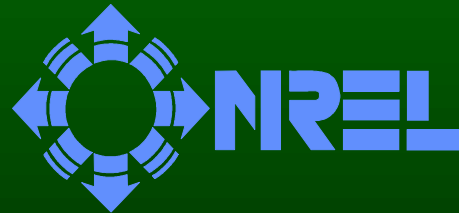


Thermal Performance of EV and HEV Battery Modules and Packs

14th International Electric Vehicle Symposium

Orlando, Florida

December 16, 1997



Ahmad A. Pesaran, Ph.D.

Andreas Vlahinos, Ph.D.

Steven D. Burch

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS

Acknowledgment

This work was sponsored by the U.S. DOE as part of the cost-shared Hybrid Vehicle Propulsion Systems Program

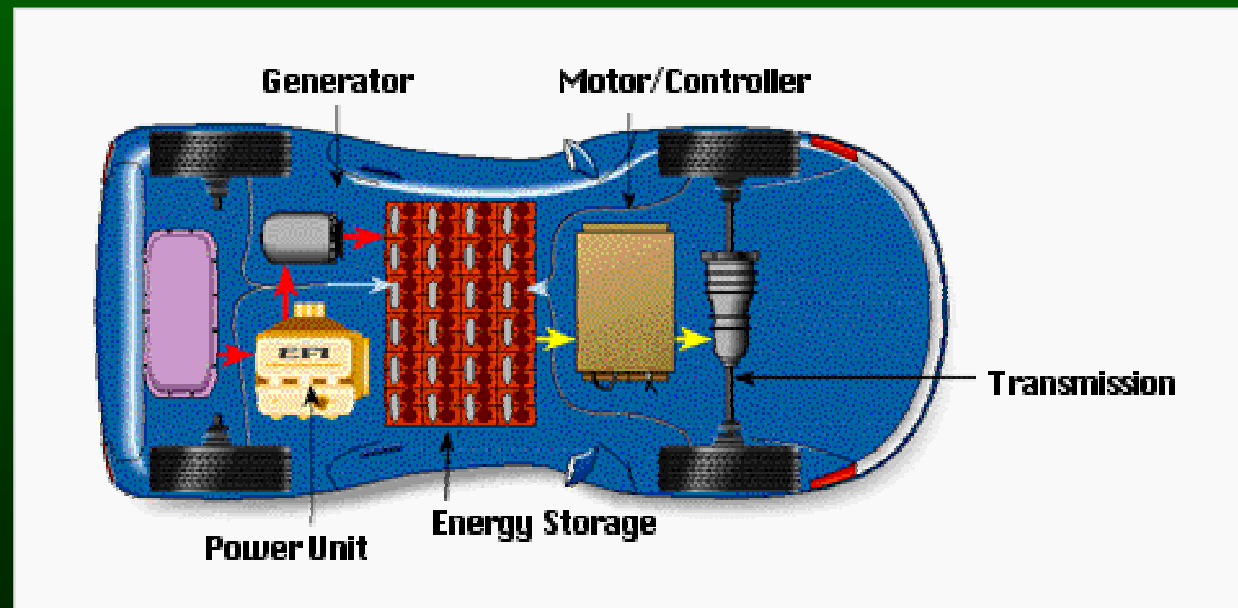


Presentation Outline

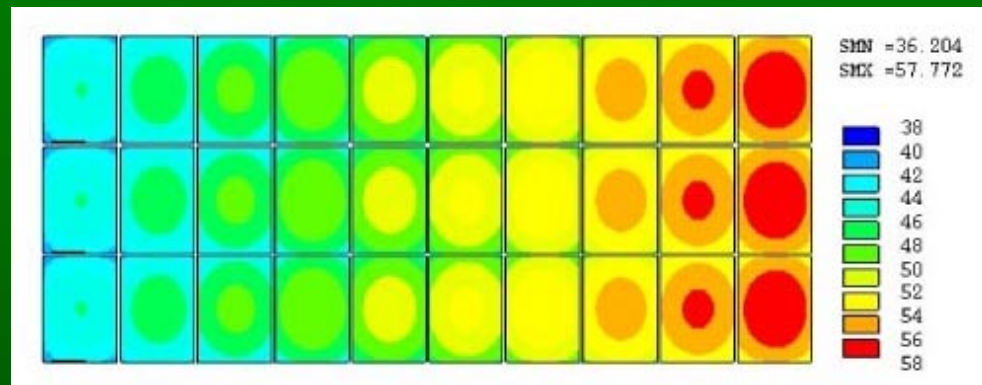
- ▶ Importance of thermal management
- ▶ Thermal management and analysis
- ▶ Typical results
- ▶ Thermal imaging
- ▶ Measuring heat generation
- ▶ Summary

Importance of Thermal Management

- ▶ HEV/EV performance and life-cycle cost is influenced by battery pack
- ▶ Temperature affects battery module/pack performance and life



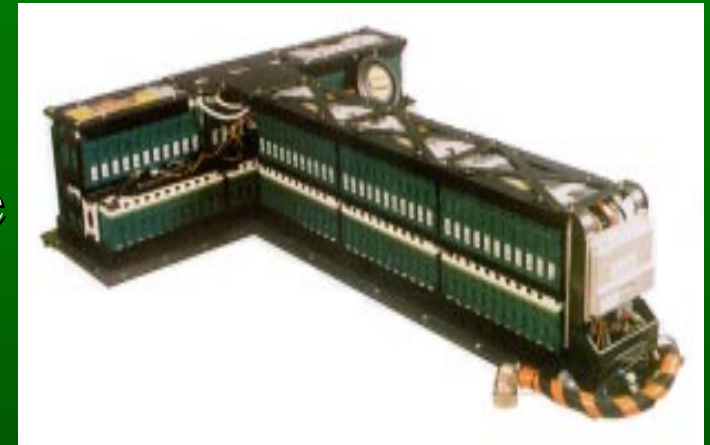
Importance of Thermal Management



- ▶ Uneven temperature distribution in a pack leads to unbalanced modules and reduced performance
- ▶ Pack thermal management is required, particularly for high power batteries in HEVs

Thermal Management System

- ▶ Desired attributes
 - ◆ Small temperature variation within a module and within a pack
 - ◆ Optimum temperature range for all modules
- ▶ Requirements
 - ◆ Compact, lightweight, and easy to package
 - ◆ Reliable and serviceable
 - ◆ Low-cost and low parasitic power



Thermal Analysis for Thermal Management

- ▶ Module/pack thermal analysis aids in designing better thermal management systems
- ▶ We used finite element analysis and heat transfer principles to obtain thermal performance
 - ▶ 2-D or 3-D
 - ▶ Steady-state or transient



