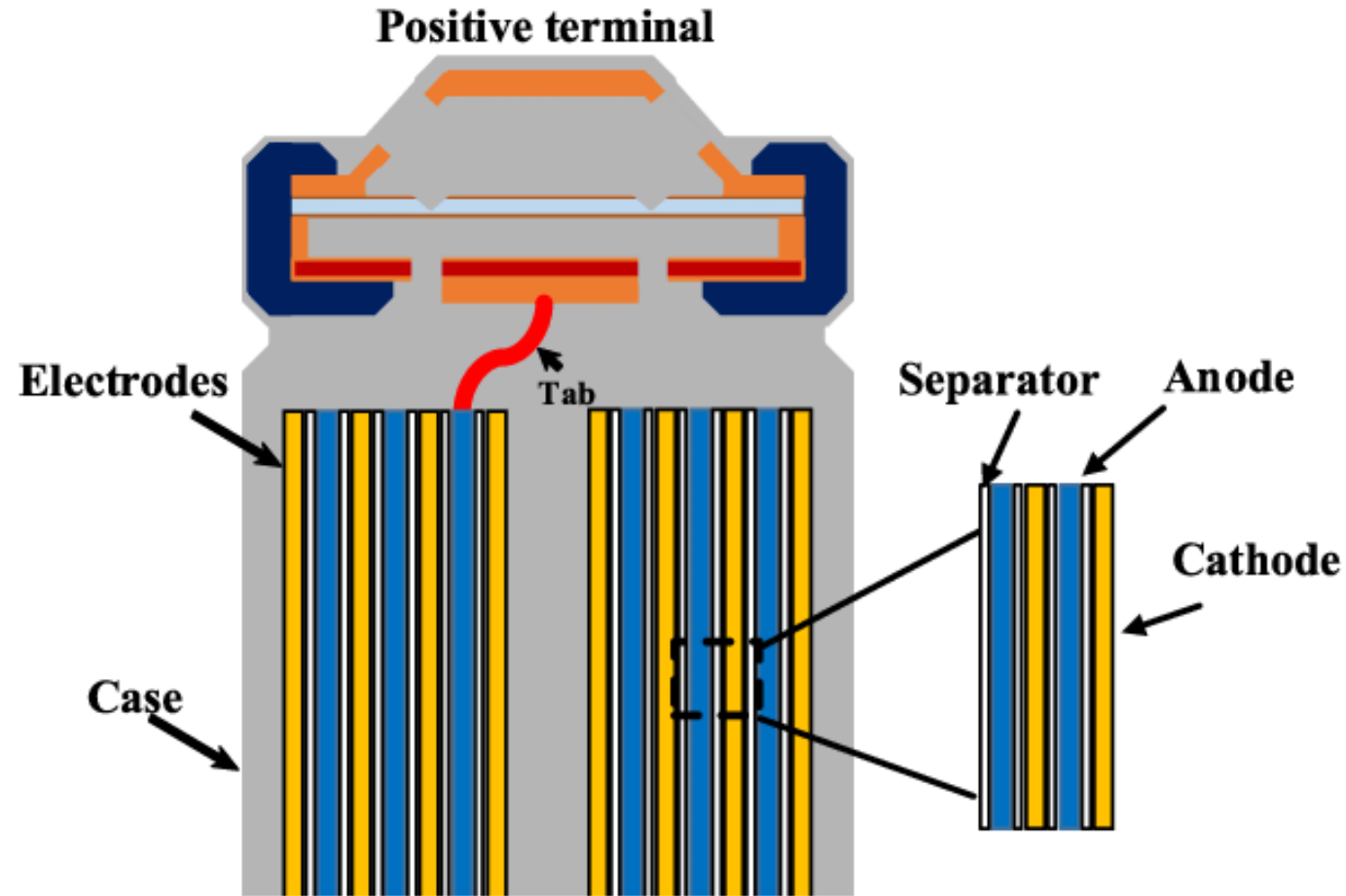
Rig purpose

- Low power testing- COMSOL validation
- Rig for final full physical test
- Containing mock cells
- Liquid cooling
- Stainless steel enclosure
- Instrumented with thermocouples



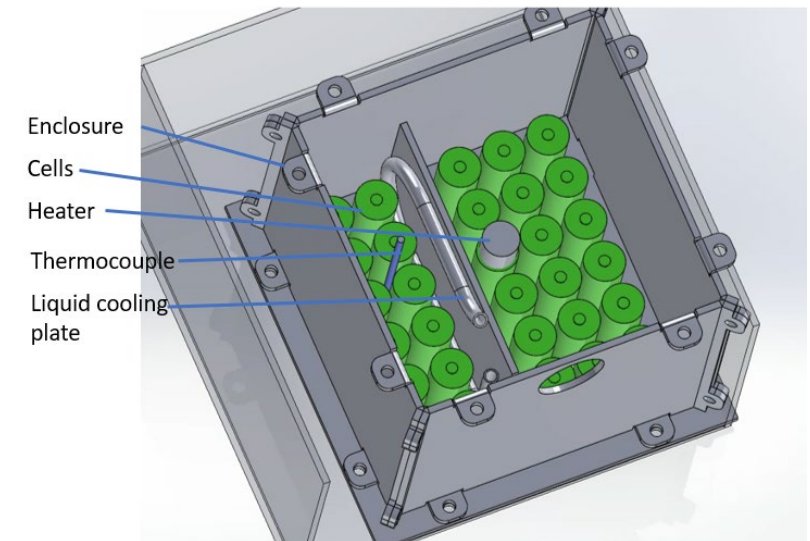
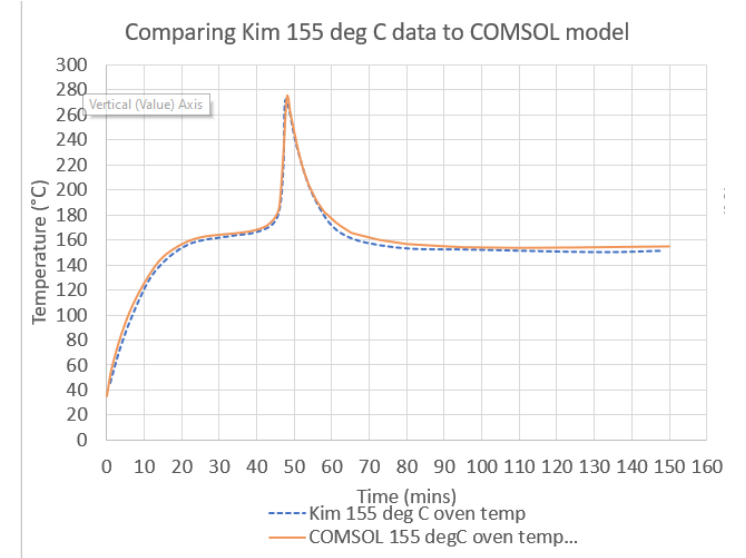
Mock cell

- What to consider for this mock cel
- Components
 - Can
 - Jellyroll
 - Mandrel
- Properties
 - Anisotropic thermal conductivity
 - Heat capacity
 - Dimensions
 - Cell density

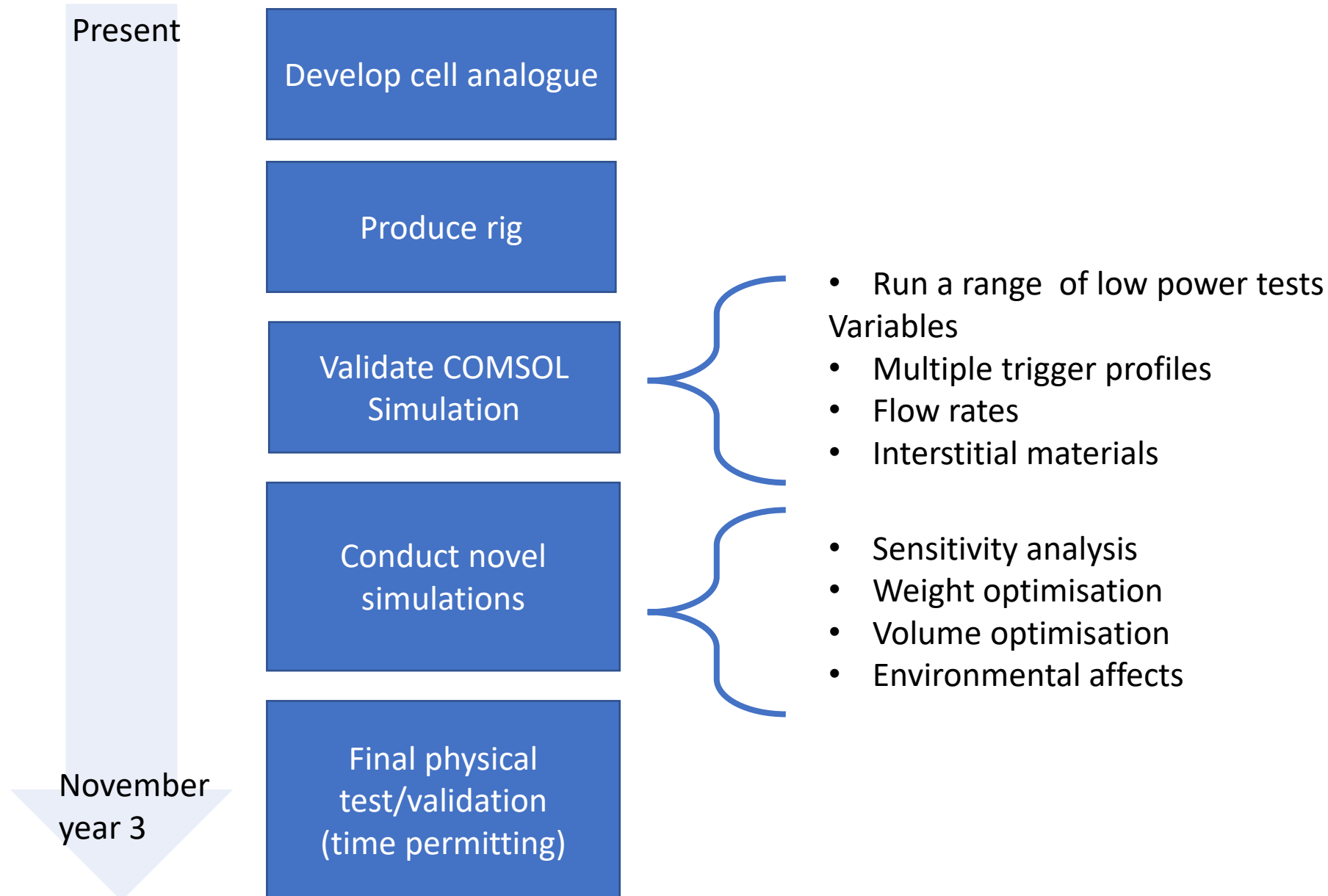


Summary

- 3D COMOSL model with chemical kinetics validated
- Full scale COMSOL model under development
 - Conduction
 - Radiation
 - Liquid cooling
 - Chemical kinetics
- Rig to validate full scale model mid development
- Cell analogue mid development.