Thermal Analysis of a Battery Pack

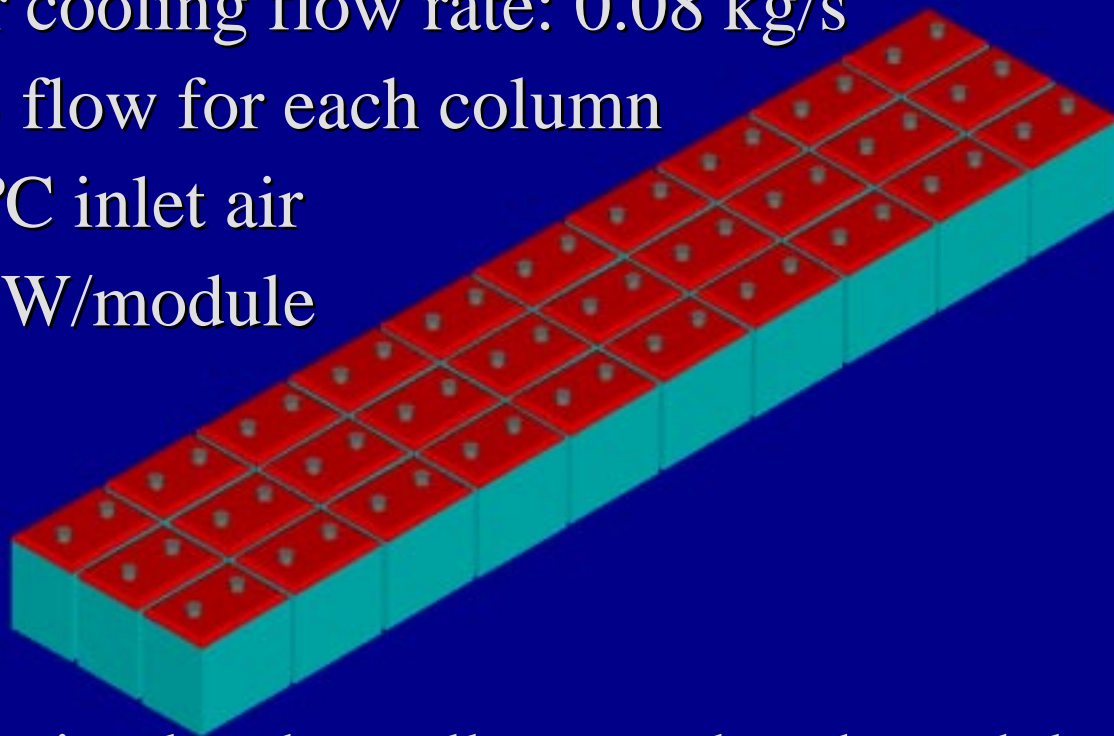
30 Modules

Air cooling flow rate: 0.08 kg/s

1/3 flow for each column

25°C inlet air

35 W/module



Air circulated equally around each module

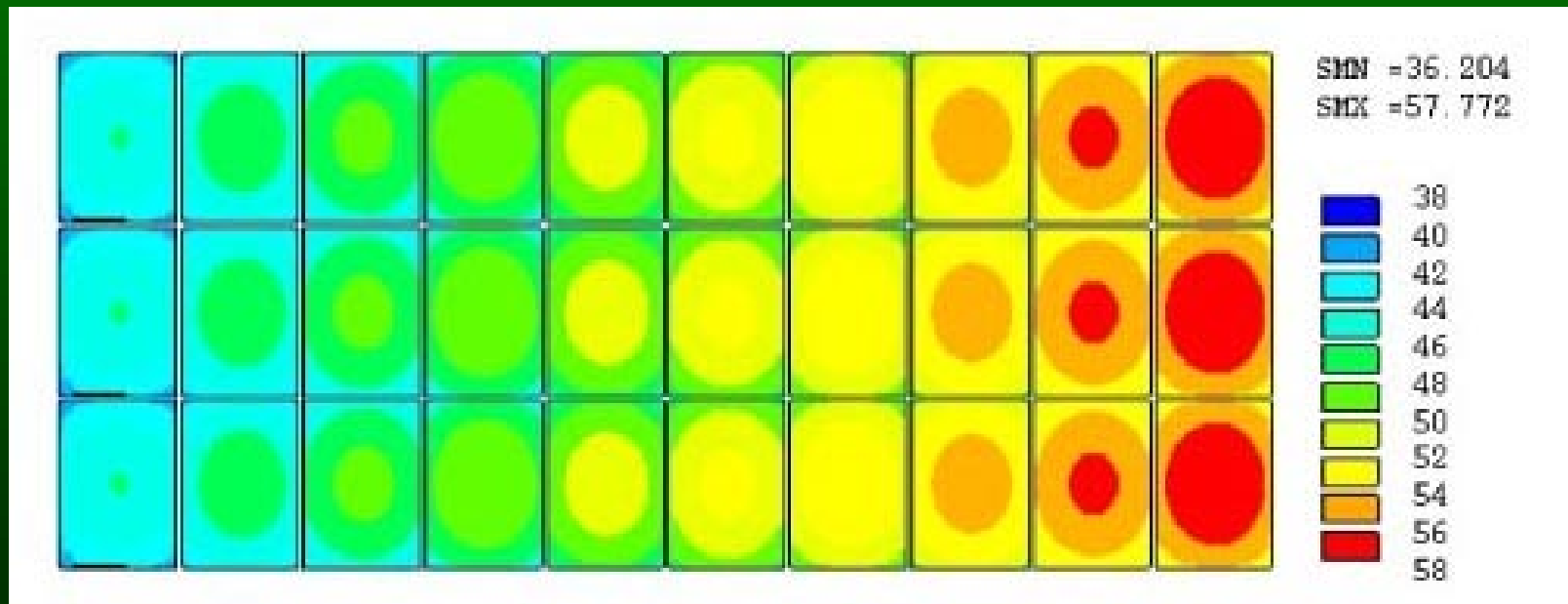
Air side heat transfer coefficient of 35 W/m²K

Steady-State, 2-D Pack Results

Temperature distribution with air flow rate

Uniform heat generation of 35 W/module

$T_{\max, \text{core}} = 58^{\circ}\text{C}$, $T_{\min, \text{core}} = 40^{\circ}\text{C}$



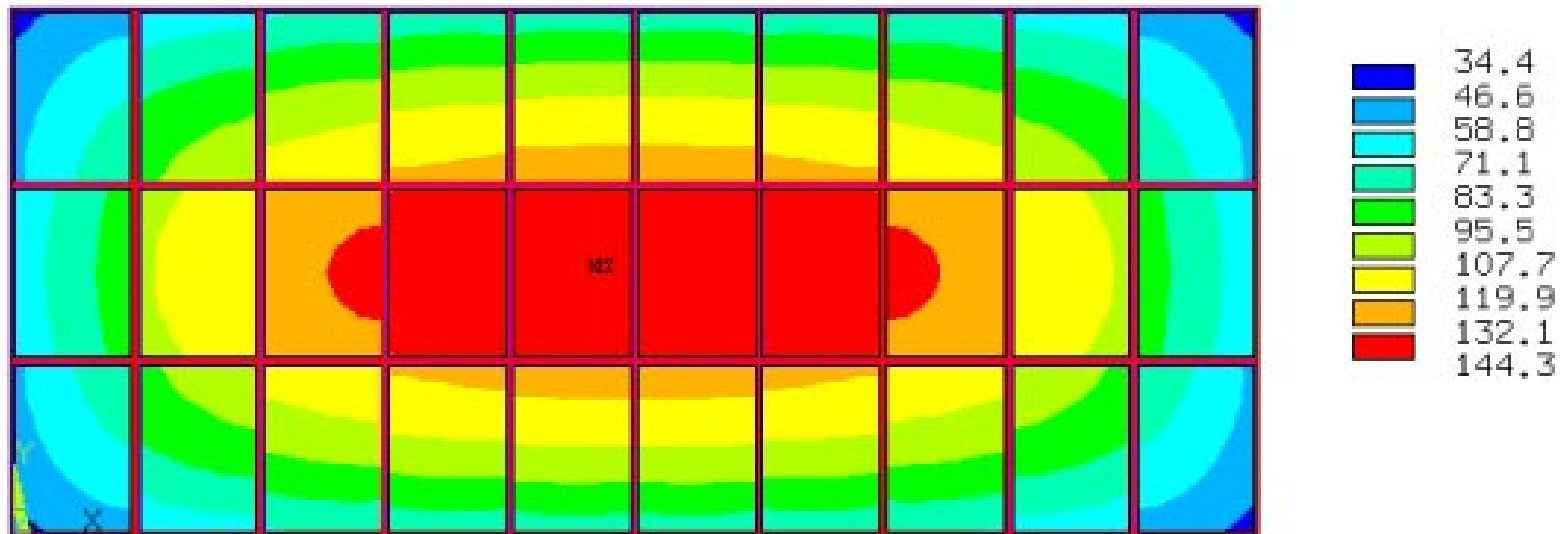
Air entering at 25°C

Air leaving at 38°C

Steady-State Closed Pack Results

Temperature distribution with no air flow

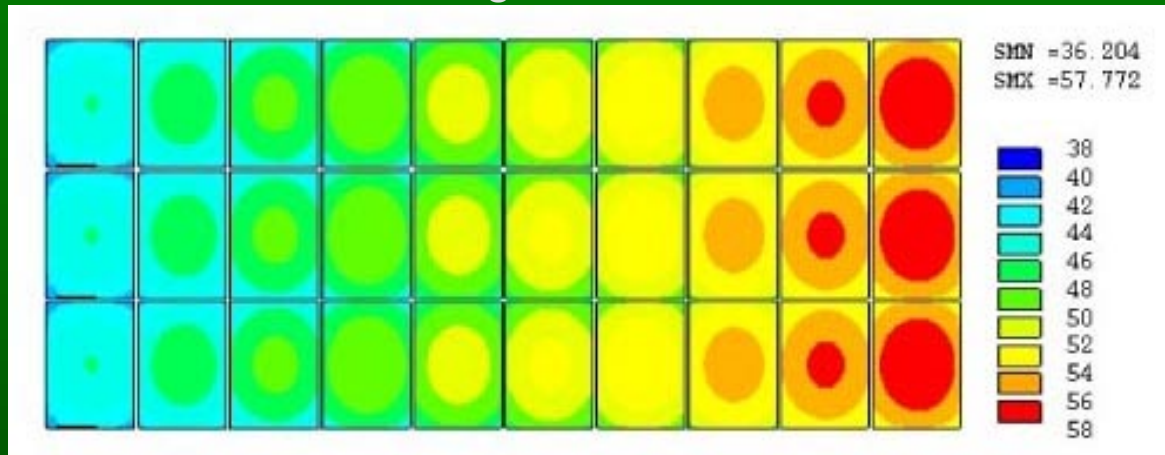
$T_{\max} = 144^{\circ}\text{C}$, $T_{\min} = 40^{\circ}\text{C}$