Future work



Acknowledgements

Supervisors:

- Dr. Glover
- Dr. Istrate
- Prof. Nockemann

Funding:

- Department for the Economy (DfE DTP)



Runaway reactions

$$q_{sei} = H_{sei}W_cR_{sei}$$

$$R_{sei}(T, C_{sei}) = A_{sei} \exp\left(\frac{-E_{a,sei}}{RT}\right) C_{sei}^{M_{sei}}$$

$$q_{ne} = H_{ne}W_cR_{ne}$$

$$R_{ne}(T, C_{ne}, t_{sei}) = A_{ne} C_{ne}^{m_{ne}} \exp\left(\frac{-E_{a,ne}}{RT} - \frac{t_{sei}}{t_{sei0}}\right)$$

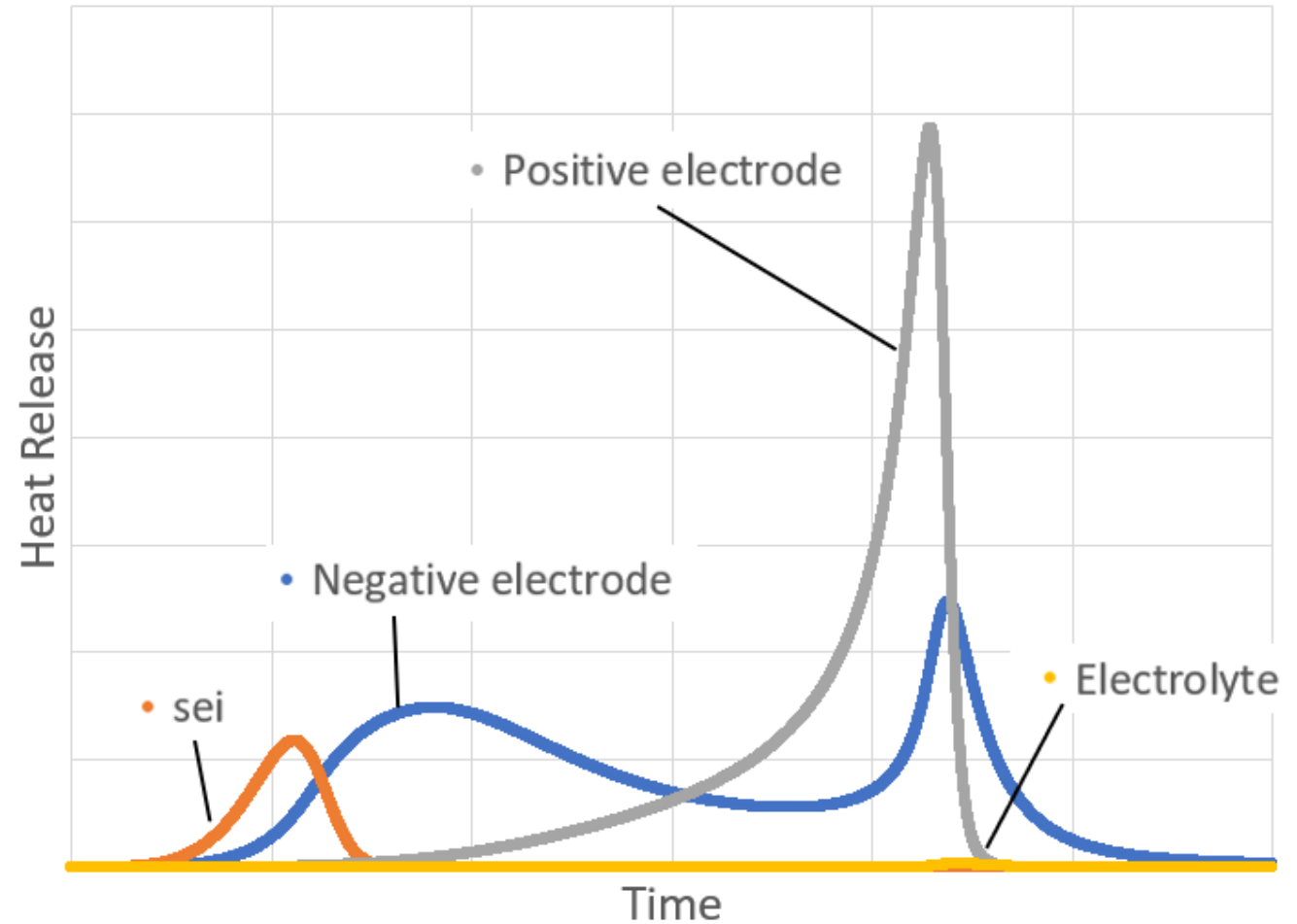
$$q_{pe} = H_{pe}W_pR_{pe}$$

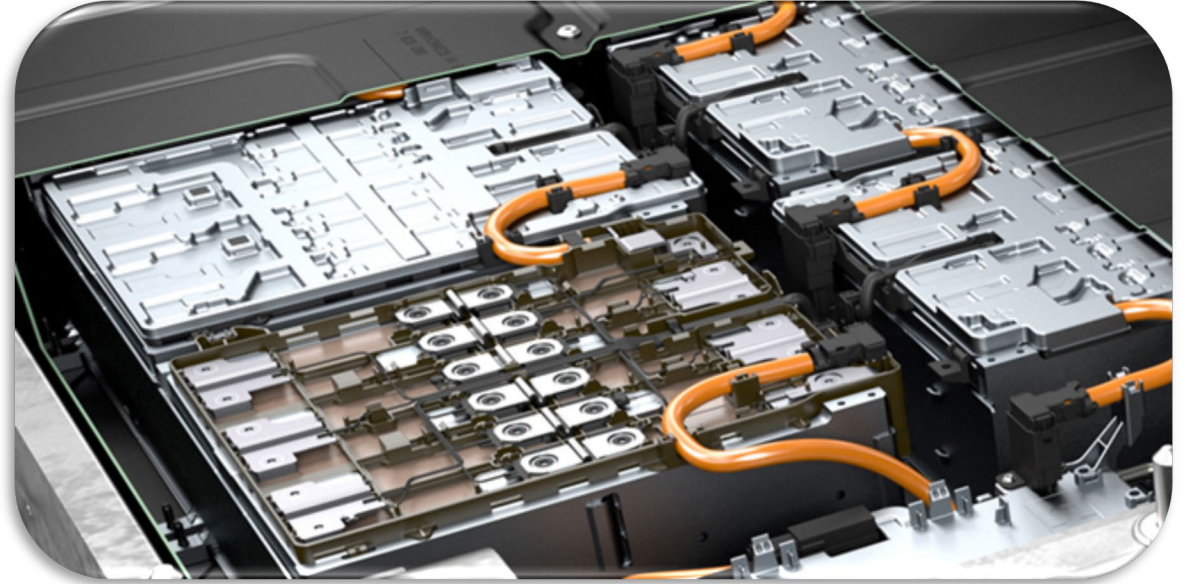
$$R_{pe}(T, \alpha) = A_{pe} \alpha^{m_{pe}} (1 - \alpha)^{m_{pe}} \exp\left(\frac{-E_{a,pe}}{RT}\right)$$

$$q_e = H_e W_e R_e$$

$$R_e(T, C_e) = A_e \exp\left(\frac{-E_{a,e}}{RT}\right) C_e^{m_e}$$

Heat release in Joules across four components
against time





Consumers

- Tightly packed with increasing energy density
- Cell to pack and cell to car technology
- Liquid or air cooling employed

Policy

- Price parity of electrified vehicles are on the horizon

Consumer priorities for EV adoption, 2018 and 2020

Greater concerns are shown in orange.

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Source: Deloitte Global Auto Consumer Study¹⁸

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Introduction

Past Data

Industry

Tesla Vehicle Safety Report

Energy density ↑



- 2012-2021 approximately one Tesla fire for every 210 million miles travelled
- 2012-2018 approximately one Tesla fire for every 170 million miles travelled
- NFPA shows in the US there is a vehicle fire for every 19 million miles travelled

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Cost/price premium	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%
Time required to charge	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	13%
Lack of electric vehicle charging infrastructure	16%	22%	20%	25%	44%	32%	22%	33%	18%	20%	22%	29%	16%	22%	20%	25%	44%	32%
Safety concerns with battery technology	4%	11%	5%	10%	7%	10%	6%	12%	22%	31%	8%	13%	4%	11%	5%	10%	7%	10%

Low incident rates and small data sets!