Assuming some heat loss from the sides
Uniform heat generation of 35 W/module

Steady-State, 2-D Pack Results

→ Air entering at 25°C



Open, with air flow

$T_{max} = 58^{\circ}C$

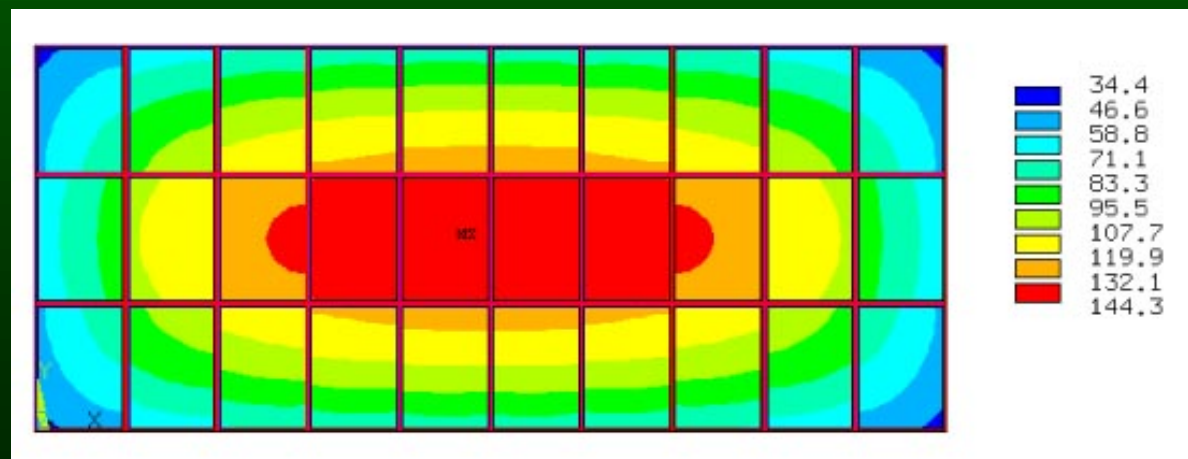
$T_{min} = 40^{\circ}C$

Uniform heat generation of 35 W/module

Closed, no flow

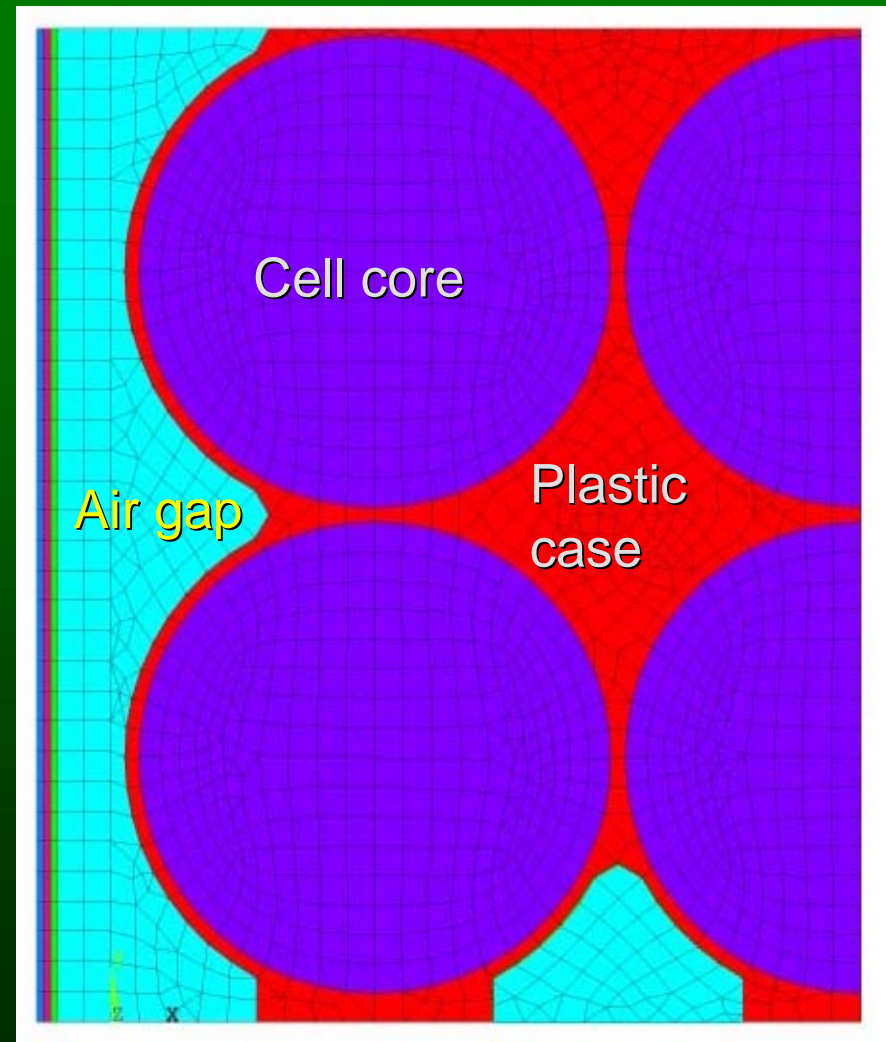
$T_{max} = 144^{\circ}C$

$T_{min} = 40^{\circ}C$



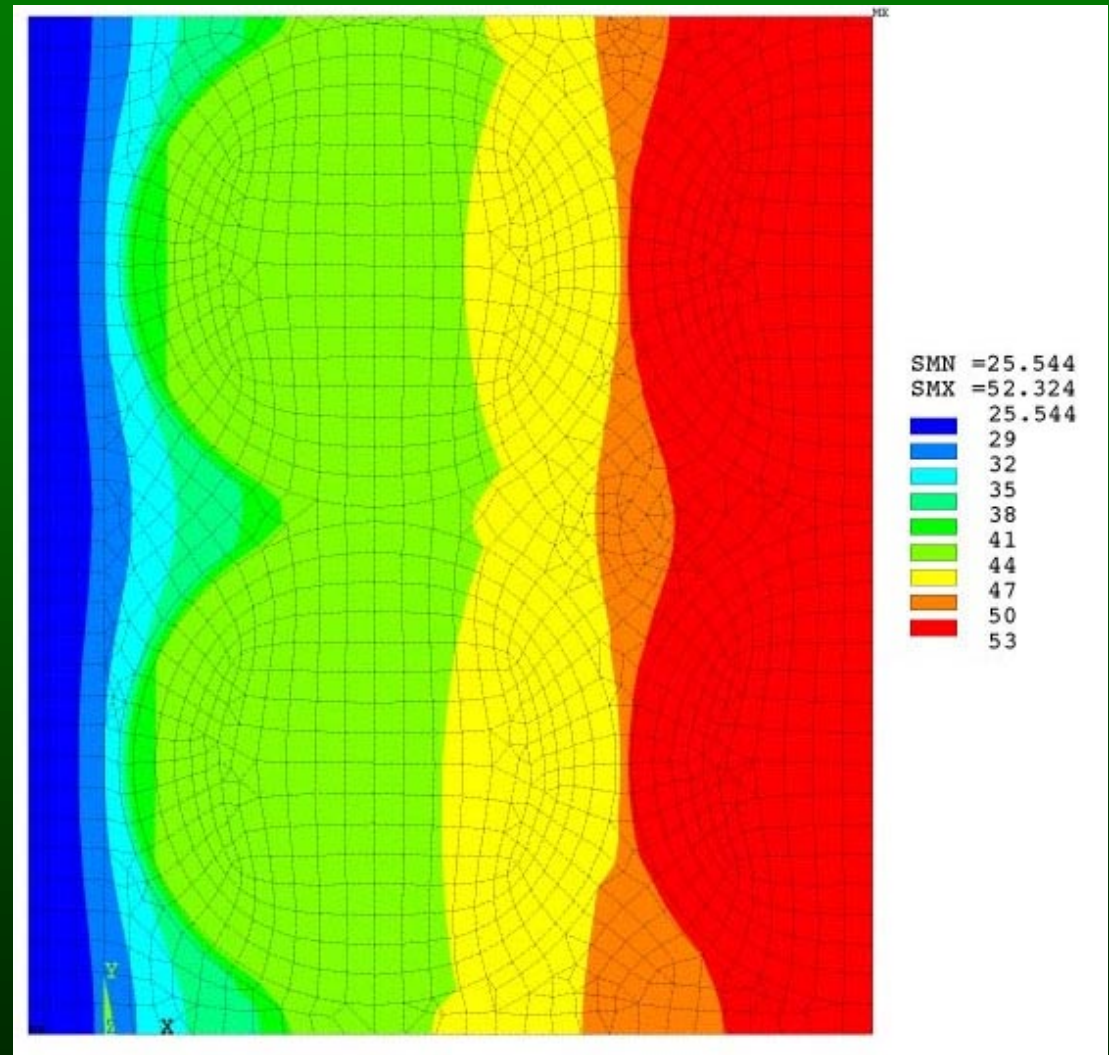
Analyzing an HEV Module

- ▶ Spiral-wound
- ▶ Lead acid
- ▶ High power
- ▶ 12 cells , 24 V
- ▶ Analyzed 1/4 of module due to symmetry
- ▶ Air cooled at 25°C



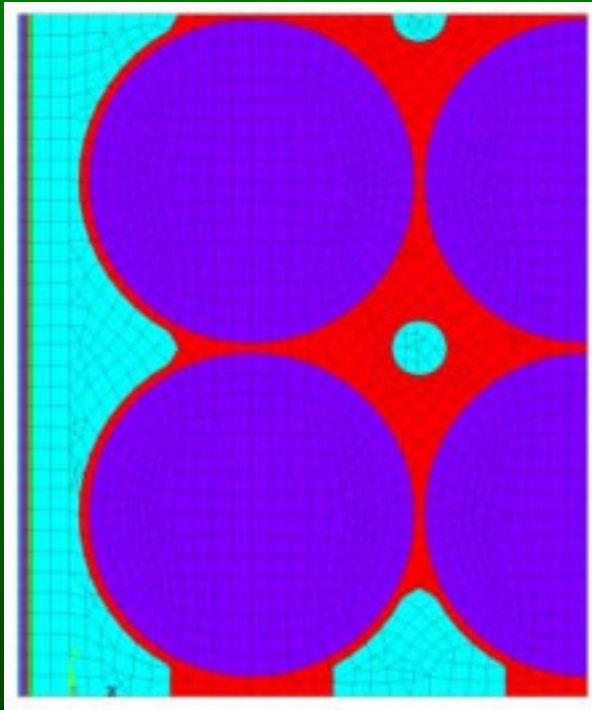
Thermal Performance of the HEV Module

Steady State, 2-D
 $T_{max} = 53^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $\Delta T_{core} = 13^{\circ}\text{C}$

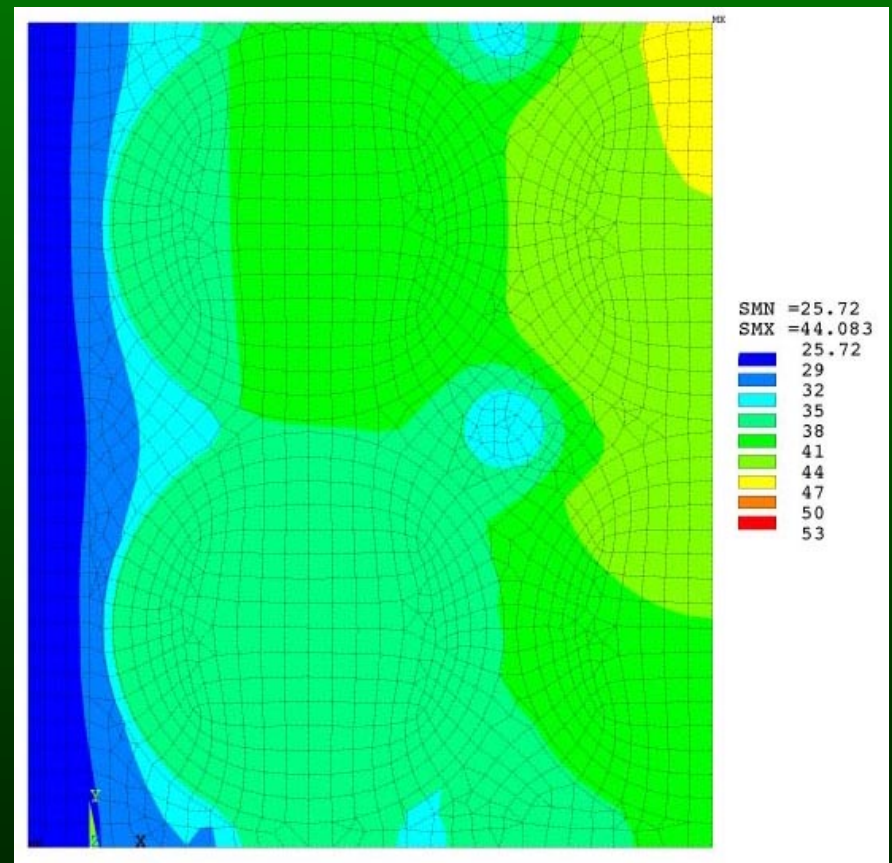


Thermal Performance of Module with Cooling Holes

Cooling holes were added.
Everything else remained the same.



Steady State
 $T_{max} = 44^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $\Delta T_{core} = 9^{\circ}\text{C}$

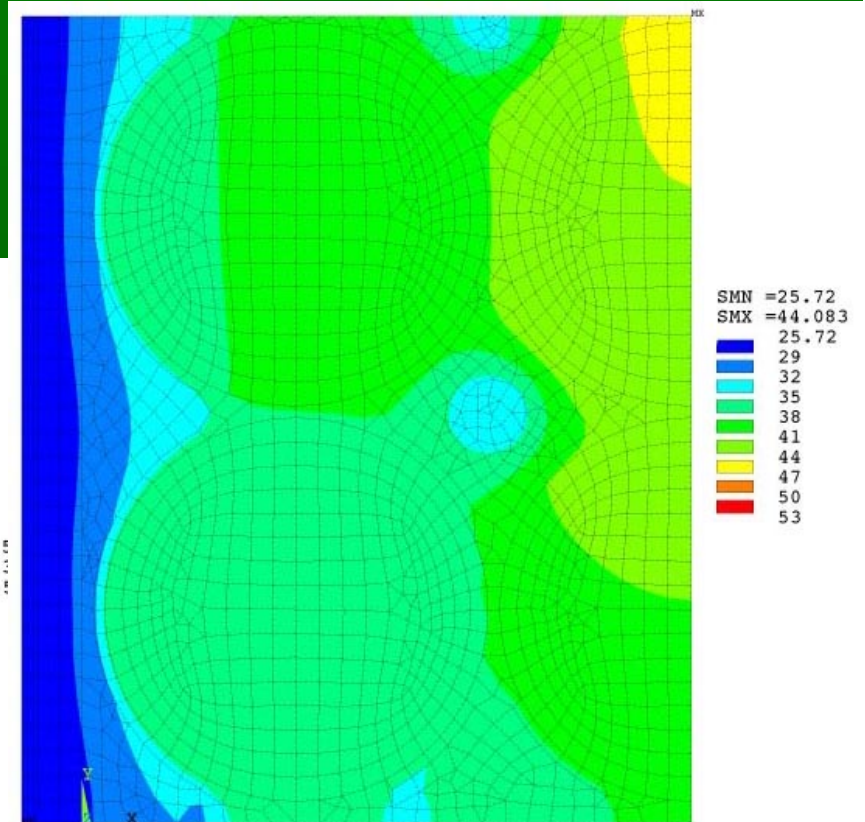
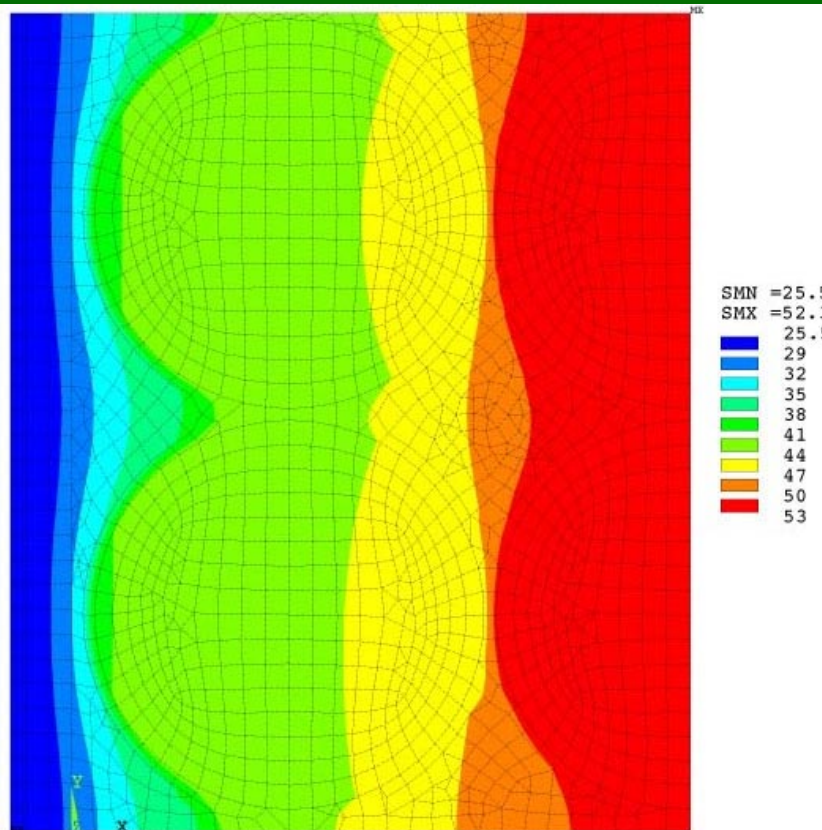


Thermal Improvement by Adding Cooling Holes

No Holes

$T_{max} = 53^{\circ}\text{C}$

$\Delta T_{core} = 13^{\circ}\text{C}$



With Holes

$T_{max} = 44^{\circ}\text{C}$

$\Delta T_{core} = 9^{\circ}\text{C}$

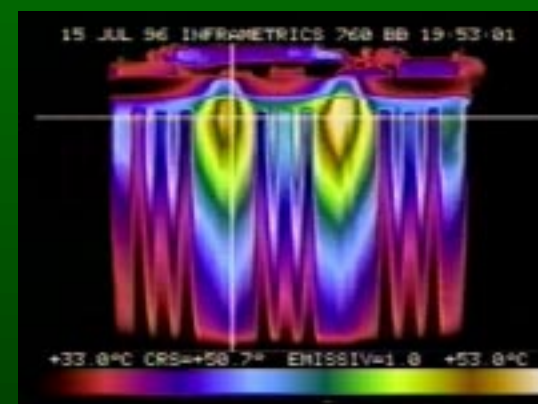
Optima HEV Modules Use Cooling Holes



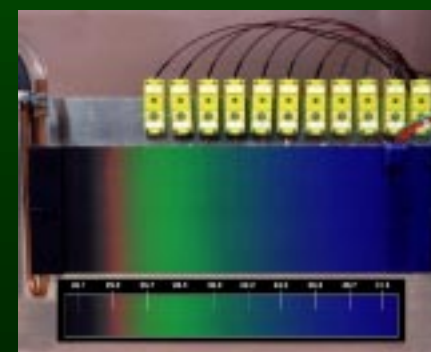
Thermal Imaging

Useful methods to obtain information on thermal behavior of battery modules and packs for model validation and diagnostics