Difficult to draw reliable statistically significant conclusions from this data.

Vehicle fires attended by the London Fire Brigade

	Electric	Internal combustion
Fires in London 2019	54	1,898
Vehicles in London	27,000	2.56 million
Incident rate	0.194%	0.075%

Policy



Fleming E. What percentage of cars in London are electric? . 2021. Available from: <https://www.sidmartinbio.org/what-percentage-of-cars-in-london-are-electric/>

Fires in Electric vehicles Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Available from: <https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Community-safety/Road-safety/Fire-in-Electric-Vehicles.aspx>

Tesla Vehicle Safety Report. 2020. Available from: https://www.tesla.com/en_GB/VehicleSafetyReport

Commercial and Research

Commercial



Nissan leaf
BMS -Air cooled battery pack

Commercial



Tesla model 3
BMS -Indirect liquid cooling with
intumescent foam

Commercial



BMW
BMS -AC cooling system (refrigerant)

Research

Phase change materials

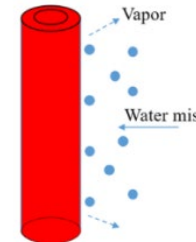
- Paraffin wax
- Rubitherm (RT15)



Research

Dedicated suppressants

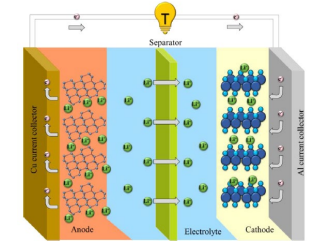
- Water mist
- Dry powders
- CO₂



Research

Cell material modification

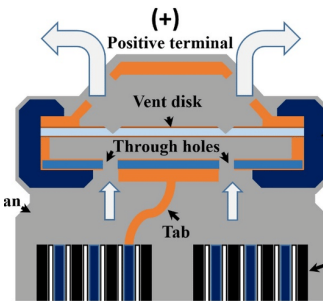
- Electrolyte
- Separator
- electrodes



Research

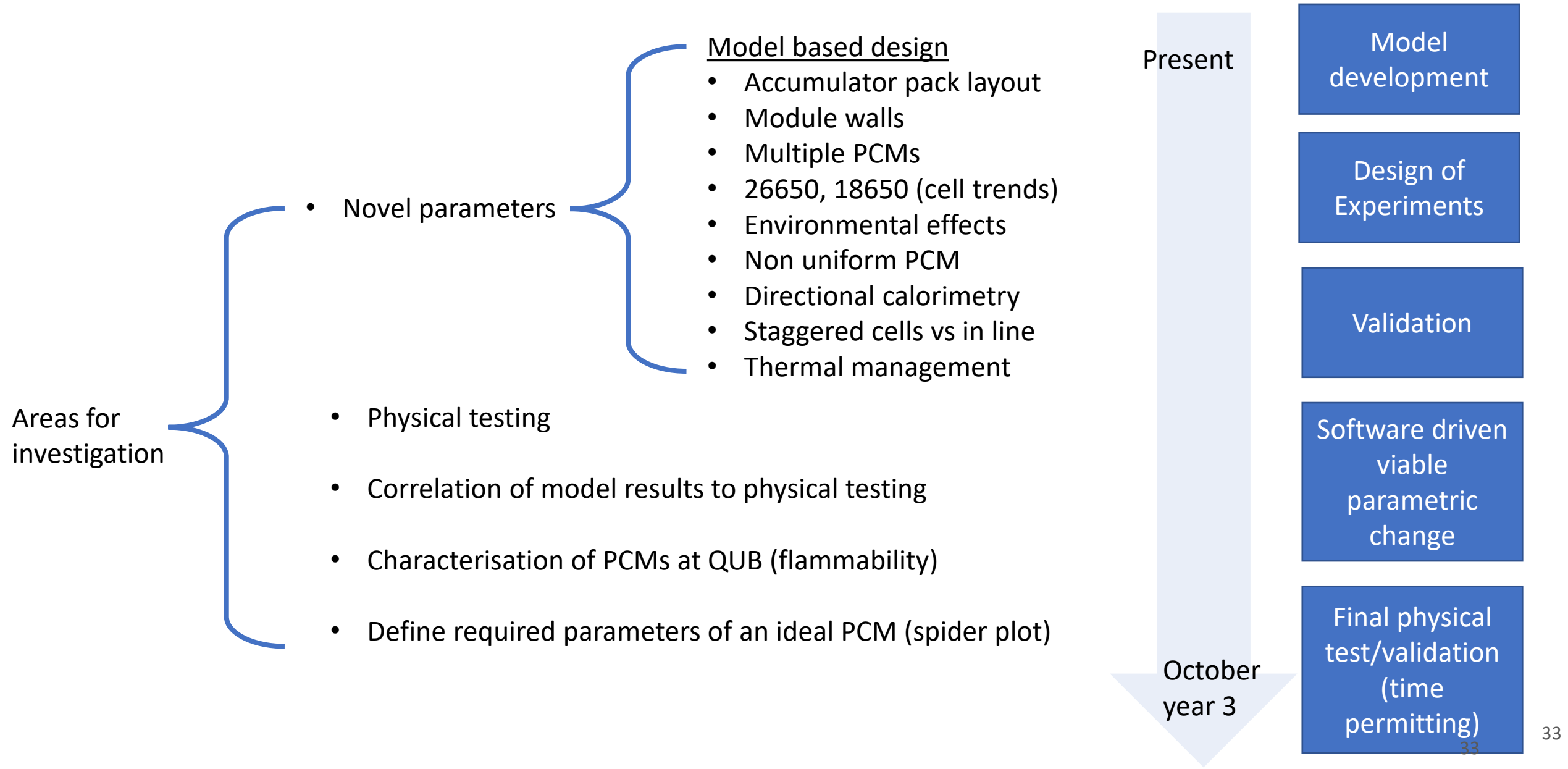
Early detection

- Vent gases
- Cell swelling
- Temperature based detection

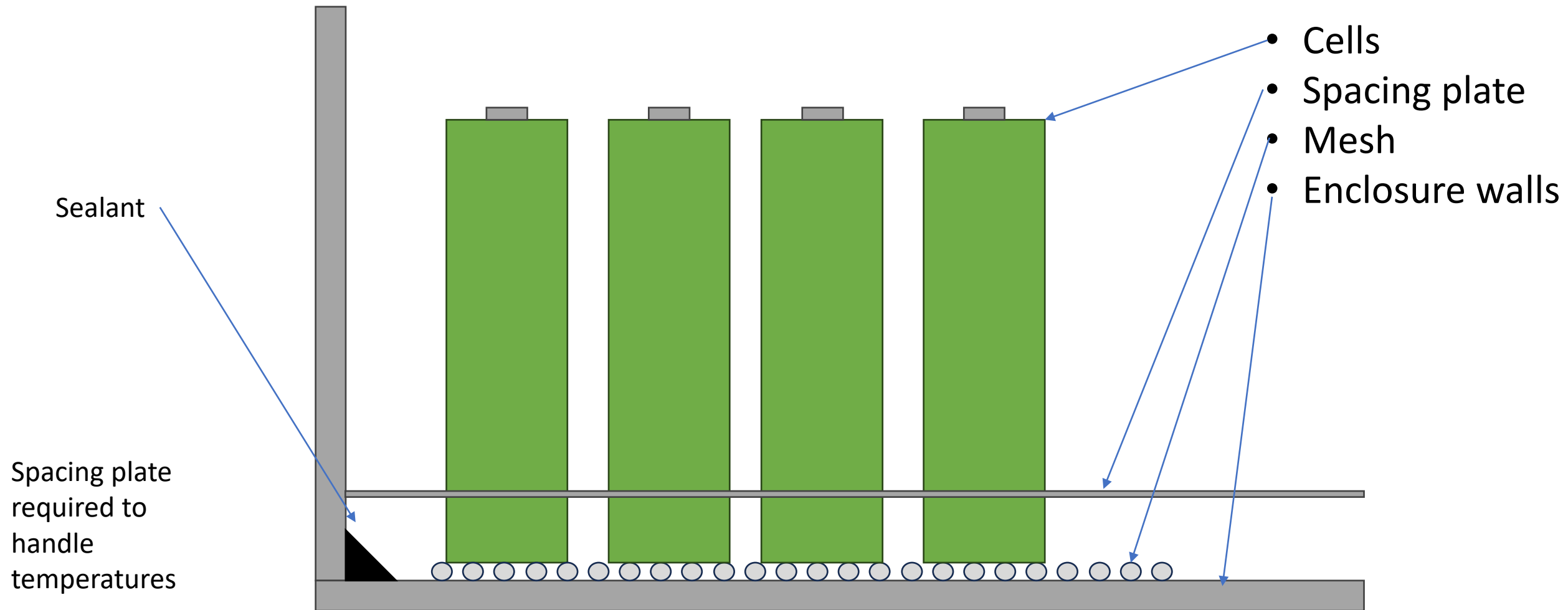


- <https://www.patentsencyclopedia.com/app/20100086844>
- LaMonica M. MIT Technology Review . 2012. Available from: <https://www.technologyreview.com>
- Koch S, Birke KP, Kuhn R. Fast thermal runaway detection for lithium-ion cells in large scale traction batteries. Batteries. 2018;4(2):1–11.
- Kshetrimayum KS, Yoon YG, Gye HR, Lee CJ. Preventing heat propagation and thermal runaway in electric vehicle battery modules using integrated PCM and micro-channel plate cooling system. Appl Therm Eng . 2019;159(May):113797. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applthermaleng.2019.113797>
- Liu Y, Duan Q, Xu J, Li H, Sun J, Wang Q. Experimental study on a novel safety strategy of lithium-ion battery integrating fire suppression and rapid cooling. J Energy Storage . 2020;28(December 2019):101185. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.est.2019.101185>