► Infrared Thermography



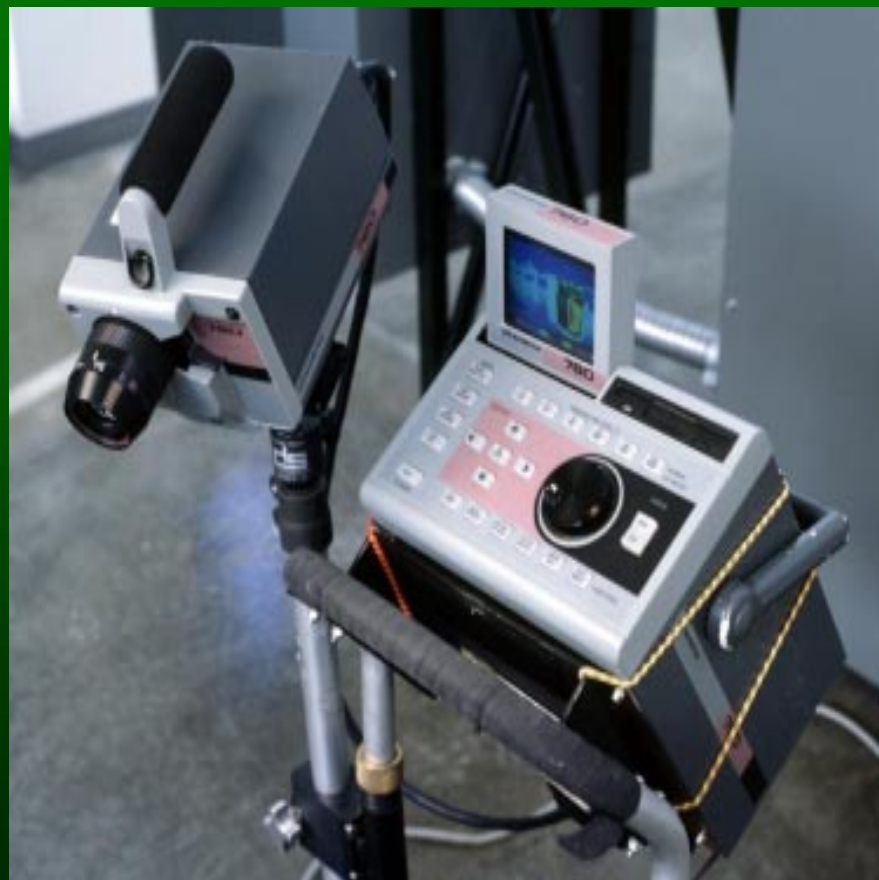
► Liquid Crystal Thermography
(temperature-sensitive paint)



Infrared Thermal Imaging

Measuring infrared radiation from an object and converting its surface temperature readings

- Wide range
- Accurate
- High resolution
- Non-intrusive
- Need IR-transparent materials



IR Thermal Image of an HEV Module

1st Generation Prototype

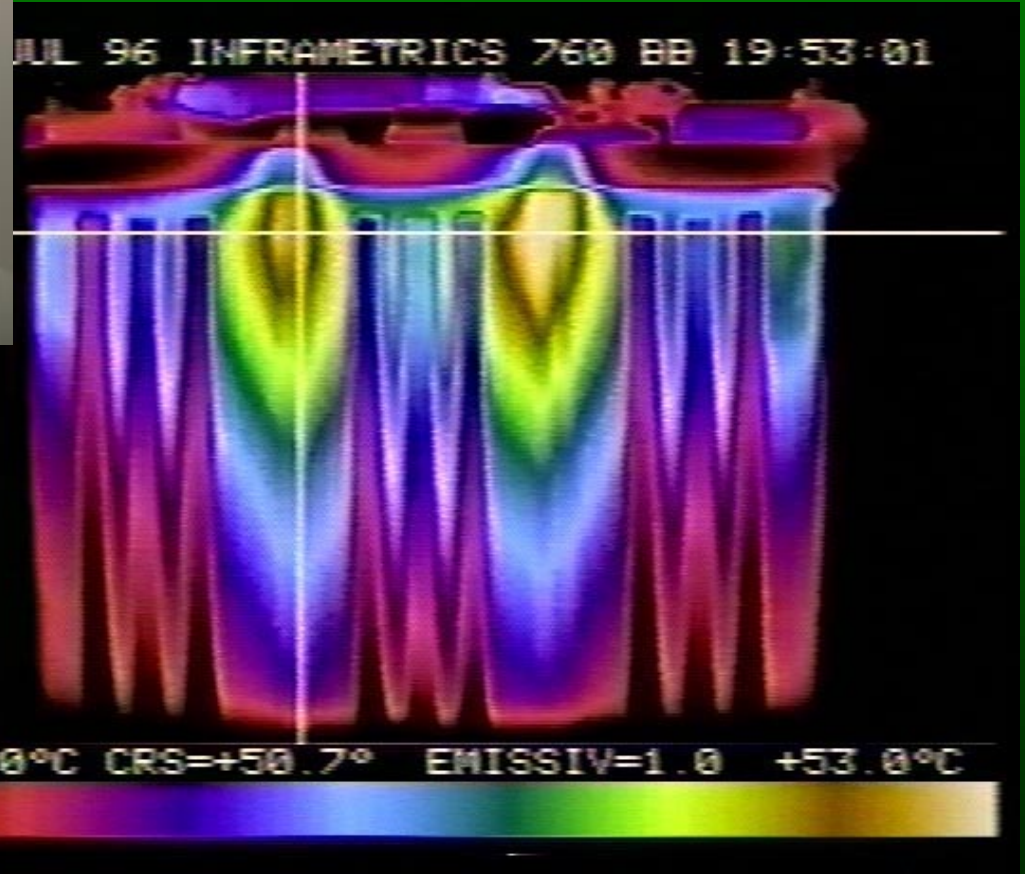


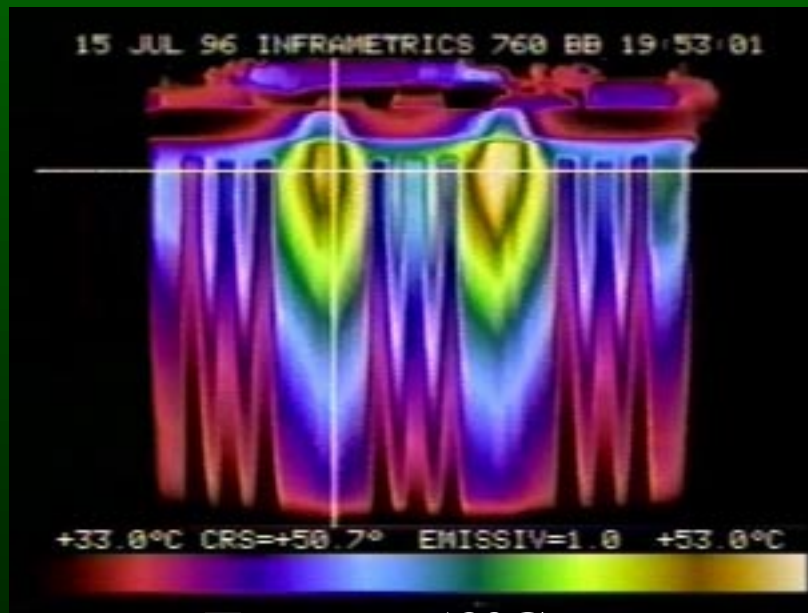
Image taken after a large current peak during HEV cycling

IR Thermal Images for Diagnostics

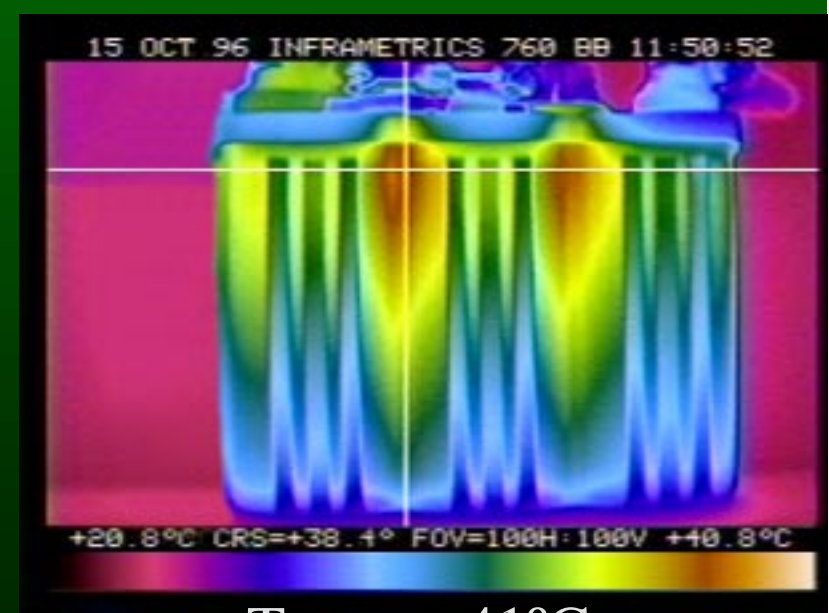
1st Generation Prototype



Improved Next Generation

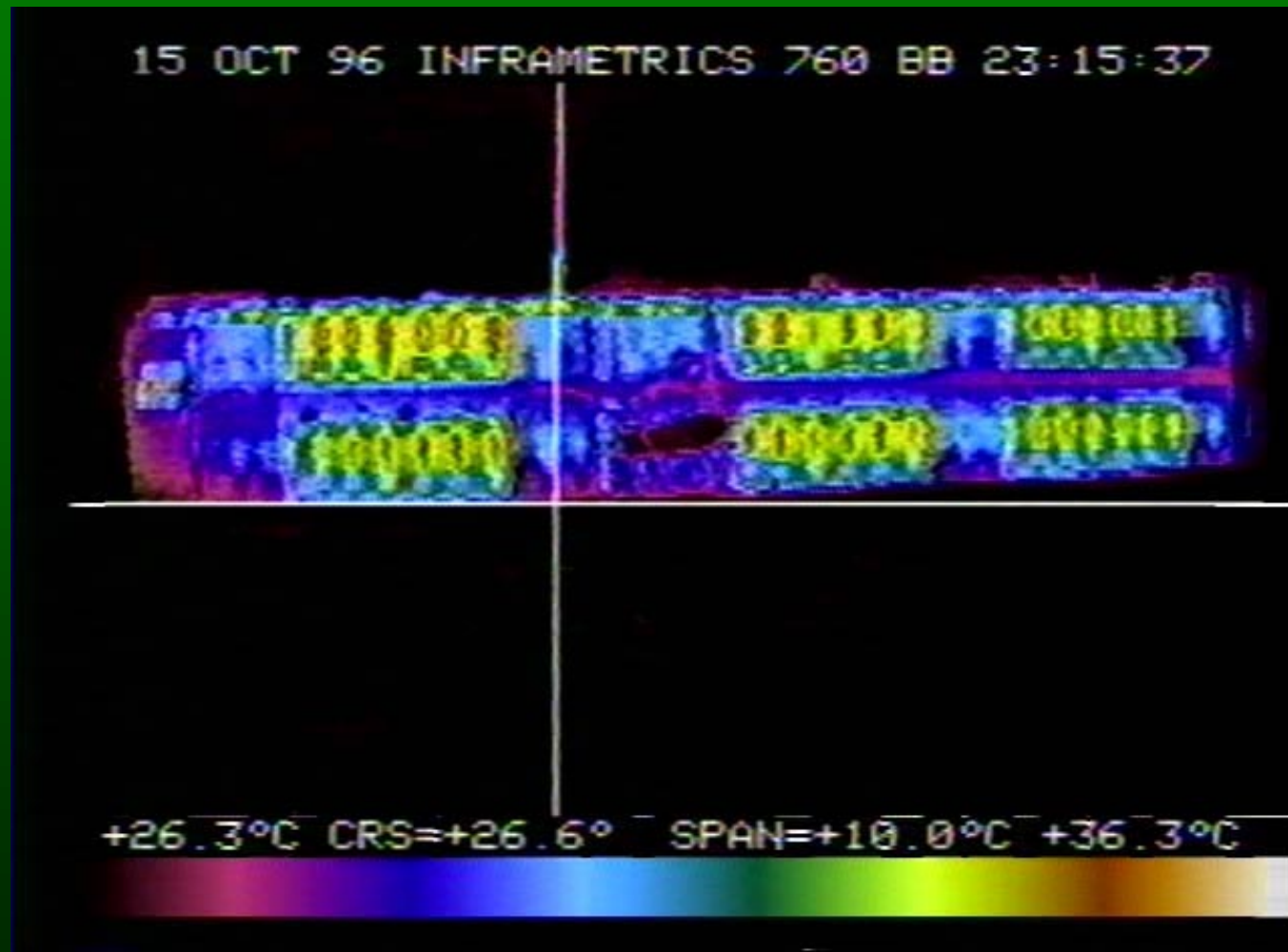


$T_{max} = 53^{\circ}\text{C}$



$T_{max} = 41^{\circ}\text{C}$

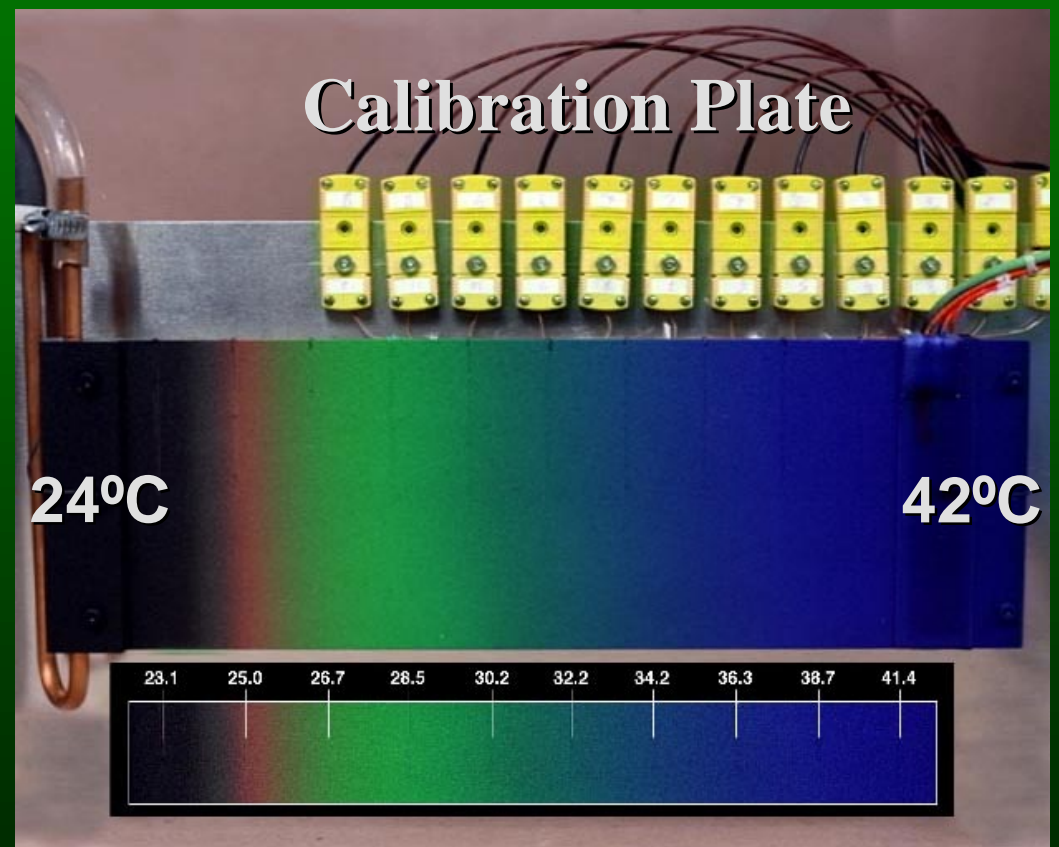
IR Thermal Image of a Battery Pack



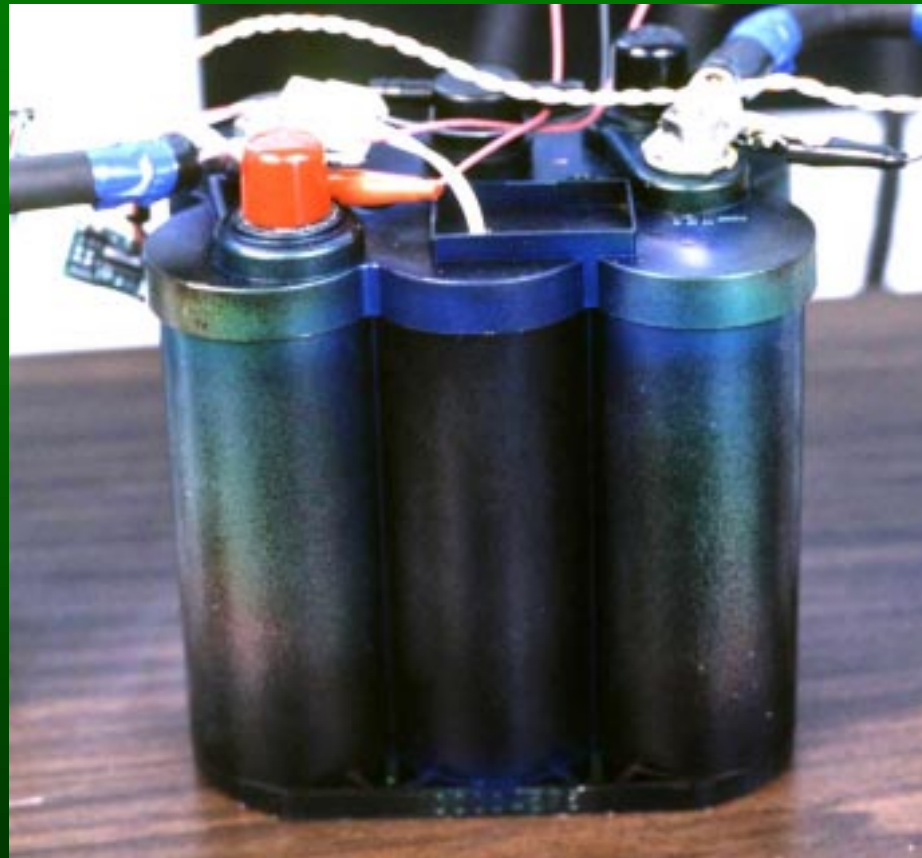
Liquid Crystal Thermal Imaging

Painting an object's surface with a temperature-sensitive liquid crystal material

- ▶ Specified range
- ▶ Relatively accurate
- ▶ Non-intrusive
- ▶ Can be seen through any transparent material

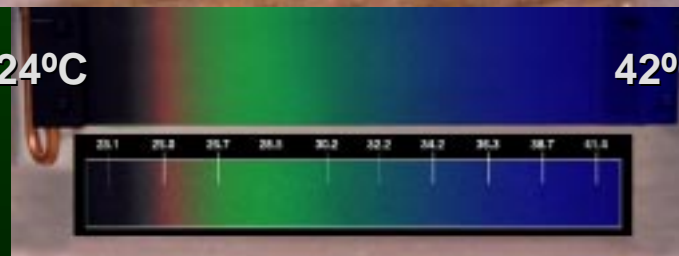


LC Thermal Image of a Module



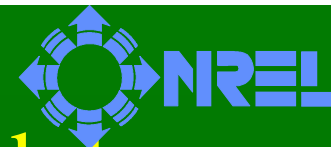
24°C

42°C



Battery Heat Generation Measurement

- ▶ To properly design a pack's thermal management system, accurate data on heat generation from modules under various charge/discharge profiles are needed
- ▶ We are using a calorimeter and a cycler to measure heat generation from large modules under any battery cycling profile



Battery Calorimeter for Large Modules