Future work/ areas for investigation





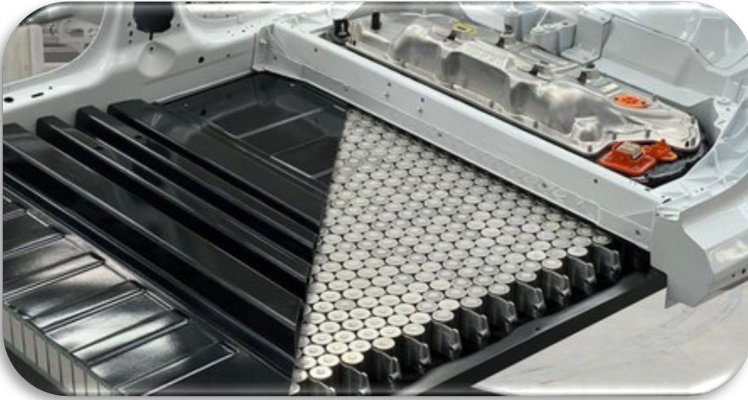
Enclosure design



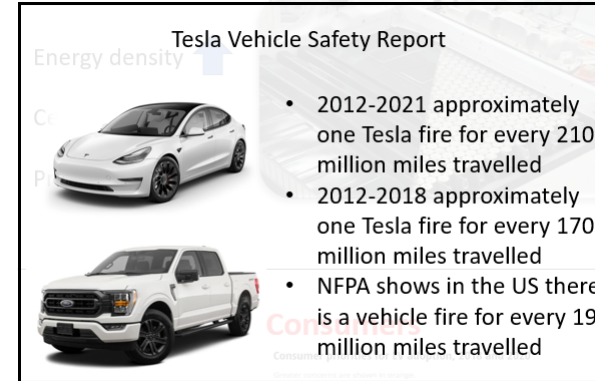
Introduction

Industry Trends

- Energy density 
- Cell cost 
- Price parity





Past Data



- Inconsistent picture of the frequency of EV fires/runaway events
- Small data sets

Consumers

- Range demand 
- Safety concerns 

Consumer priorities for EV adoption, 2018 and 2020

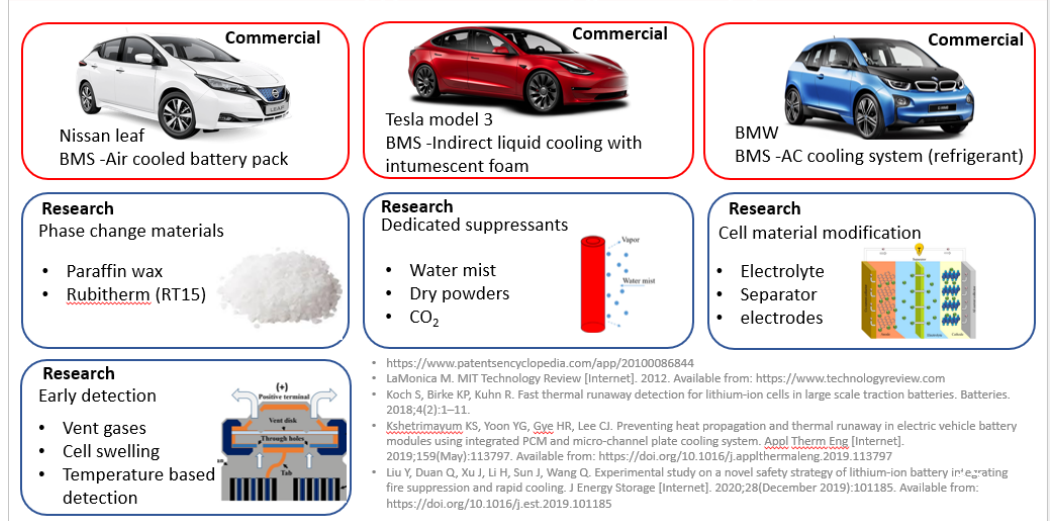
Greater concerns are shown in orange.

	2020 Global Auto Consumer Study											
	FRANCE		GERMANY		ITALY		UK		CHINA		US	
In your opinion, what is the greatest concern regarding all battery-powered electric vehicles?	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020
Driving range	31%	28%	35%	33%	4%	27%	26%	22%	25%	22%	24%	25%
Cost/price premium	32%	22%	22%	15%	19%	13%	24%	16%	9%	12%	26%	18%
Time required to charge	11%	15%	11%	14%	18%	16%	13%	16%	12%	15%	10%	14%
Lack of electric vehicle charging infrastructure	16%	22%	20%	25%	44%	32%	22%	33%	18%	20%	22%	29%
Safety concerns with battery technology	4%	11%	5%	10%	7%	10%	6%	12%	22%	31%	8%	13%
Others	6%	2%	7%	3%	8%	2%	9%	1%	14%	0%	10%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sample size	1,083	1,266	1,287	3,002	1,048	1,274	965	1,264	1,606	3,019	1,513	3,006

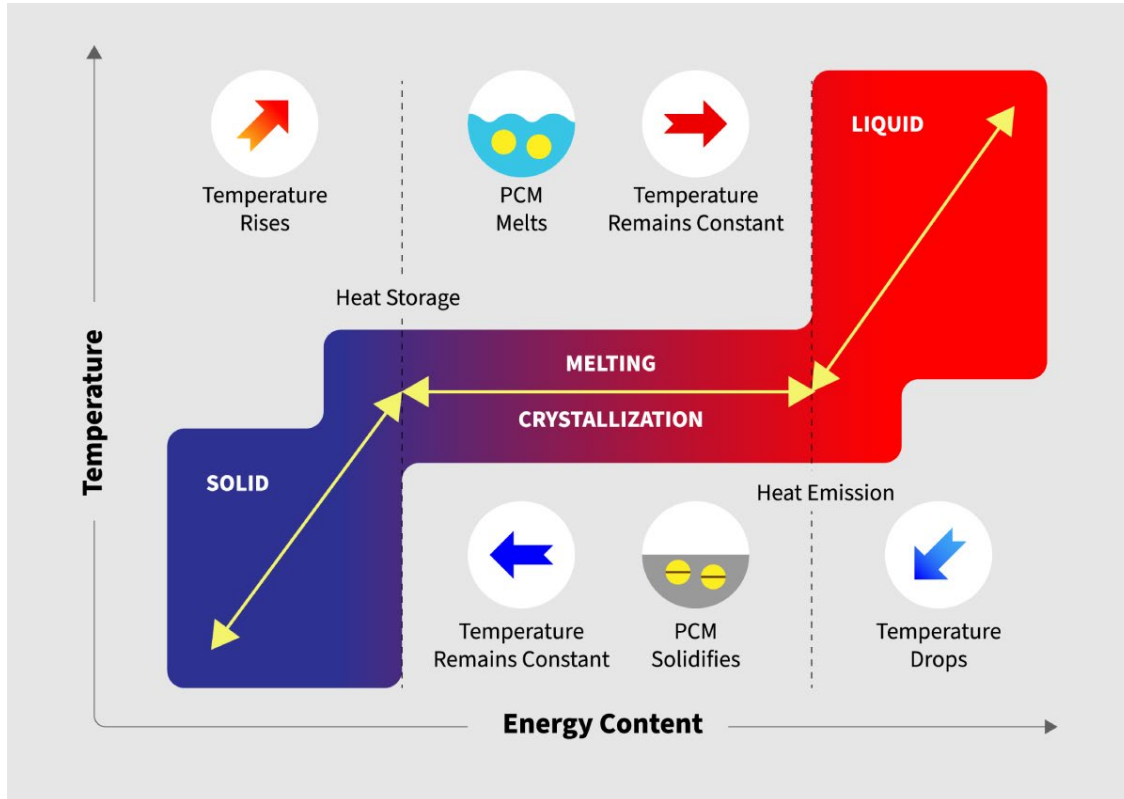
Source: Deloitte Global Auto Consumer Study¹⁸

Deloitte Insights | deloitte.com/insig

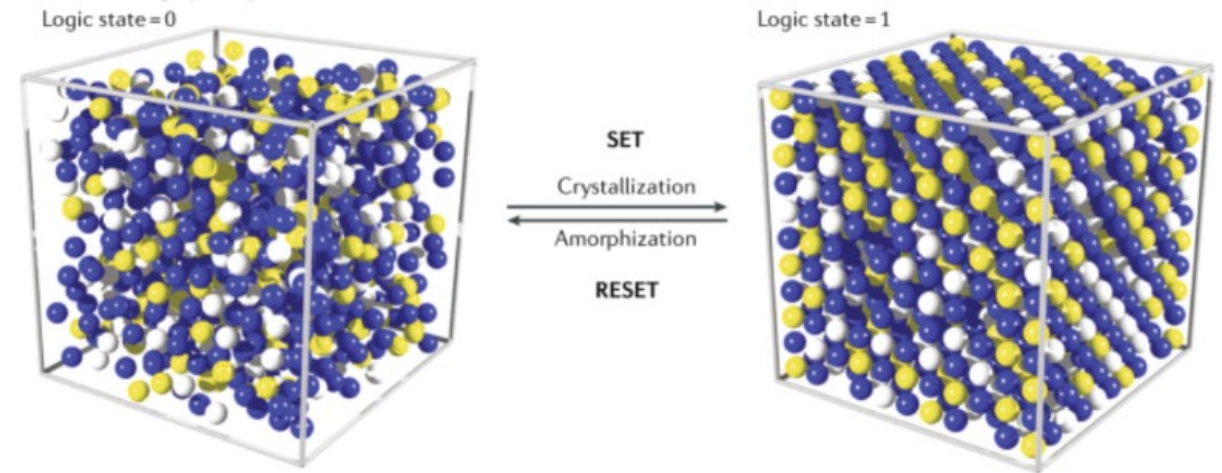
Research



Phase change materials - PCM



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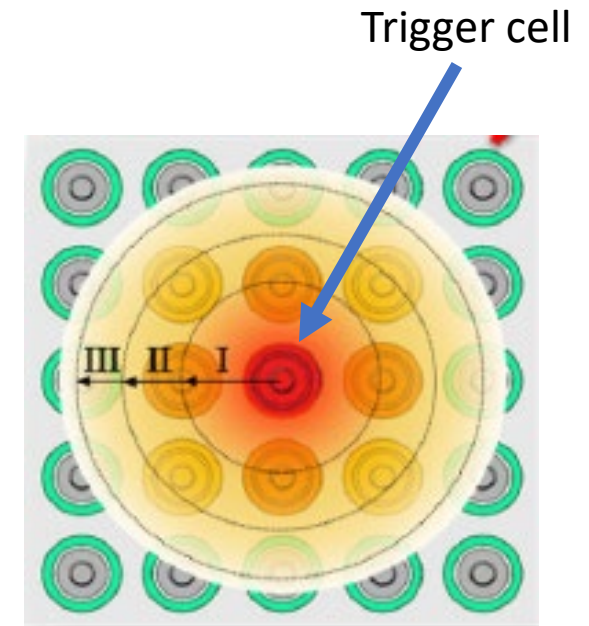
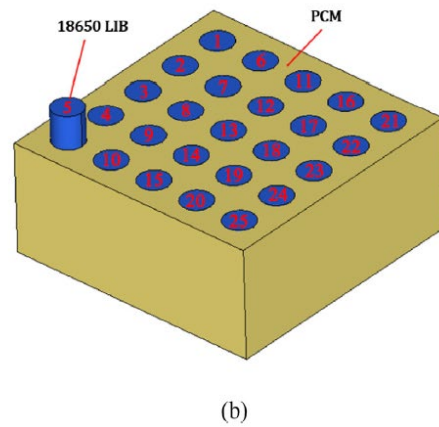
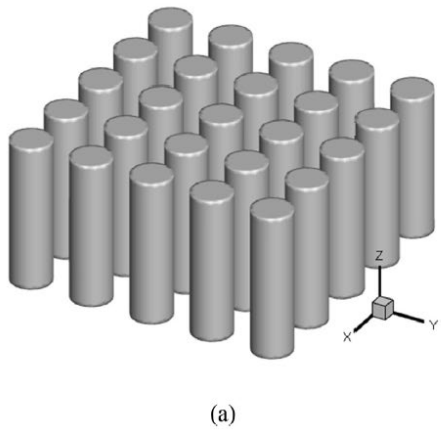


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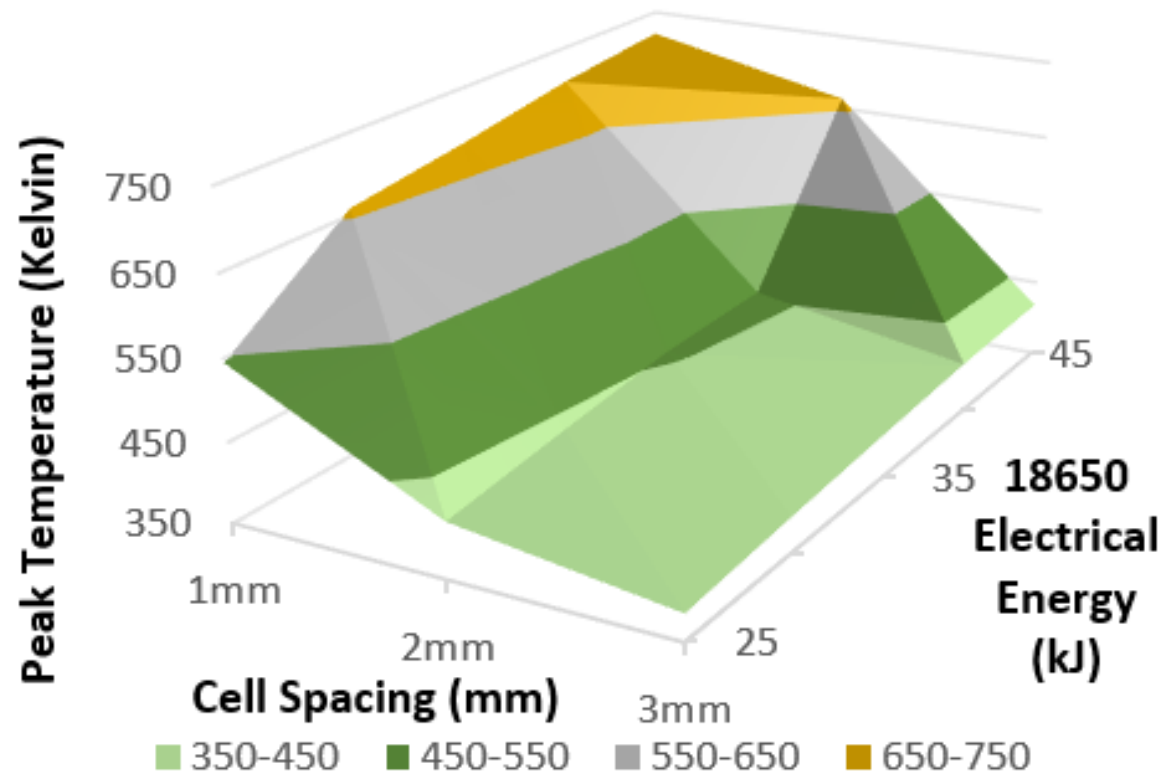
	Cp J/kgK	K radial W/mK	K axial W/mK	Density kg/m3	Cell chemistry	Source
Hatchard 2001	830	0.34		2580	18650 LiCoO2	Thermal model of cylindrical and prismatic Lithium-Ion cells
Abada 2018	1100	0.7	140	2231	18650 LFP	Combined experimental and modelling approaches of the thermal runaway of fresh and aged lithium-ion batteries
Jia				2580	18650 LCO	Thermal runaway propagation behaviour within 18650 lithium-ion battery packs: A modelling study
Coleman2016	1200	0.633	48	2222		Reducing cell-to-cell spacing for large format lithium ion battery modules with aluminium or PCM heat sinks under failure conditions
Zhang	1143	5	1	2800	18650 Samsung 33G	Non-uniform phase change material strategy for directional mitigation of battery thermal runaway propagation
Yuan	1143	5	1	2800	18650 Samsung 33G	Inhibition effect of different interstitial materials on thermal runaway propagation in the cylindrical lithium-ion battery module
N.Spinner (Analytical)	972+-92	0.55+-0.23	21.9+-1.7		LiCoO2	Analytical, Numerical and Experimental Determination of Thermophysical Properties of Commercial 18650 LiCoO2 Lithium-Ion Battery
Nieto 2014	1076	1.36	29.4	2382	NMC Pouch	Novel thermal management system design methodology for power lithium-ion battery
S.J Drake 2013	1720+-86	0.2+-0.01	30.4+-1.5	2362	18650 LFP	Measurement of anisotropic thermophysical properties of cylindrical Li-ion cells
Gumussu 2017	814-2400	0.219	28.05	2939	Panasonic NCR18650B	3-D CFD modeling and experimental testing of thermal behavior of a Li-Ion battery
Sabbah 2008	900	3	30	2663	18650 high power	Active (air-cooled) vs. passive (phase change material) thermal management of high power lithium-ion packs: Limitation of temperature rise and uniformity of temperature distribution
Jiang 2023		2.4	14.07	3020		Axial and radial thermal conductivity measurement of 18,650 Lithium-ion battery
Average	1123.57 (830-1200)	1.005 (0.2-5)	44.62 (30-140)	2599.7 (2200-2800)		

Experimental

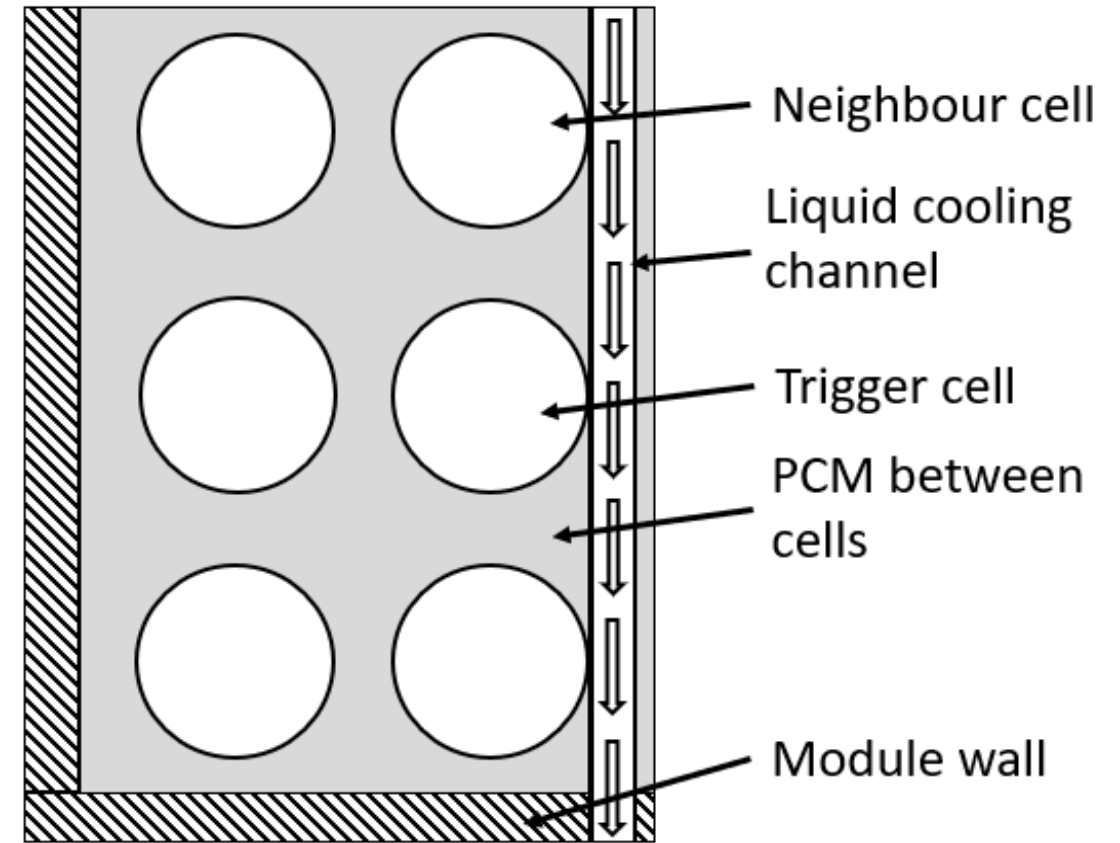
- Strict safety concerns with provoking a module of cells.
- Cartridge heater as a cell analogue that can be controlled.
- Using thermal profiles from literature.
- Thermocouples to record temperature profiles.



Combined model outputs – Cell spacing

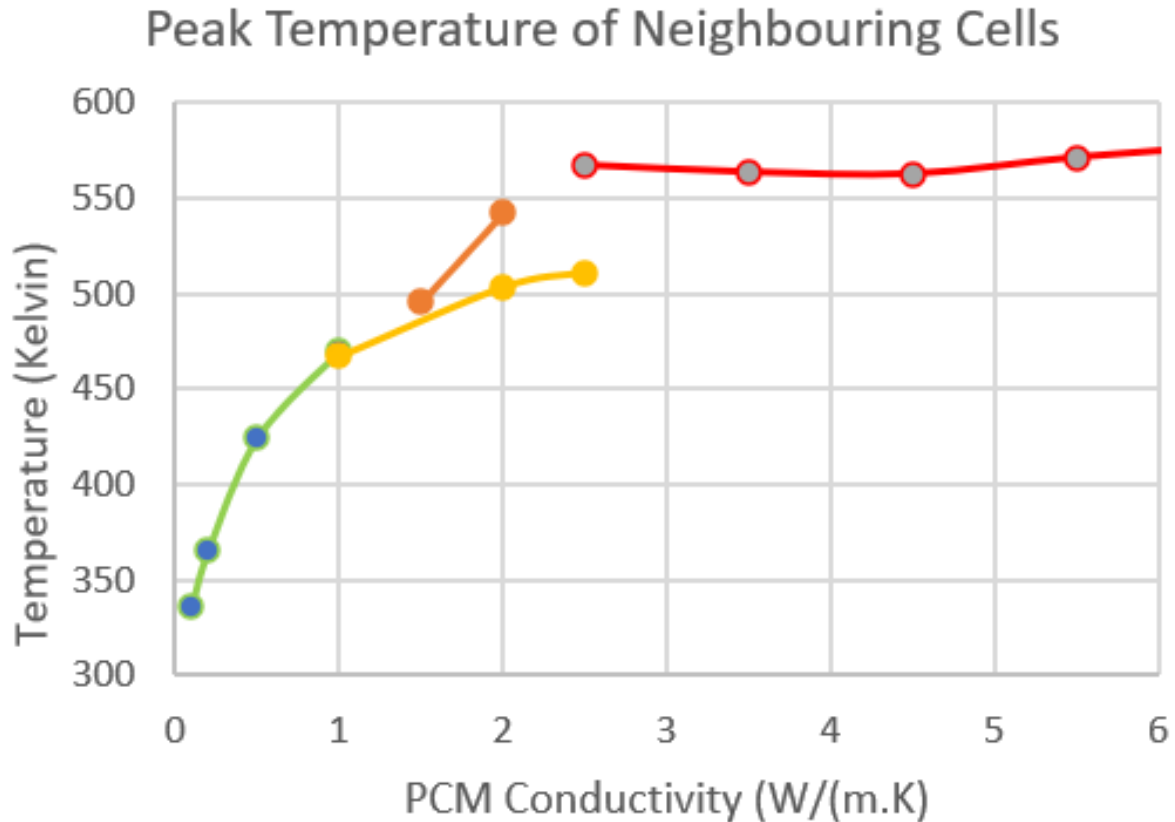


PCM paraffin (RT42)
 $K=0.2\text{W/mK}$
Flash point 459K

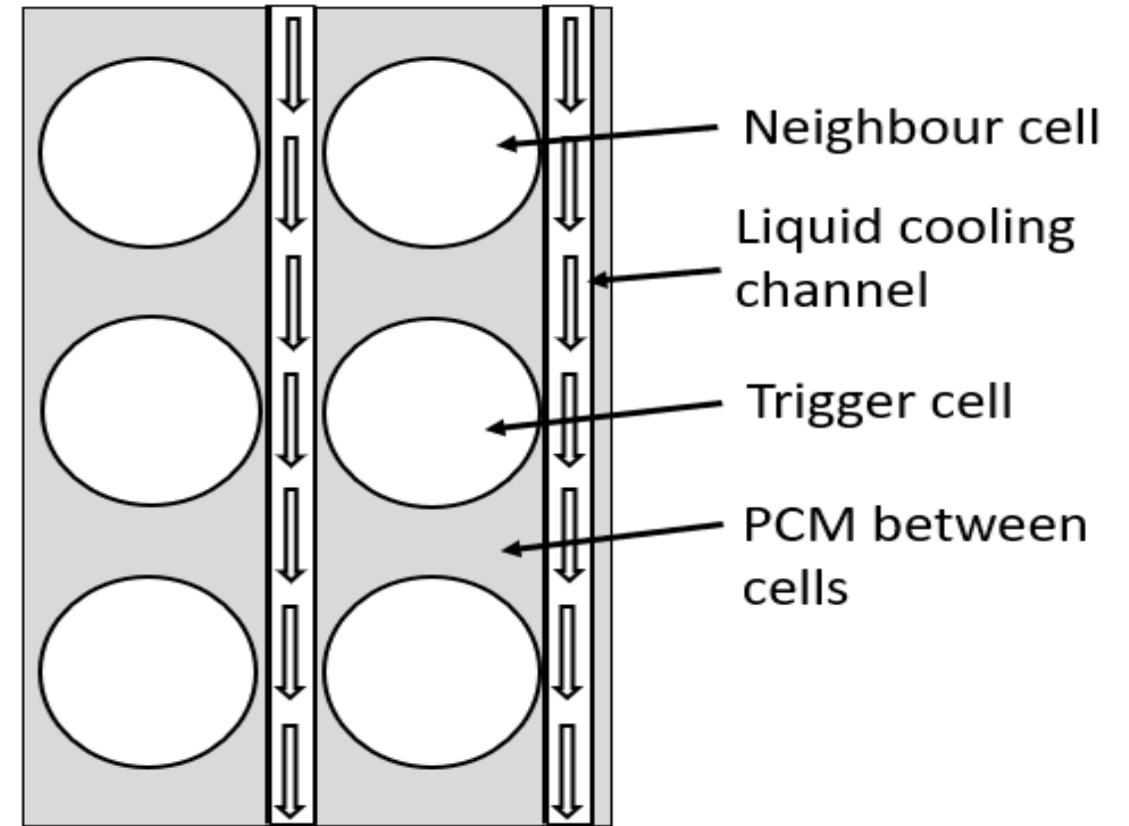


Module/pack periphery layout

Thermal conductivity impact



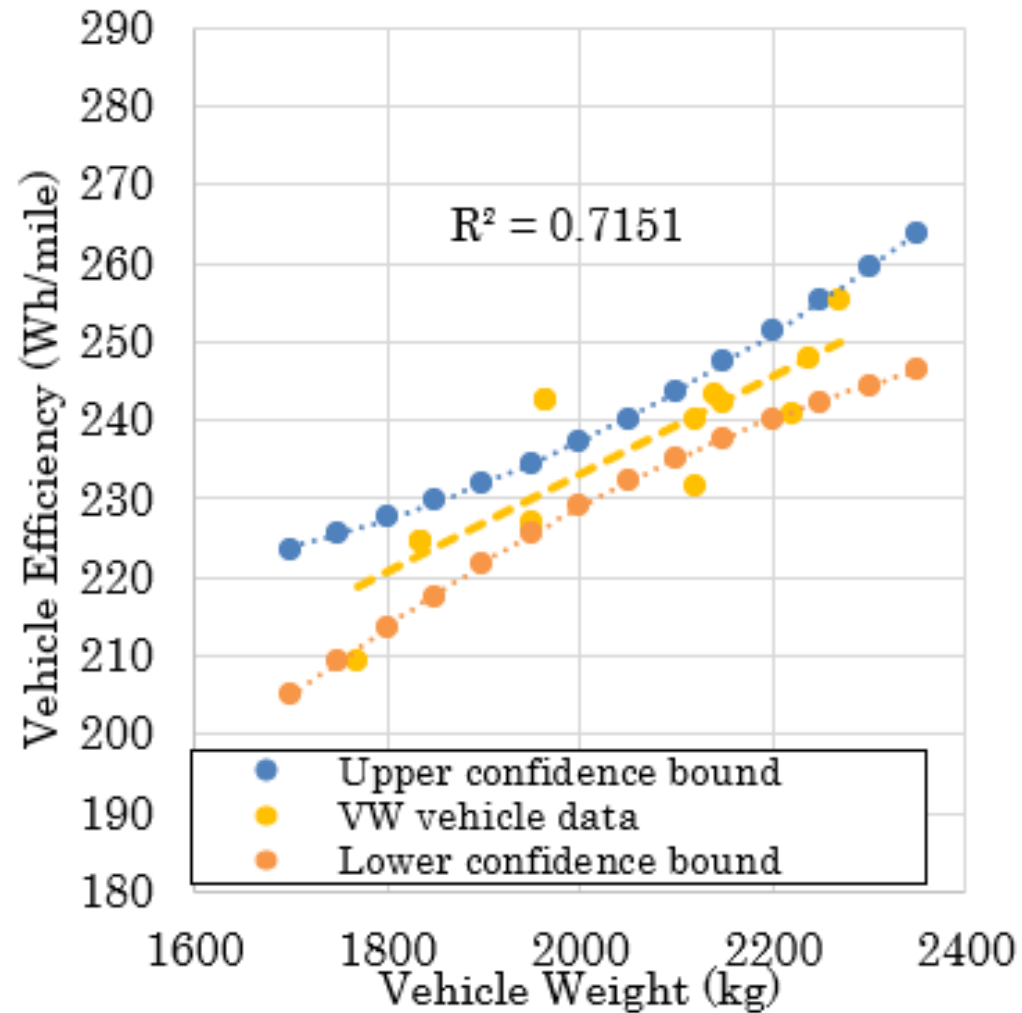
- No propagation expected
- Propagation expected
- Transition region
- No kinetics heating



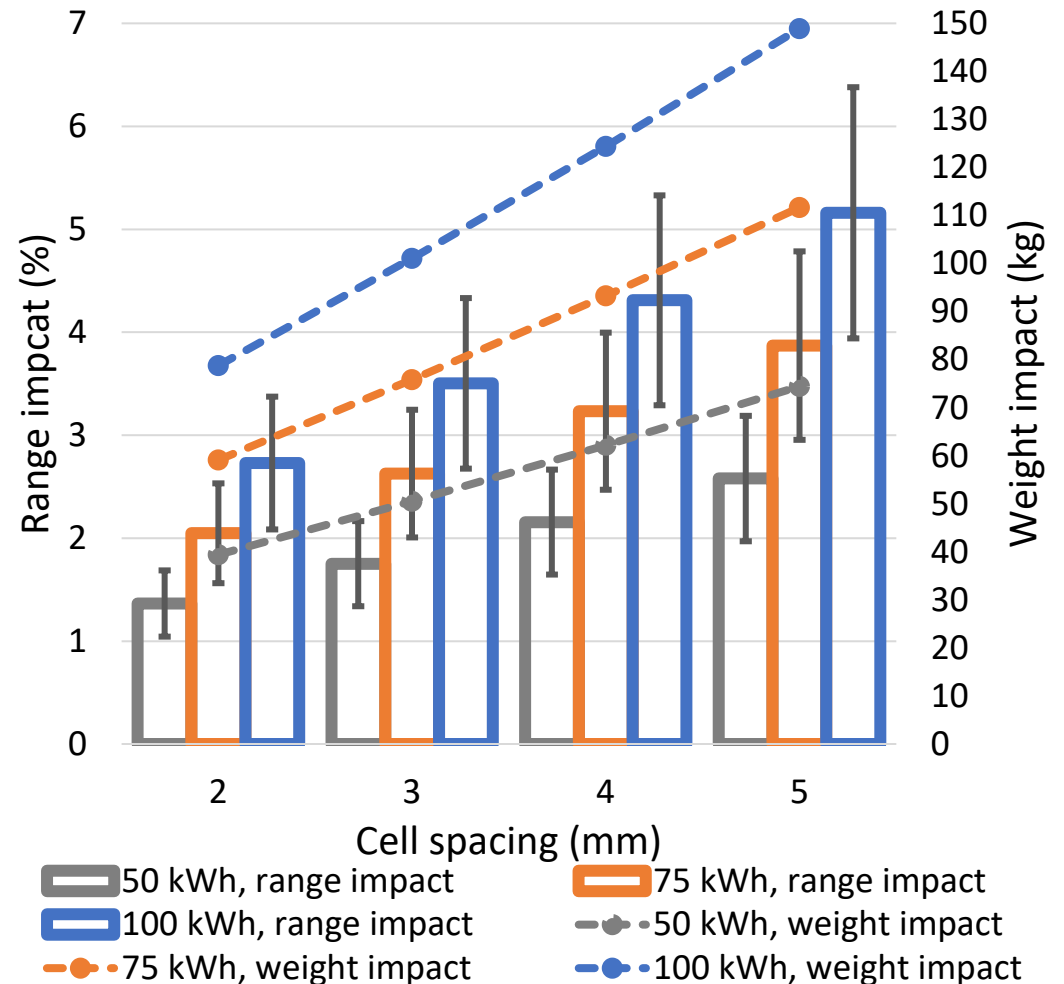
Module/pack interior layout

Weight impact

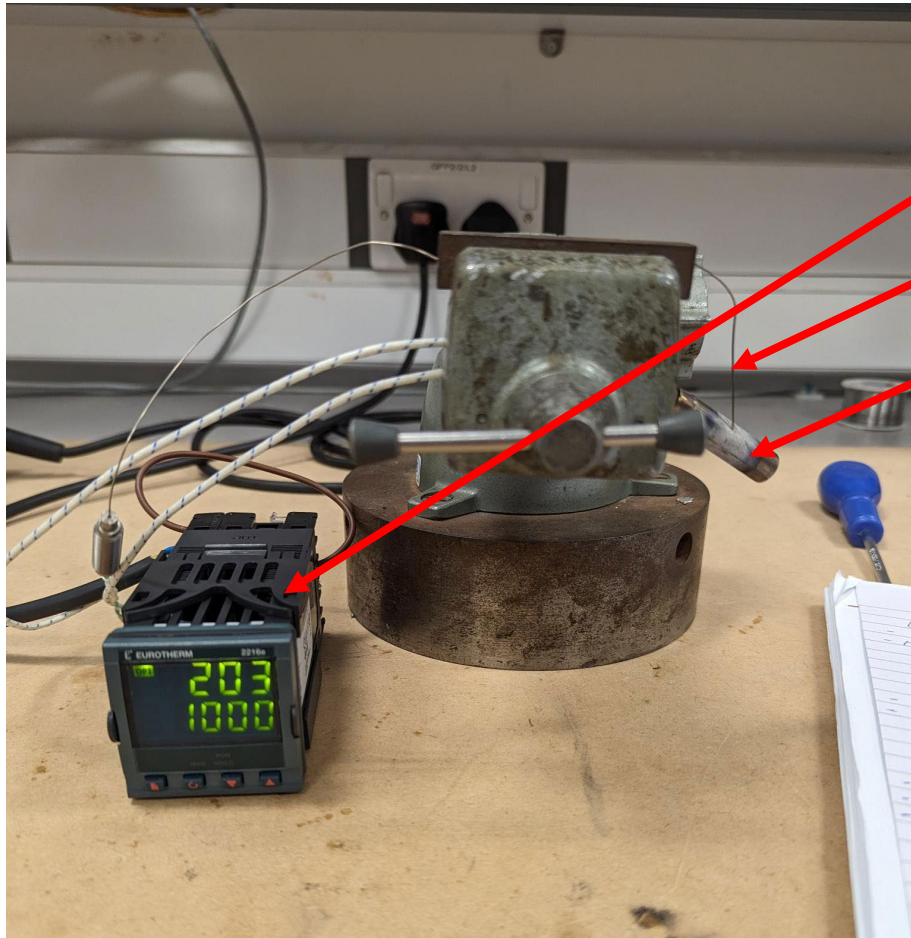
EV efficiency against vehicle weight (MEB platform)



Range and weight impact of cell spacing to accommodate PCM

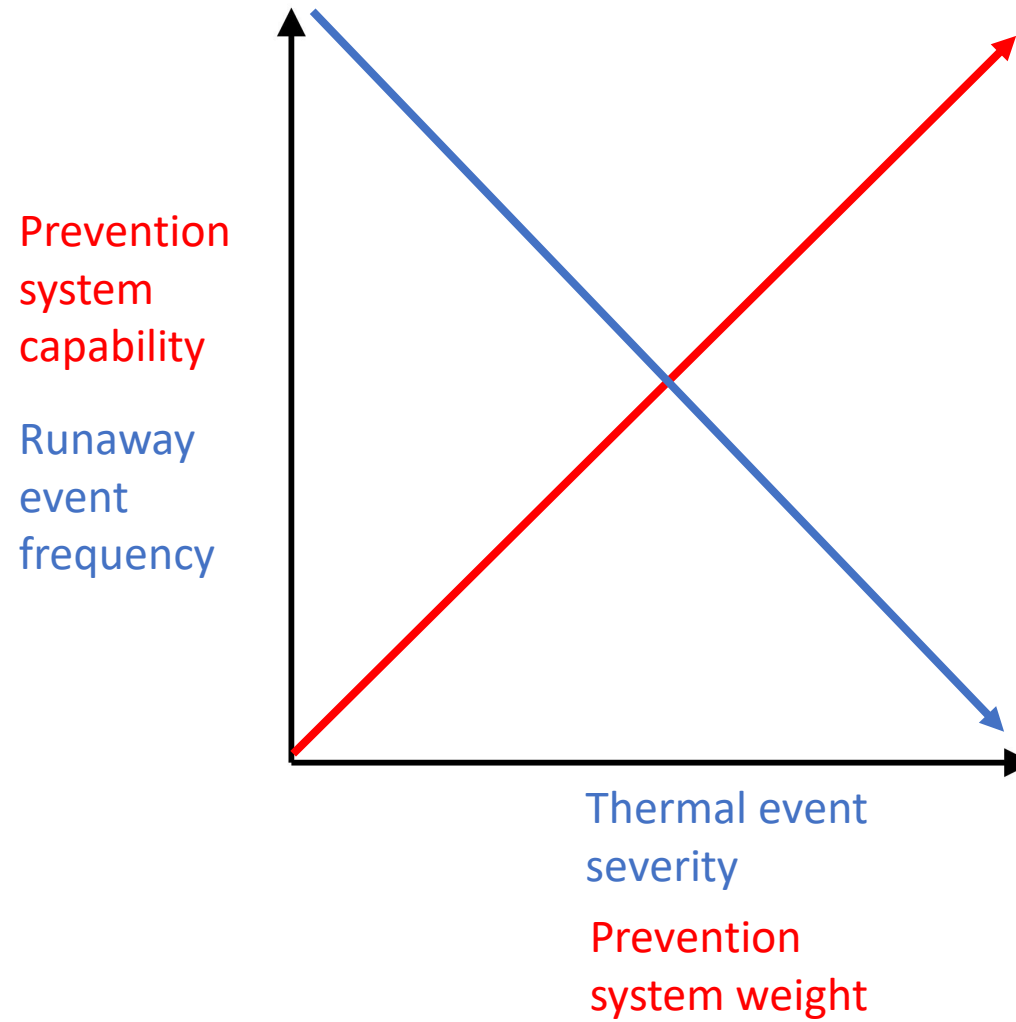


Heating loop

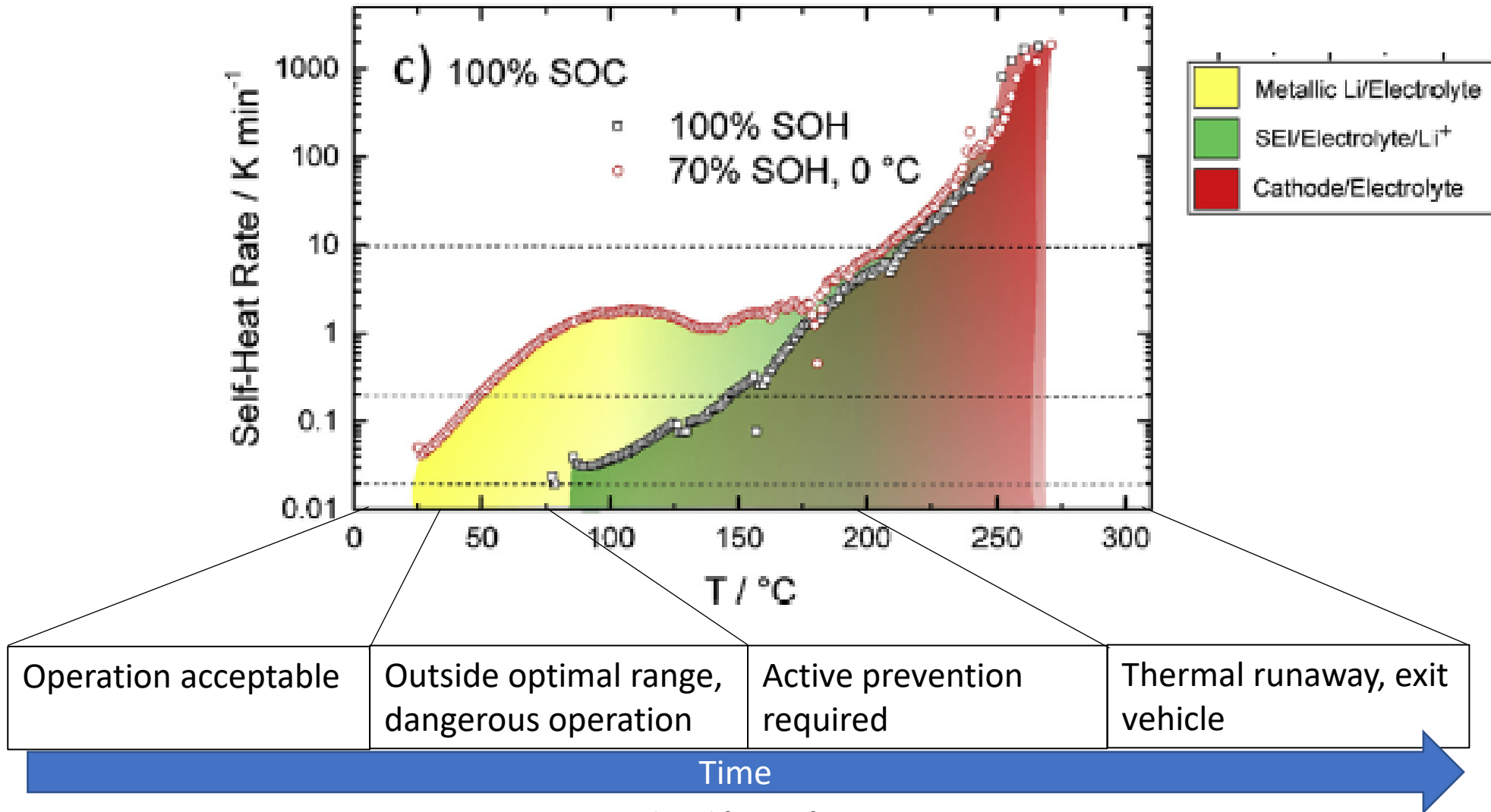


- PID controller
 - Thermocouple
 - Heater
-
- PID good for 1000 degrees
 - 200W test heater in this case

Project objectives

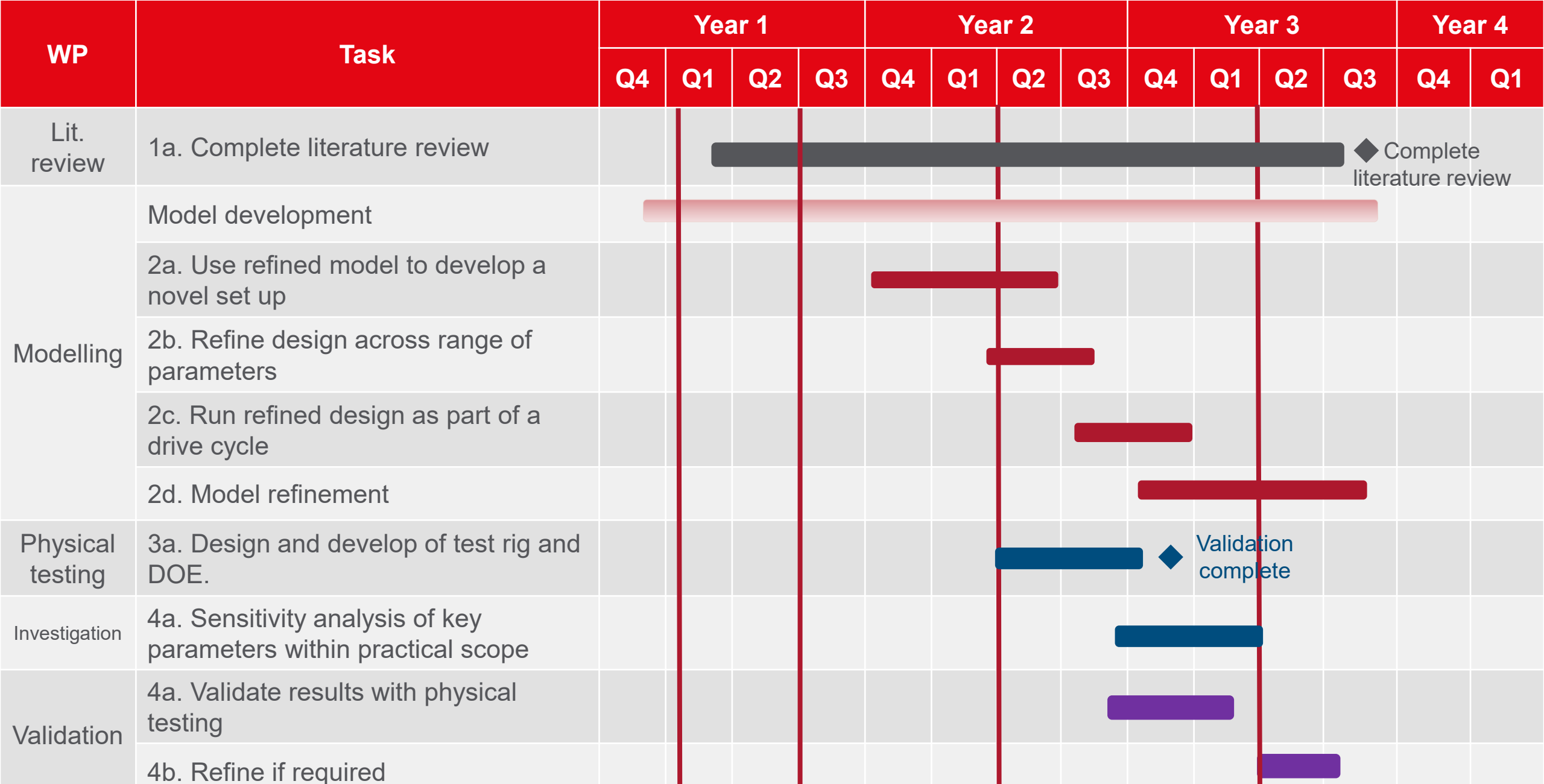


Time Sensitivity



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Project Plan



Project Plan