Predicting thermal performance requires knowledge of heat generation from full-size modules.



Calorimeter Cavity

A High Power Battery Cycler

- ▶ Cycling modules in the calorimeter
- ▶ Capable of simulating any driving power profile
- ▶ Up to 530 amps



A Unique Calorimeter/Cycler for EV/HEV Batteries



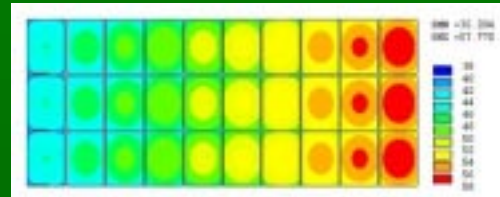
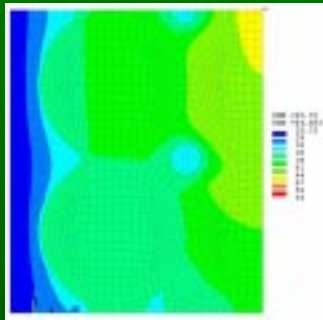
CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS

Summary

- ▶ Thermal management can improve performance and life cycle for EV/HEV battery packs.
- ▶ Thermal analysis is needed to properly design a battery module and pack thermal management system.
- ▶ Thermal imaging can be used to evaluate temperature distribution within modules/packs.
- ▶ A calorimeter/cycler is used to obtain heat generation data from modules and verify analytical predictions.

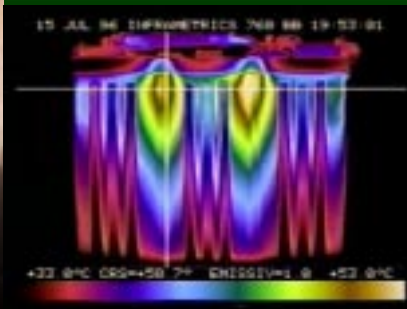


For Questions and Information



contact
Ahmad Pesaran
(303) 275-4441
ahmad_pesaran@nrel.gov

or visit our
Battery Thermal Management Web Site
www.ctts.nrel.gov/BTM



CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS