NREL National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Innovation for Our Energy Future

Prediction of Multi-physics Behaviors of Large Lithium-ion Batteries During Internal and External Short Circuit

Battery Safety 2010
November 3, 2010
Boston, MA

Battery Safety 2010
In conjunction with
6th Lithium Mobile Power
Boston, MA, Nov 3rd, 2010

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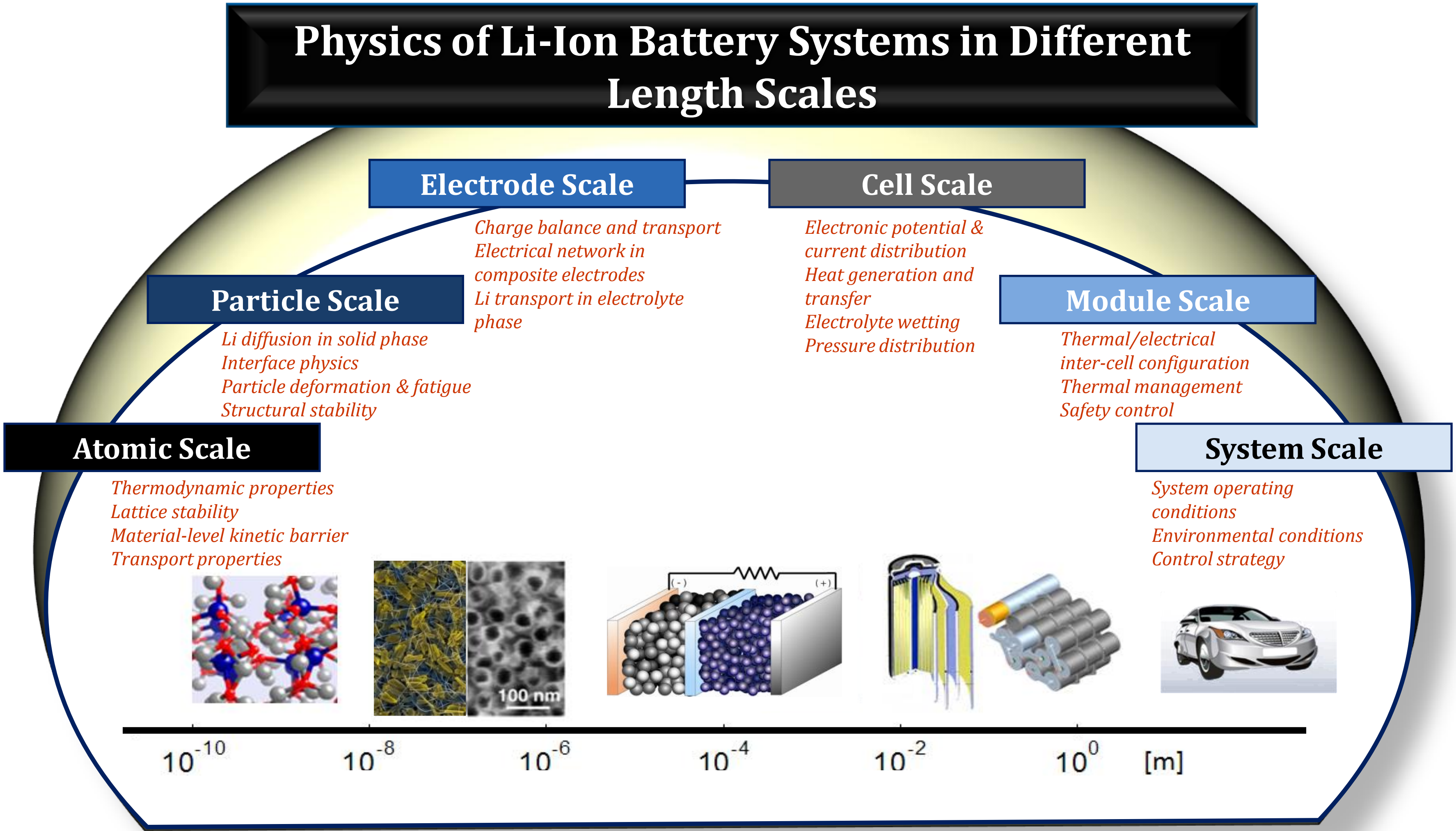
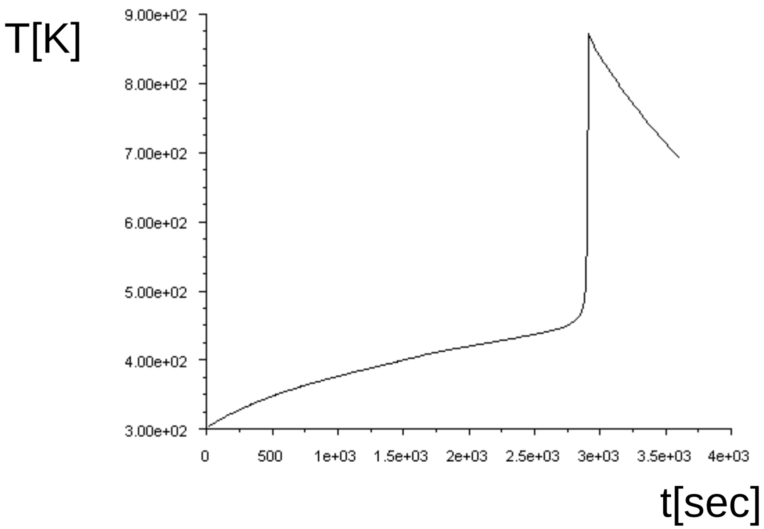
Performance, Durability and Safety

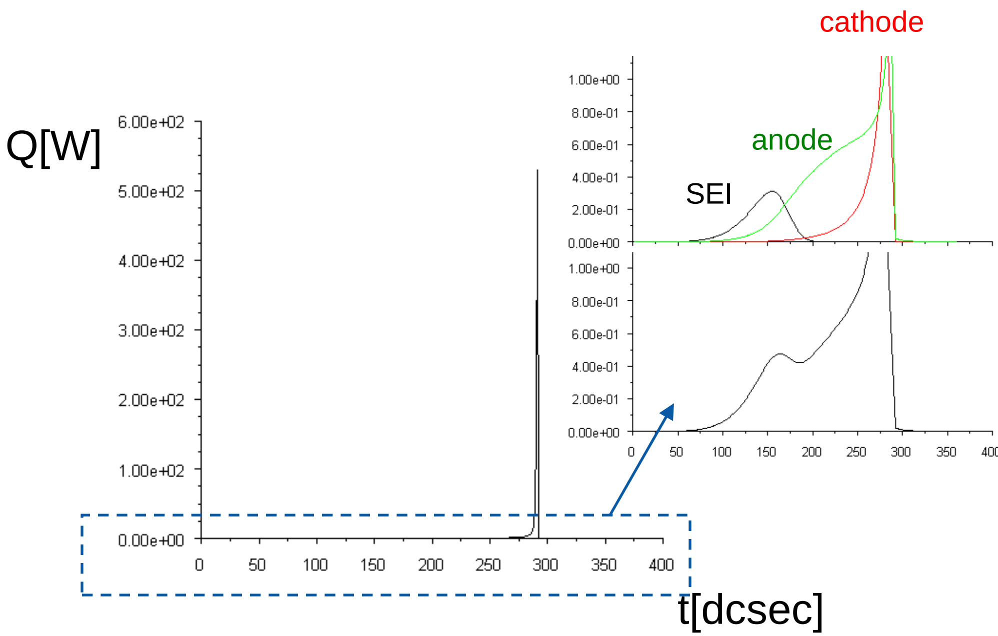


Thermal Runaway

Temperature

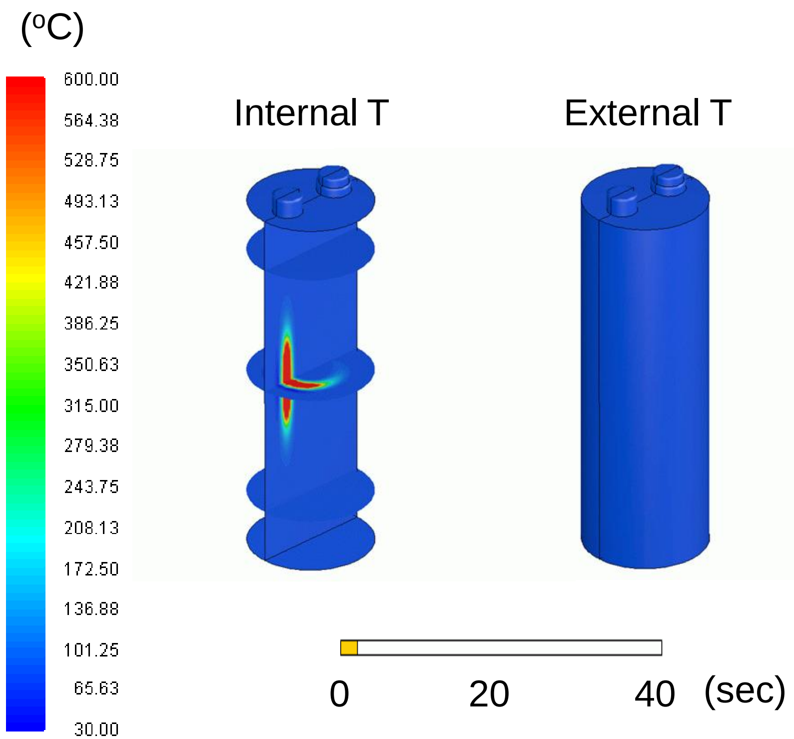
Exothermic Reactions

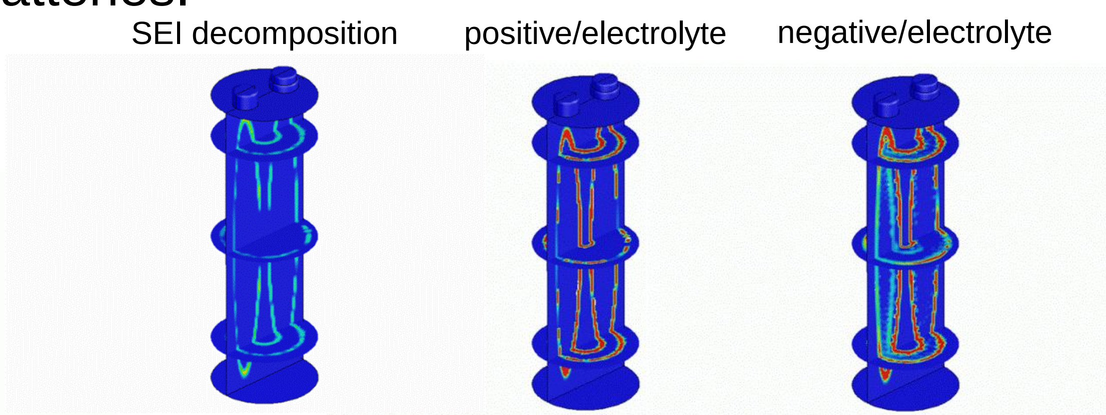




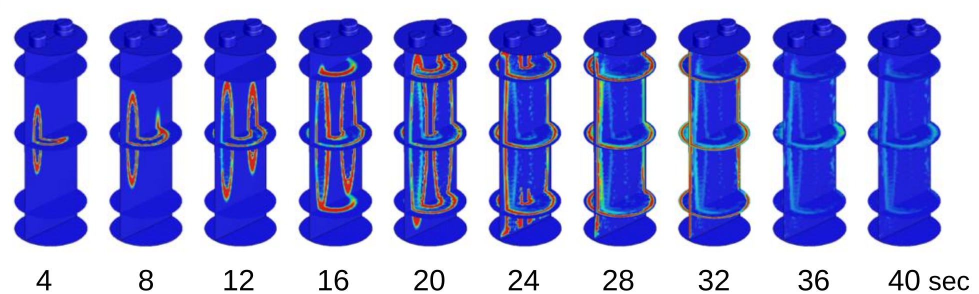
Modeling Thermal Runaway

- ✓ Constructed empirical reaction models using calorimetry data for component decompositions; Approach practiced by J. Dahn's group
- ✓ Enhanced understanding of the interaction between heat transfer and exothermic abuse reaction propagation for a particular cell/module design, and
- ✓ provided insight on how thermal characteristics and conditions can impact safety events of lithium-ion batteries.





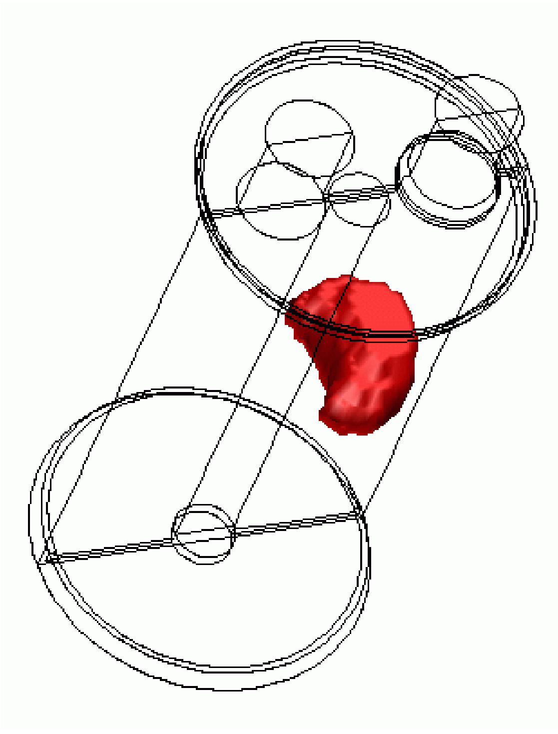
Total volumetric heat release from component reactions



Reaction Propagation

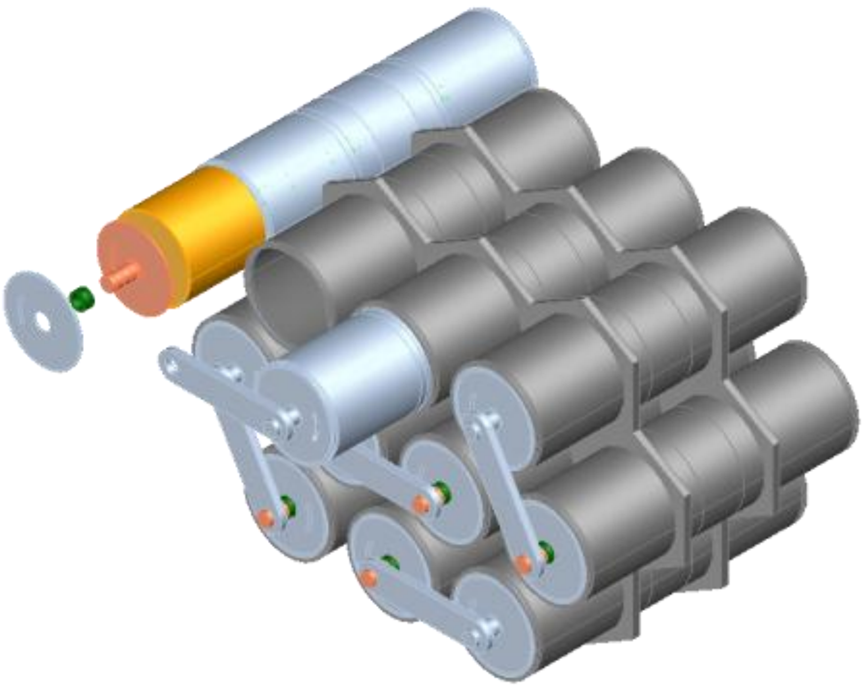
- Propagates Initially in azimuthal direction
- Forms hollow cylinder shape reaction zone
- Center axis zone starts to react
- Finally reaction goes further in outer radius cylinder zone

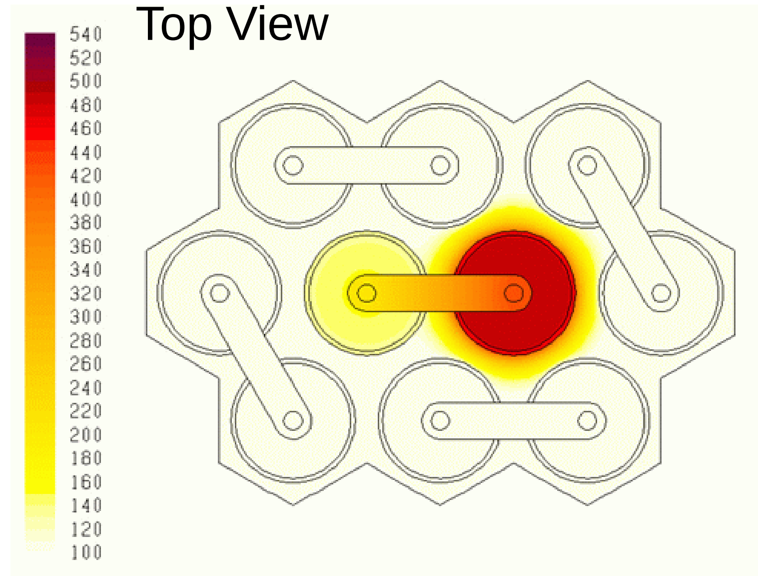
SEI decomposition reaction front

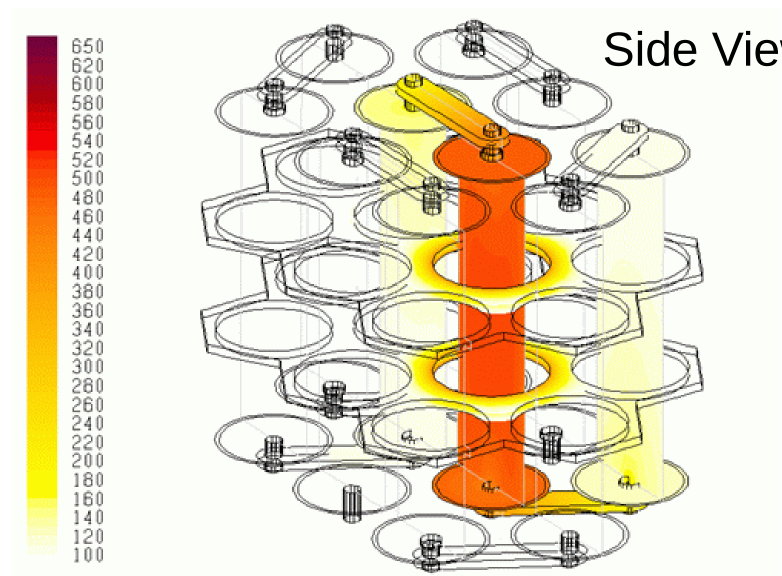


Runaway Propagation

In a multi-cell module

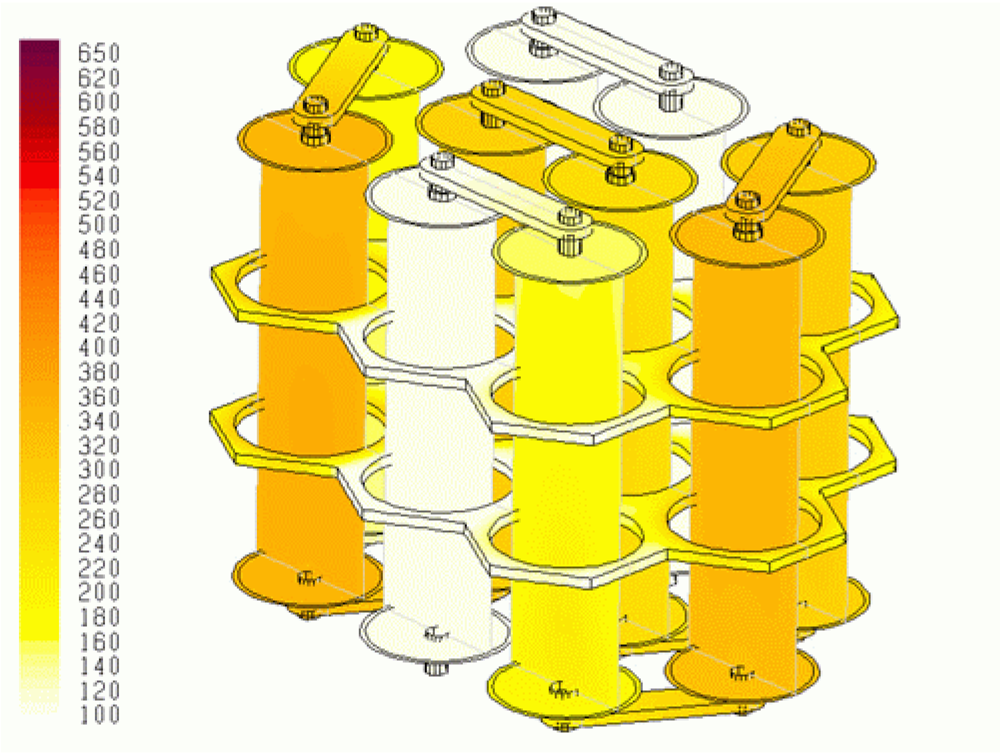






5 minutes apart between each frame

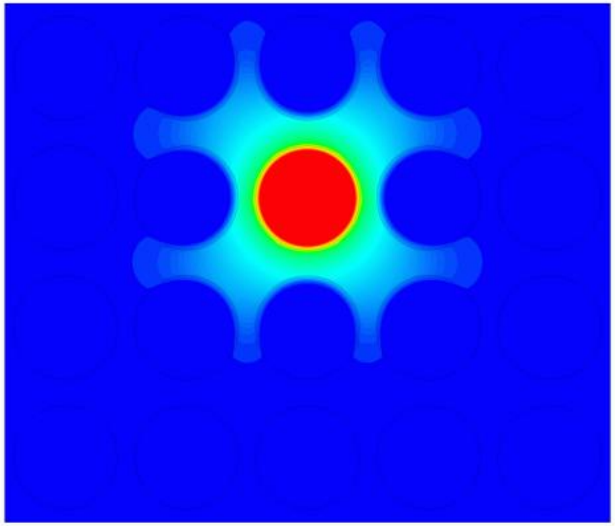
Closer Look at Reaction in an Individual Cell



2 seconds apart between each frame

Fast Heat Dissipation

- ✓ Small cell module: 20 x 18650
- ✓ Highly conductive carbon matrix wetted with phase change materials

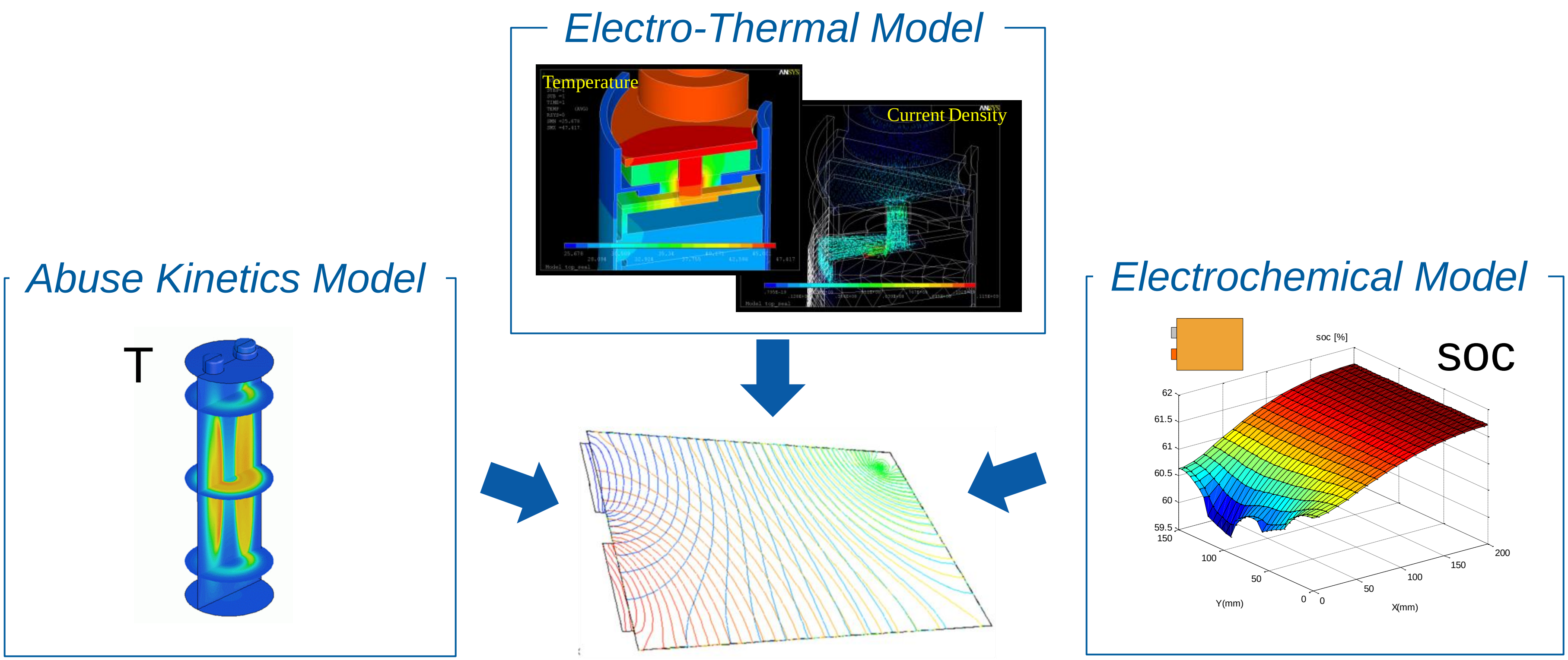


Temperature

Heat of SEI decomposition

Multi-Physics Internal Short Circuit Model

- Developed an integrated model for multi-physics internal short circuit of lithium-ion cells by linking and integrating NREL's unique electrochemical, electro-thermal, and abuse reaction kinetics models
- Performed 3D multi-physics internal short simulation study to characterize an internal short and its evolution over time

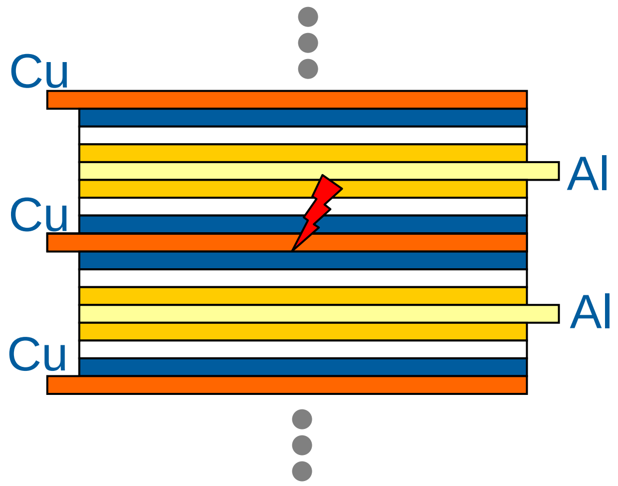


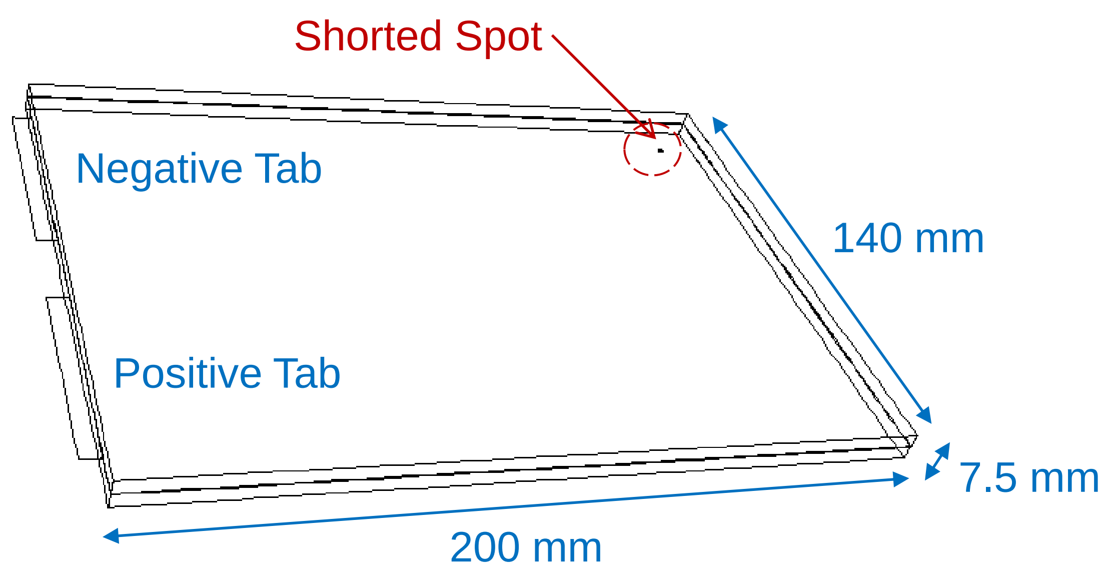
Internal Short Circuit Model Study

Performed Case Study with A 20Ah Prismatic Cell

To investigate impacts of various short natures and cell characteristics

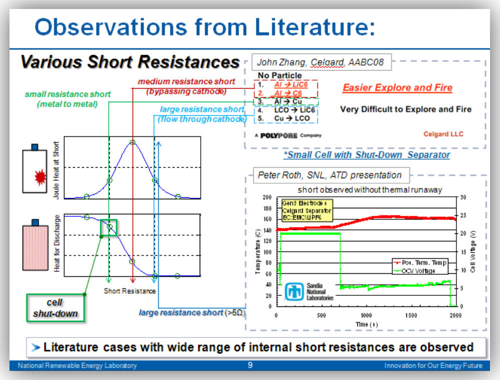
- Case Studies – 20Ah Stacked Prismatic Cell
  - ISC between metal (Al & Cu) current collector foils
  - ISC between electrode (cathode & anode) layers
    - Impact of short area – separator hole propagation
  - ISC between Al to anode – short bypassing cathode
  - Impact of Cell Size
    - Comments on Shutdown Separator
  - Impact of ISC location





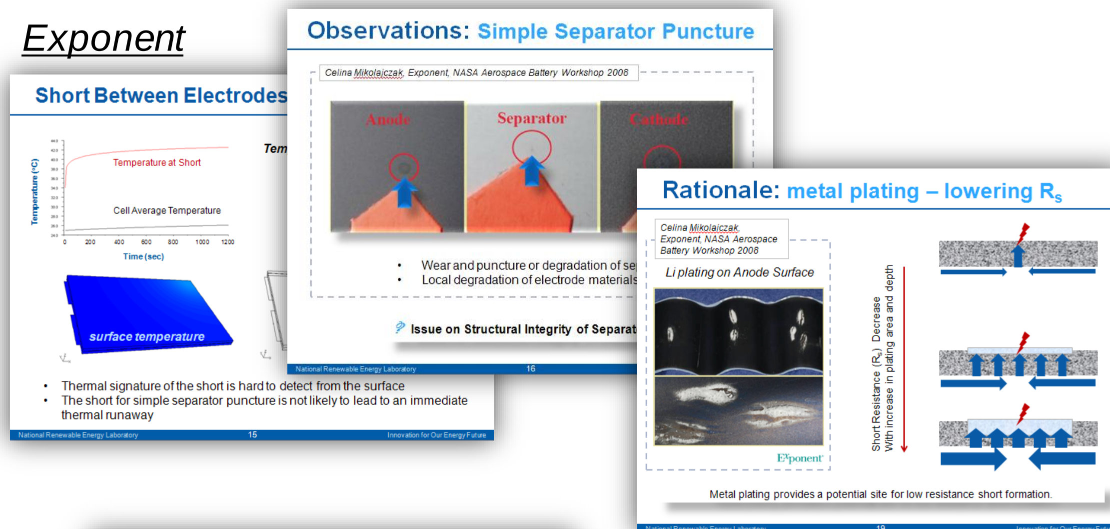
Results Agree Well with Laboratory Observations

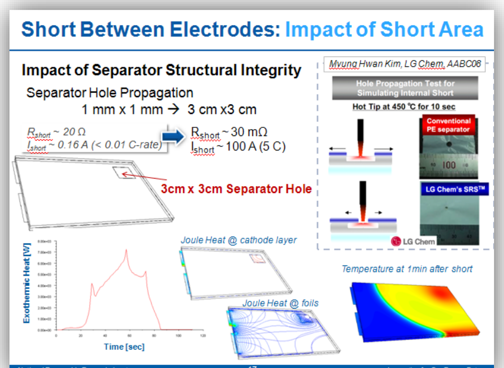
The simulation results have reasonably reproduced the experimental observations from other research groups/companies including SNL, Exponent, Celgard, LGchem, and Sony



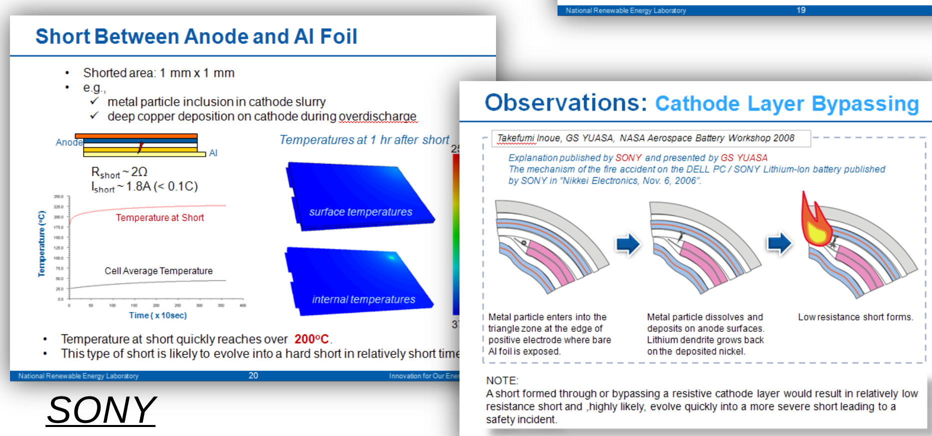
Sandia National Lab, Celgard

Exponent





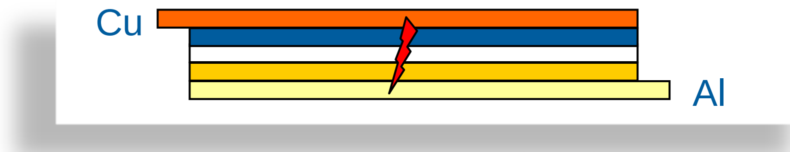
LG Chem



SONY

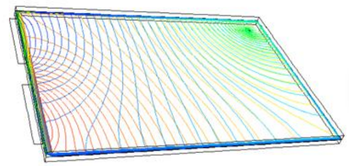
Shutdown Separator for Large Cells?

Short Between Al & Cu Metal Foils



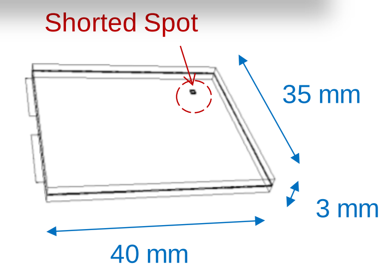
- Cell Capacity: 20 Ah

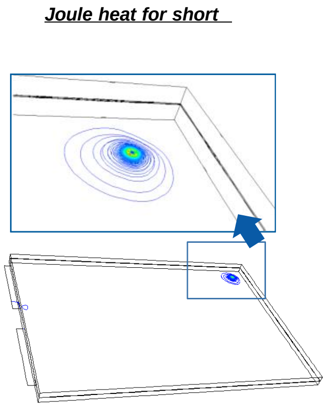
R_{short} ~ 10 mΩ
I_{short} ~ 300 A (15 C-rate)

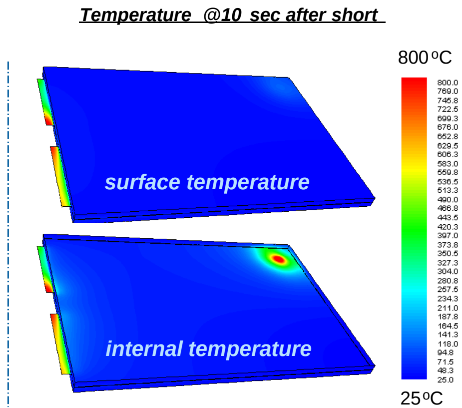


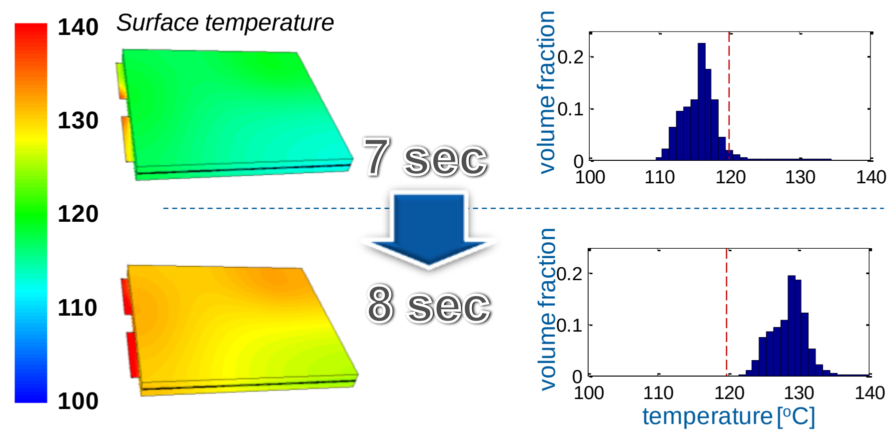
0.4 Ah

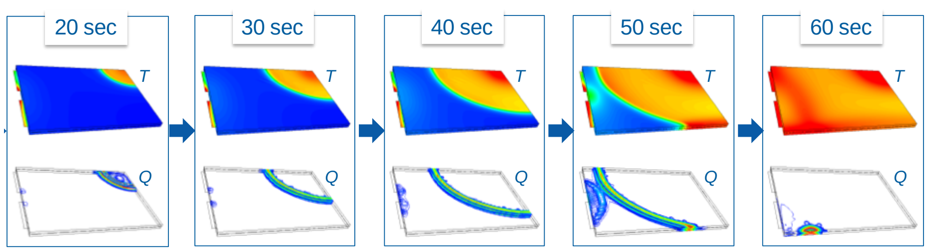
R_{short} ~ 7 mΩ
I_{short} ~ 34 A (85 C-rate)

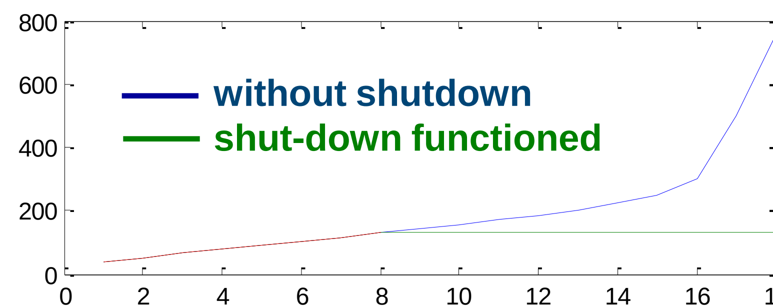




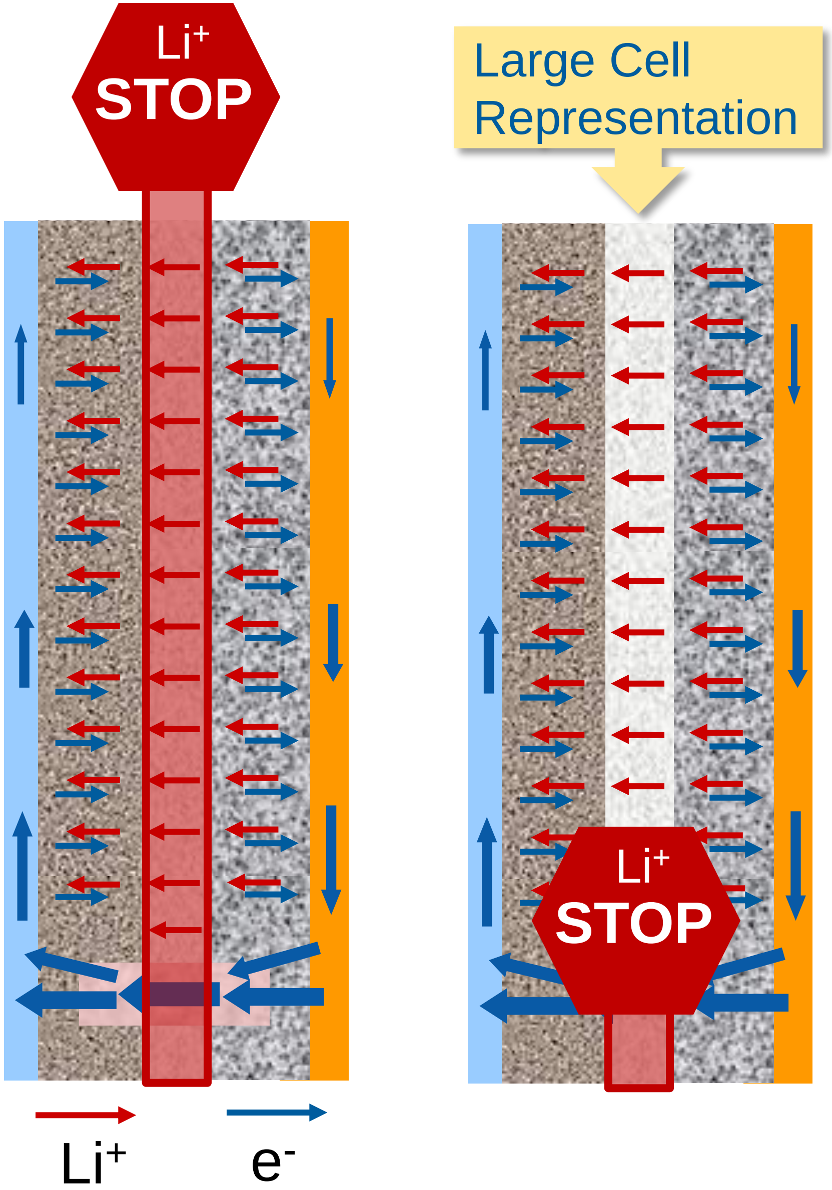








Shutdown Separator Limitation



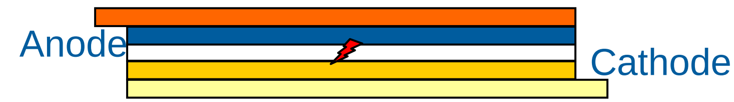
- Thermally triggered
- Block the ion current in circuit

Difficult to apply in

- Large capacity system
- High voltage system

Ceramic Reinforced Separator

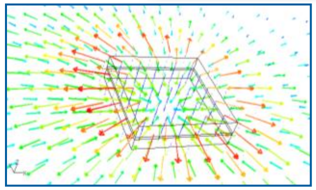
Short Between Cathode and Anode Electrodes



separator hole propagation

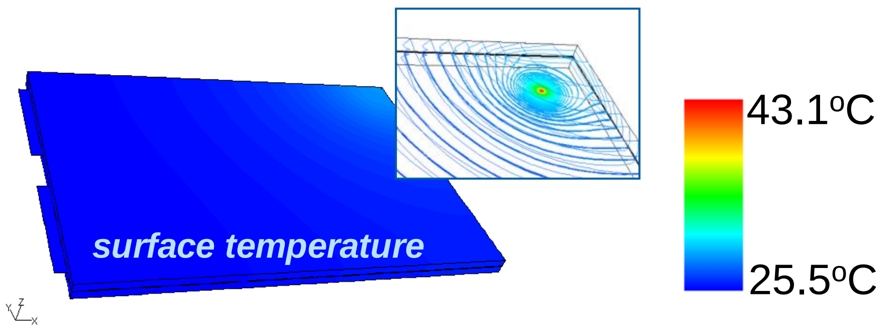
- Shorted area: 1 mm x 1 mm → 3 cm x3 cm

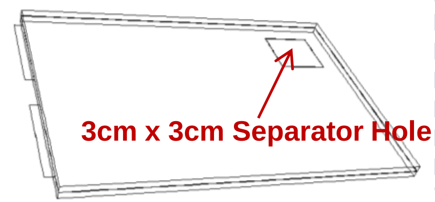
R_{short} ~ 20 Ω
I_{short} ~ 0.16 A (< 0.01 C-rate)



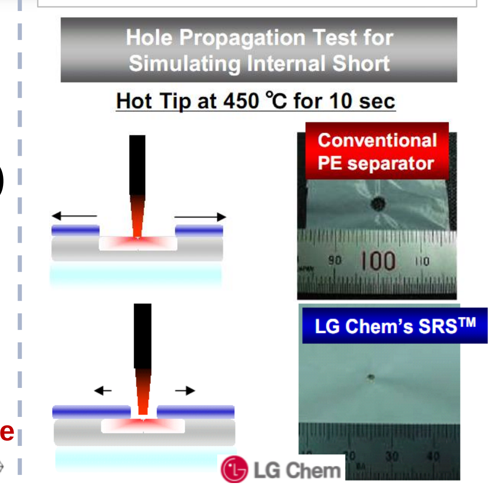
current density field near short

→ R_{short} ~ 30 mΩ
I_{short} ~ 100 A (5 C)

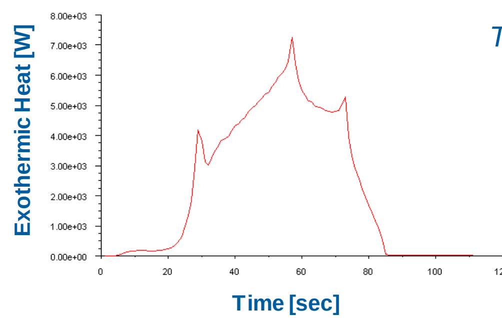




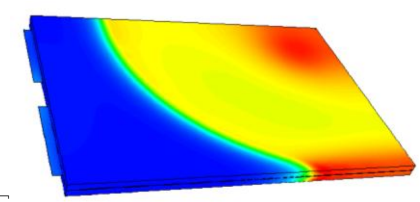
Myung Hwan Kim, LG Chem, AABC08



- Thermal signature of the short is hard to detect from the surface
- The short for simple separator puncture is not likely to lead to an immediate thermal runaway



Temperature at 1min after short



- Maintaining structural integrity of separator seems critical to delay short evolution

External Short of Multi-Cell Battery

Background

- Cell **PTC** device proven effective control for over-current hazards at Li-Ion cell and small battery level
- Known as ineffective in high-voltage or large capacity battery designs
- Need to verify if NASA's spacesuit battery design (16P-5S) array could depend on cell PTC devices to tolerate an external short

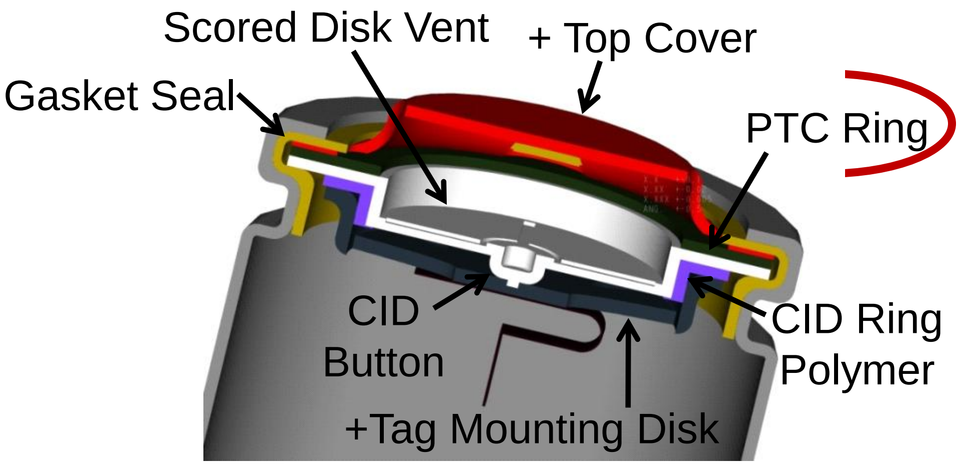
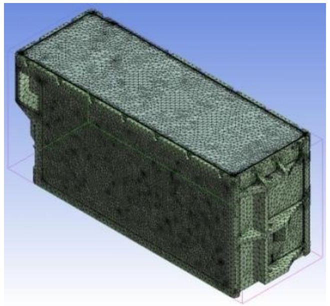
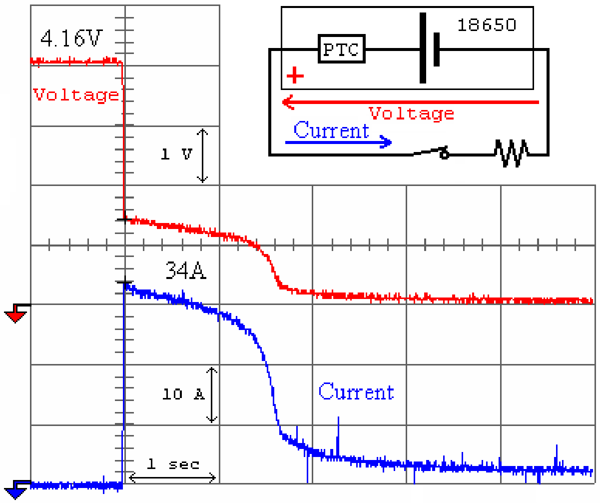


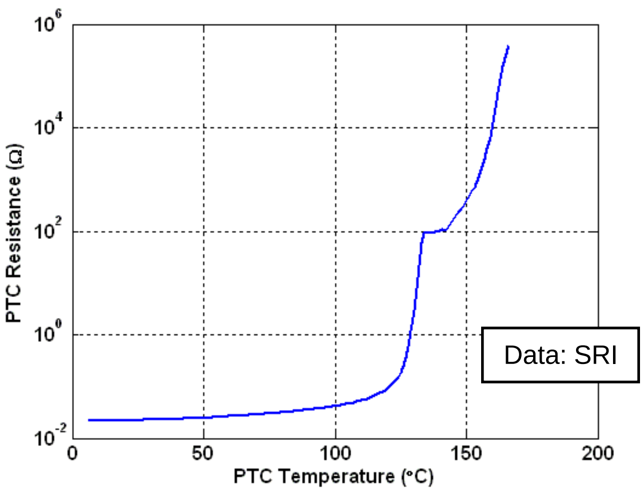
Photo: NASA



PTC Device

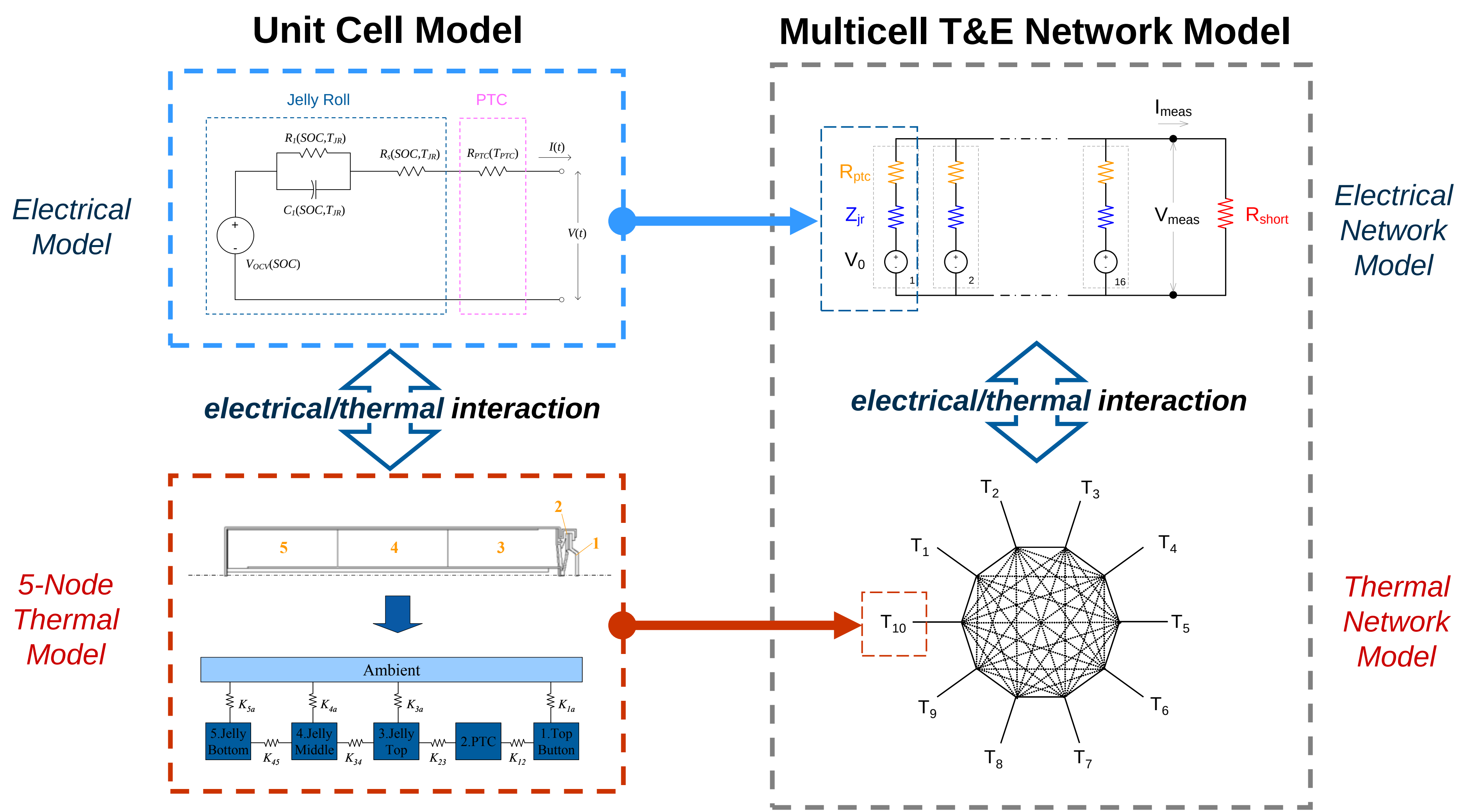
- Commercial lithium ion 18650 cells typically have a current-limiting PTC (positive temperature coefficient) device installed in the cell cap to limit external currents in the event of an external short to the cell.
- The PTC device consists of a matrix of crystalline polyethylene containing dispersed conductive particles, usually carbon black. The resistance of the PTC device increases sharply with temperature.
- Once triggered, PTC behaves as a thermal regulator
- PTC device often fails to function in high voltage / high capacity systems



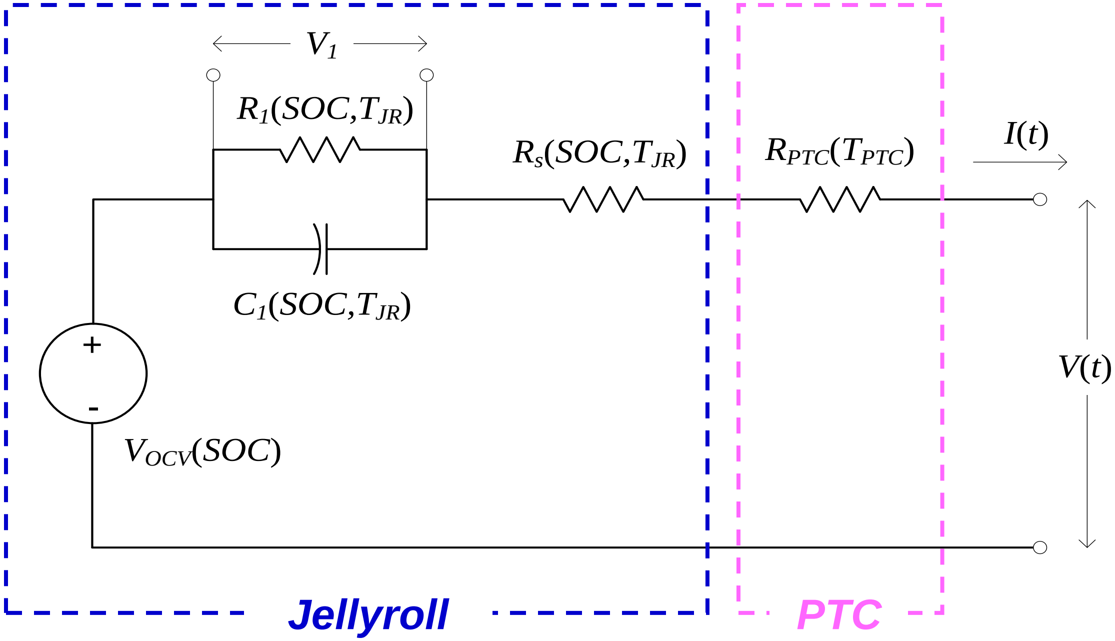


Model Development Approach

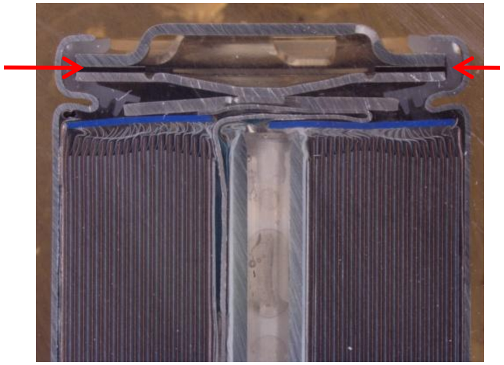
***Integrated Thermal and Electrical Network Model** of a Multicell Battery for Safety Evaluation of Module Design with PTC Devices during External Short*

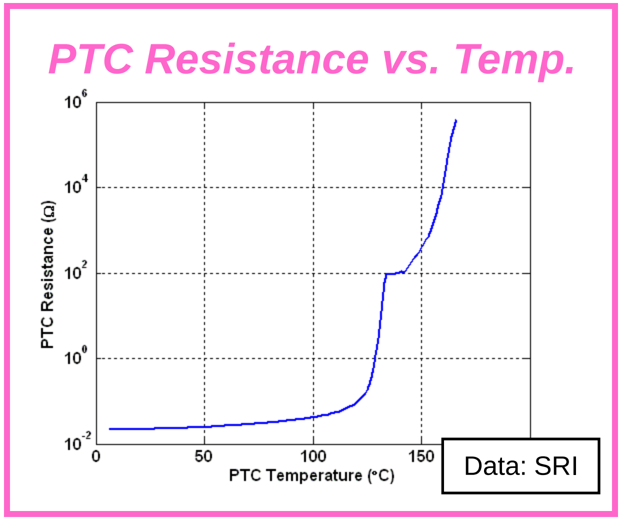


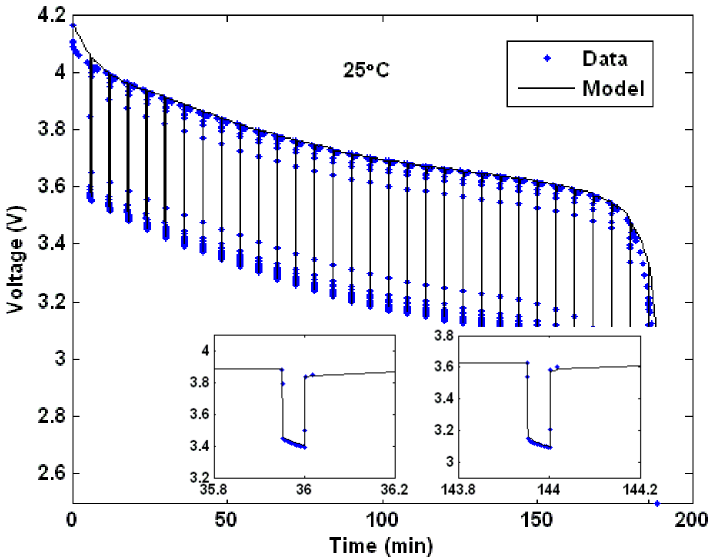
Unit Cell Model – Electrical



ECM including PTC device



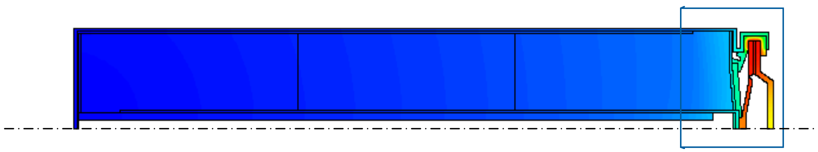




Unit Cell Model – 5-node Thermal

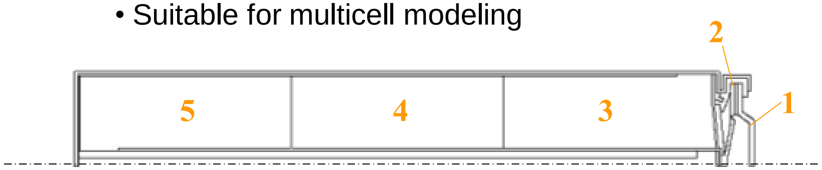
Detailed Cell Thermal Model

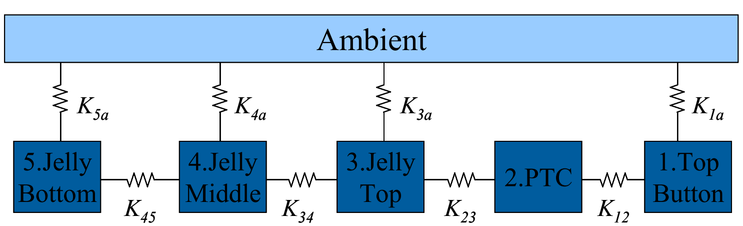
- Large computational requirement
- Not suitable for multicell modeling



5-Node Cell Thermal Model

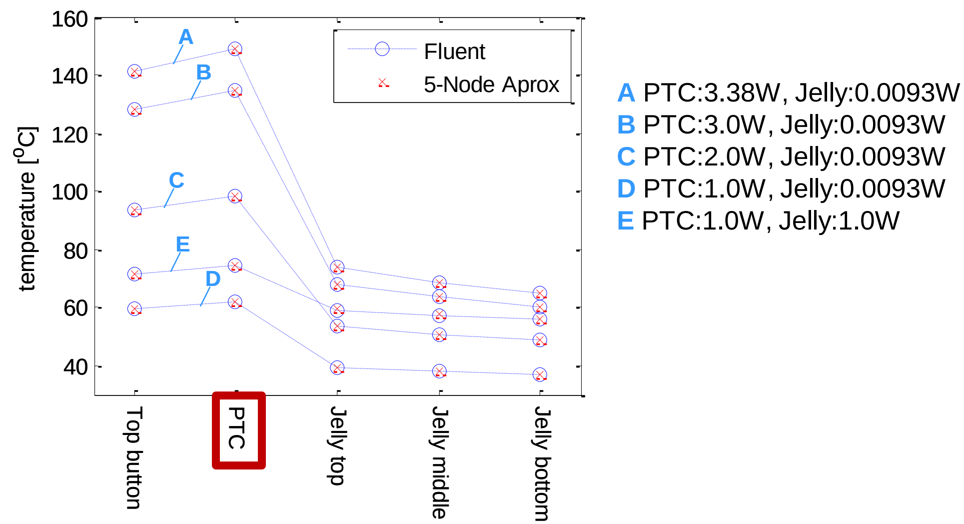
- Low order dynamic model
- Suitable for multicell modeling





Comparison of Detailed and 5-Node Models

for different heat generation conditions



Steady Form

$$Q_i = \sum_j K_{ij}\left(T_i - T_j\right)$$

Unsteady Form

$$Q_i = \sum_j K_{ij}\left(T_i - T_j\right) + MCp_i \frac{dT_i}{dt}$$

Multicell Network Model – Thermal

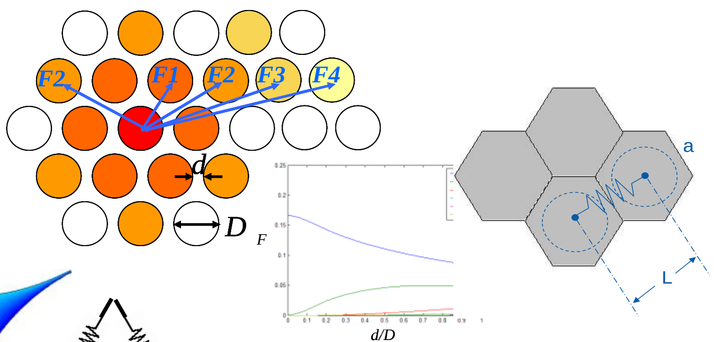
Thermal Network Model

Thermal Mass: Identifying thermal mass at each node
Heat Generation: PTC heat, discharge/charge heat (, abuse reaction heat)
Heat Transfer: Quantifying heat exchange among the nodes

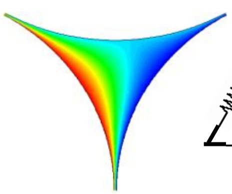
$$\Rightarrow \quad Q_{transport,i} = \sum_{j=1,\, j\neq i} -Q_{ij}, \quad Q_{ij} = Q_{ij,radiation} + Q_{ij,connector\_conduction} + Q_{ij,convection} \cdots$$

Cell-to-Cell Irradiative Heat Transfer

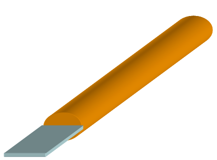
Transverse Heat Transfer Through Plates



Heat Conduction Through Air Gap



Heat Rejection Through Wires



Heat Transfer to Ambient

Photo: NASA ISS01E5361

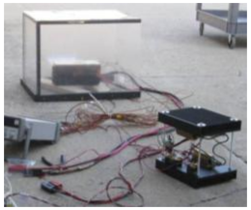


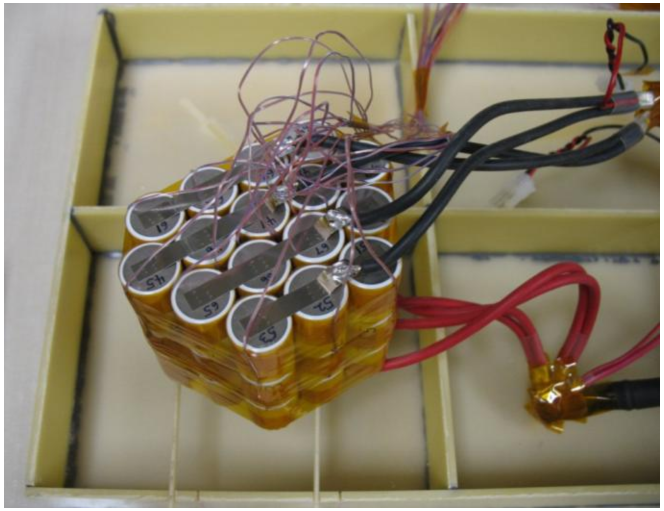
Photo: ABSL

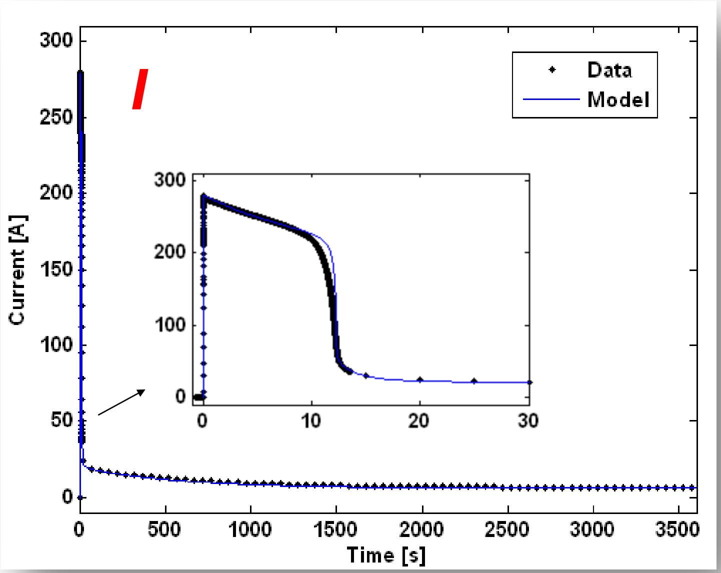
Experimental Model Validation: 16P Bank

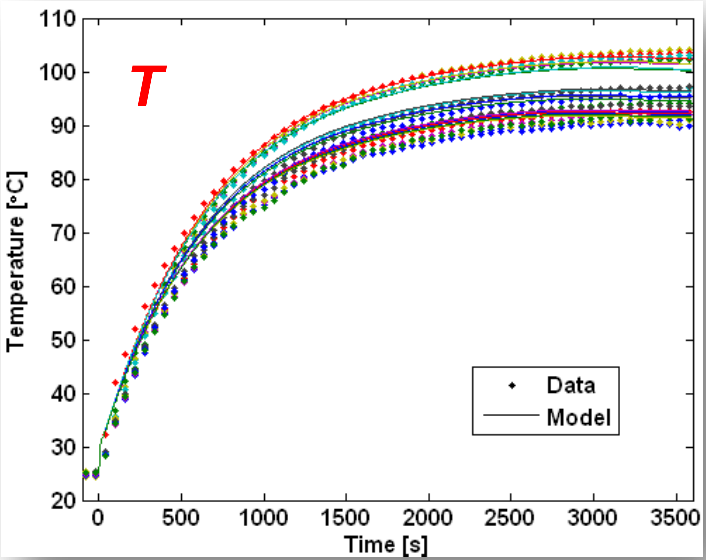
Test Data & Photo: SRI

16P model validated against a bank short test

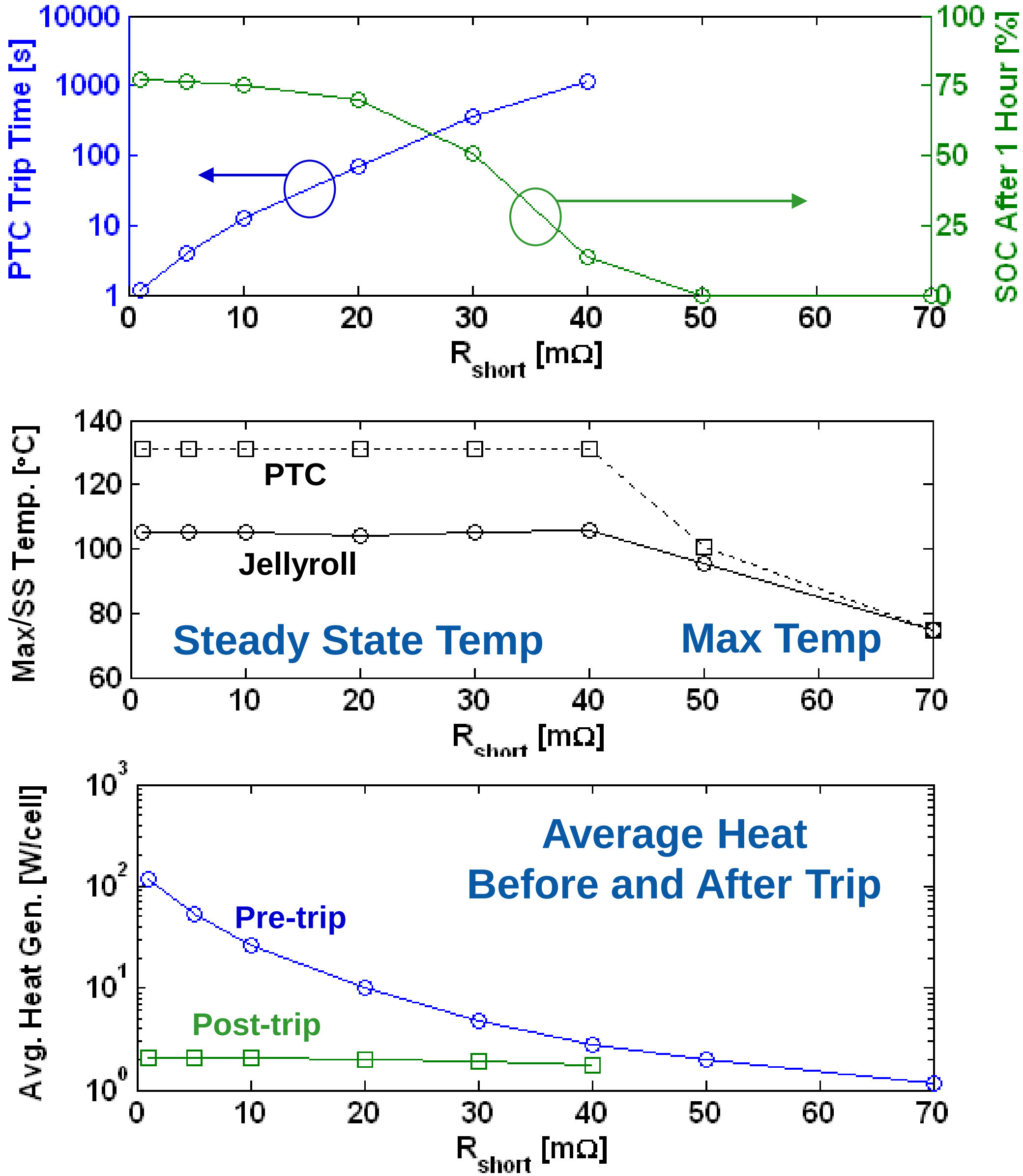
- 10 mΩ external short
- Peak inrush current
- PTC device trip time
- Steady-state behavior
- Temperature rise profiles for all 16 cells







Simulation Results at Various Values of R_{short}



- Rshort ≤ 40 mΩ: PTC-limited
- Rshort ≥ 50 mΩ: SOC-limited

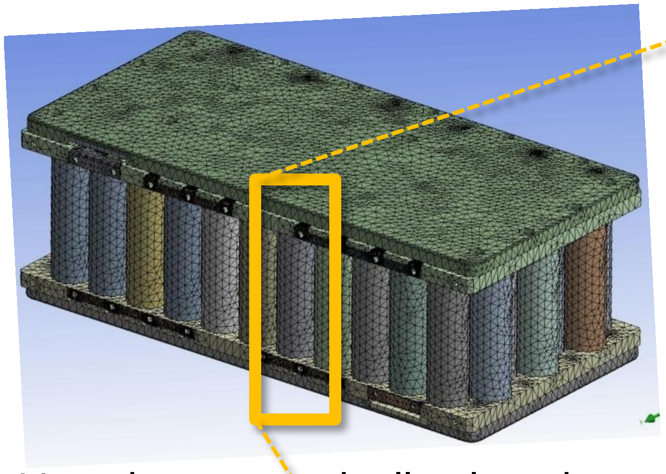
- Tripped PTC device serves as thermal regulator

  [dRPTC/dT]130˚C = 3 Ω /˚C

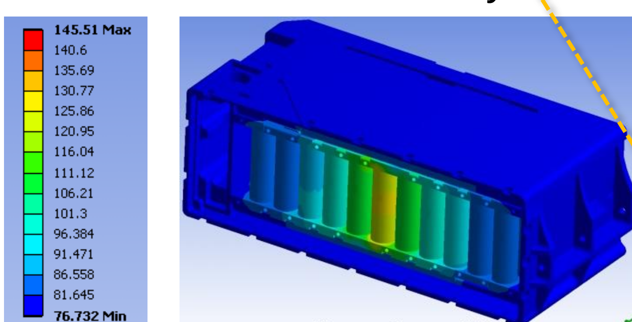
  (5 orders of magnitude > than at 25˚C)

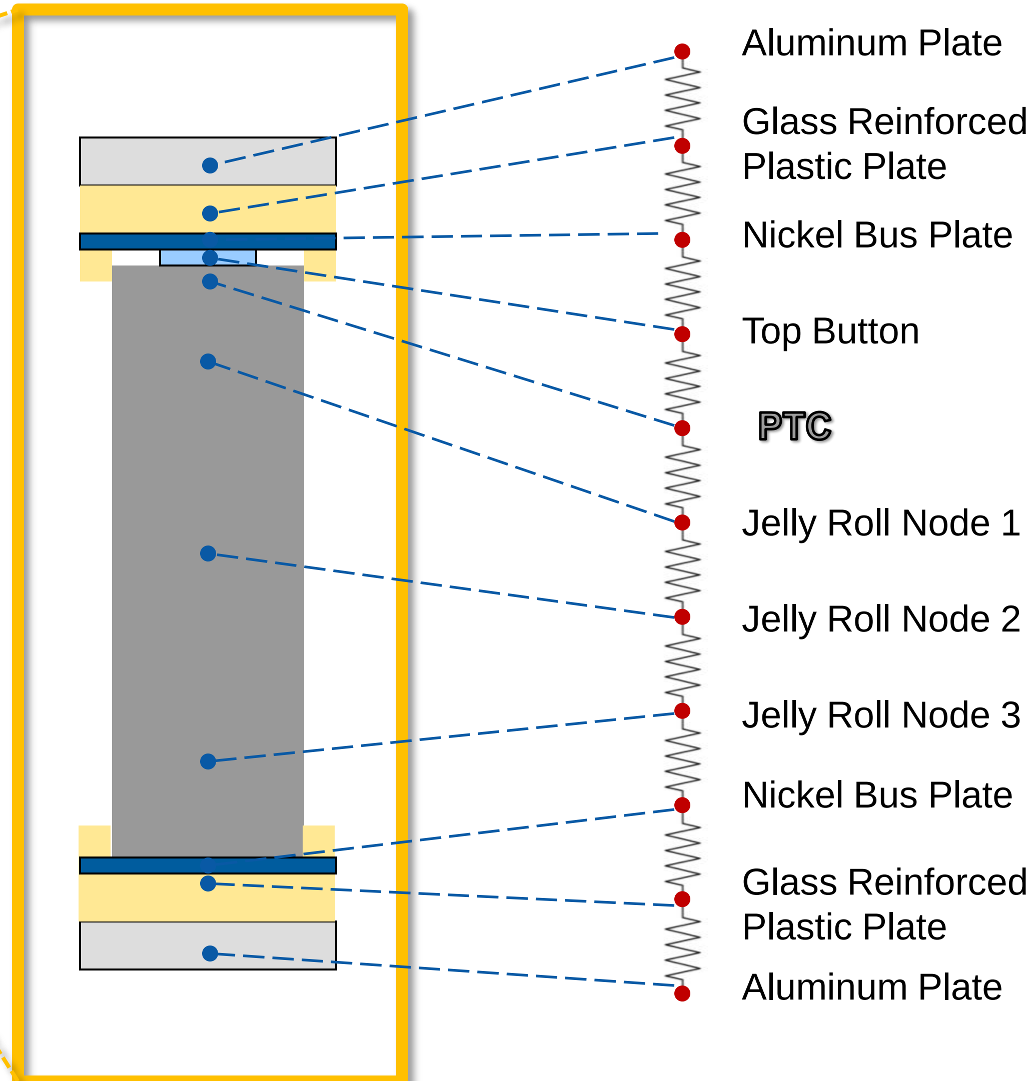
- Large pre-trip heat rates are safe provided that they have
  - Short duration
  - Sufficient thermal mass
  - Sufficient heat dissipation

Extend Validated 16P Model for 16P-5S Pack



- 11 nodes are vertically placed at 80 cell locations
- Node thermal connections are defined considering various heat transfer modes
- Aluminum enclosure box is considered thermally lumped
- 11 x 80 + 1 = 881 node system





Model Validation for Pack External Short

ABSL experiment: Bank 3 short through external resistor

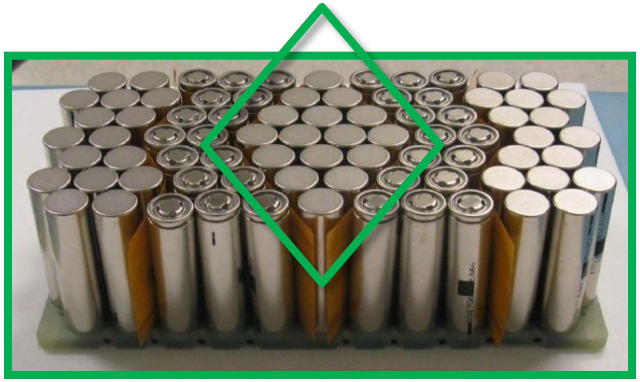
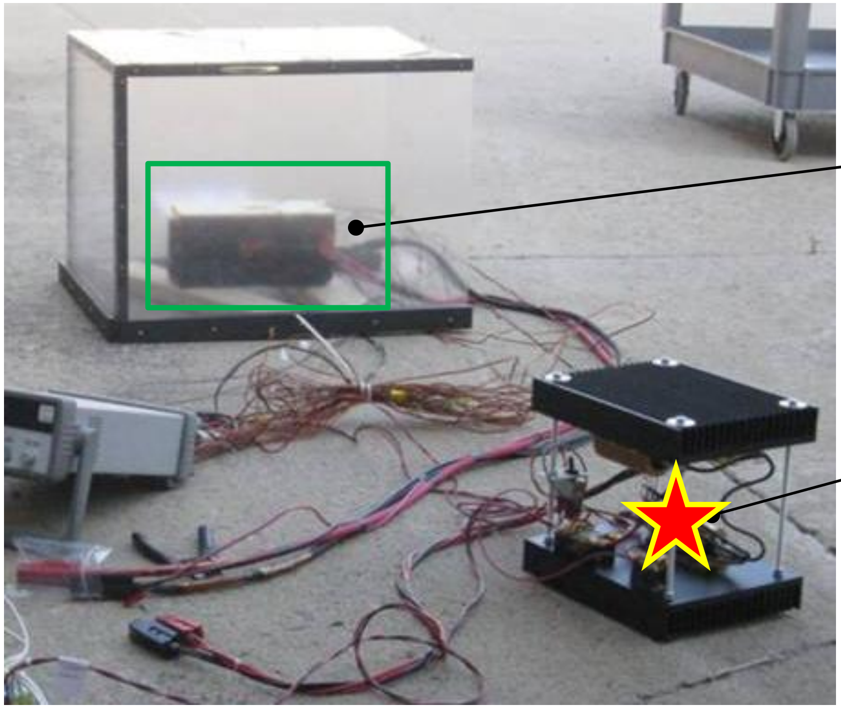


Photo: ABSL

Photo: NASA



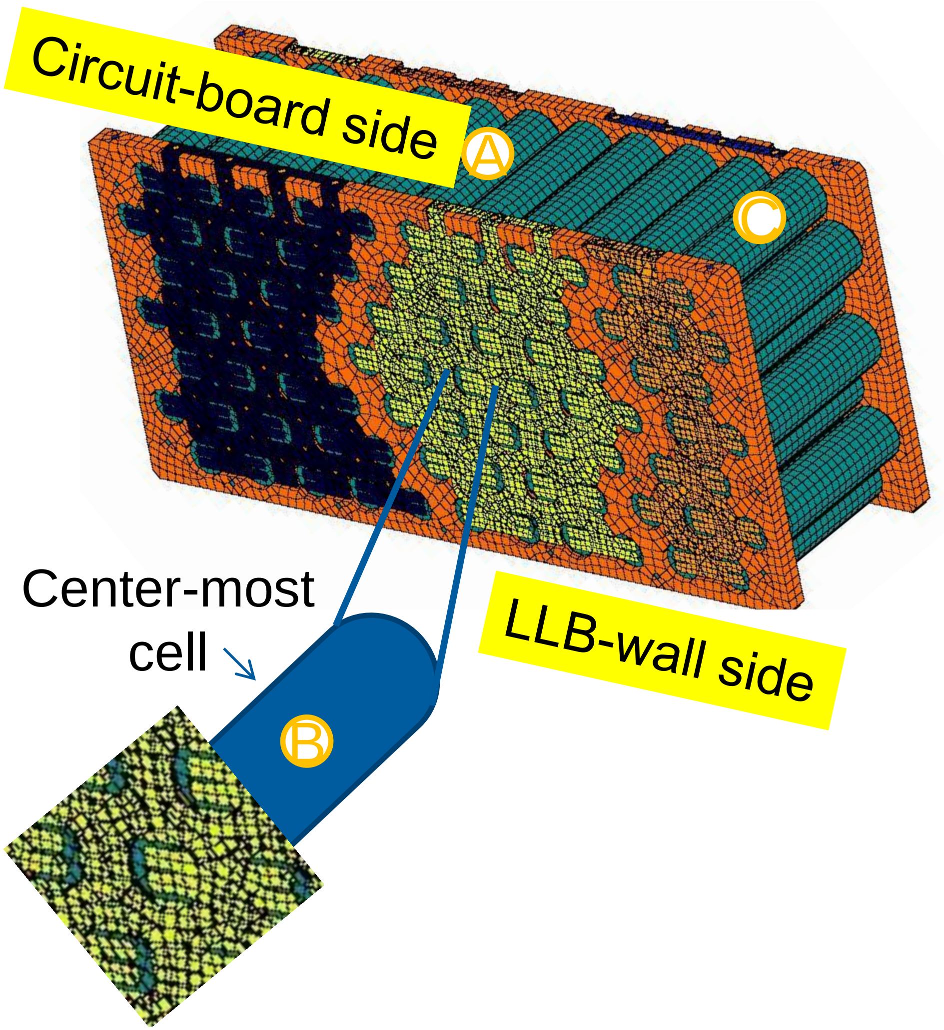
80 cell battery in test enclosure

10 mΩ resistor

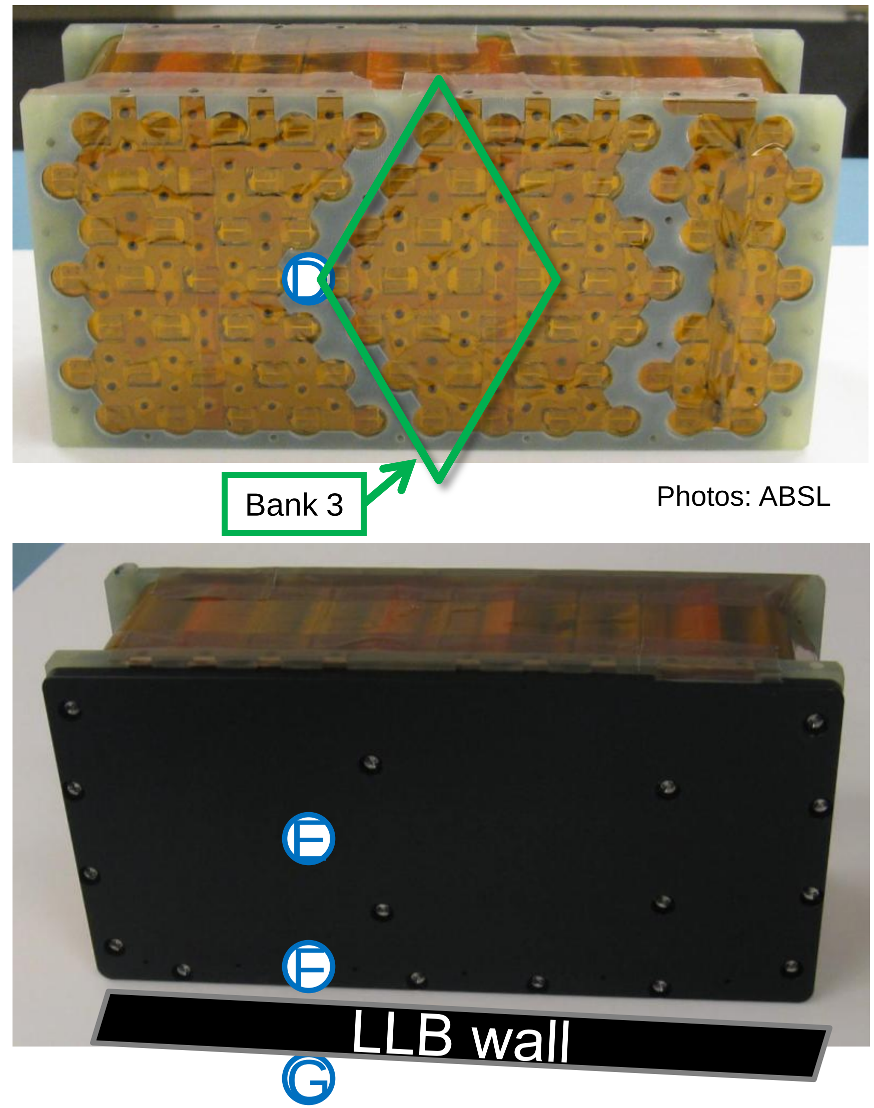
Photo: ABSL

ABSL Instrumentation

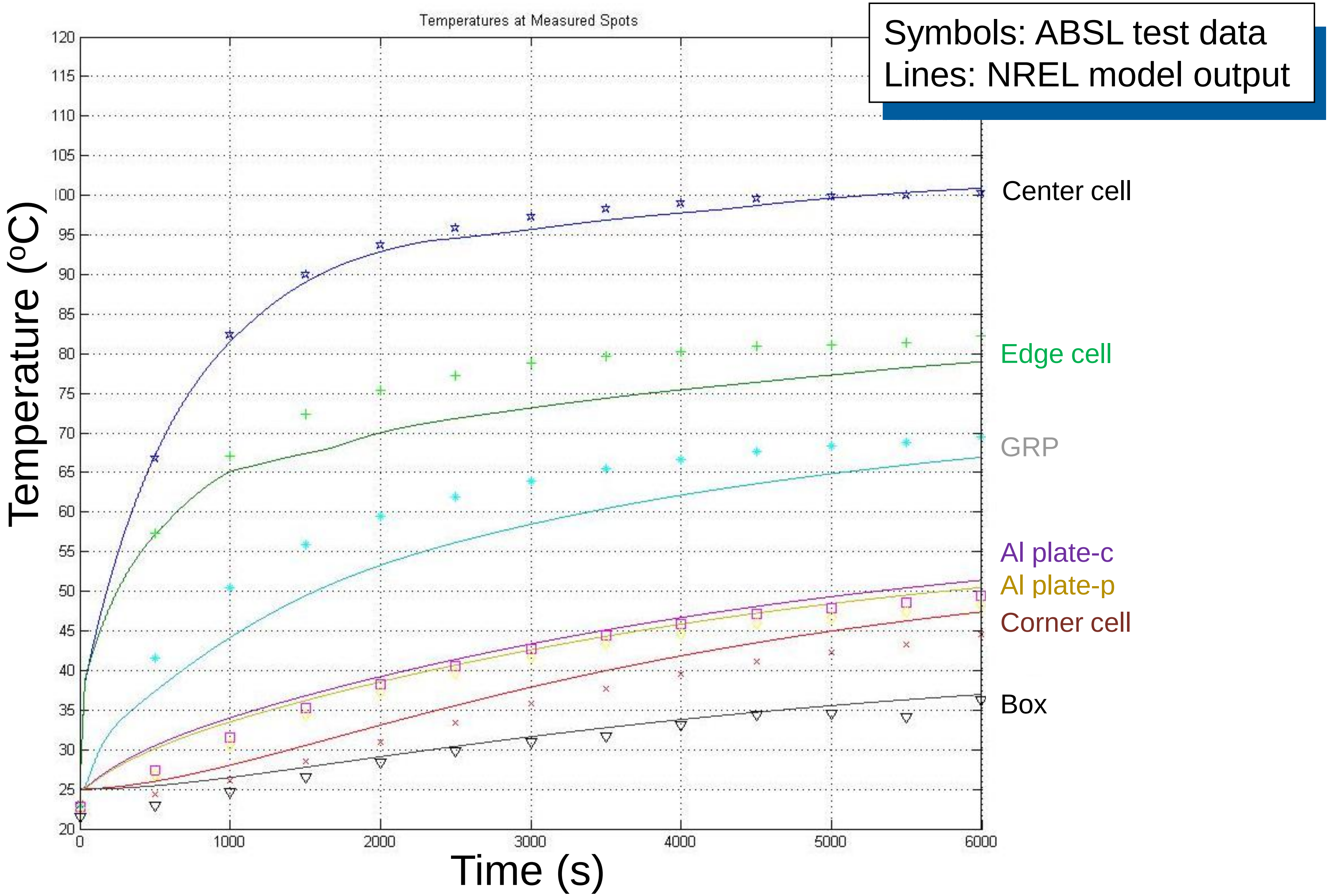
<u>Cell Temperature Sensor Locations</u>



<u>Brick Temperature Sensor Locations</u>

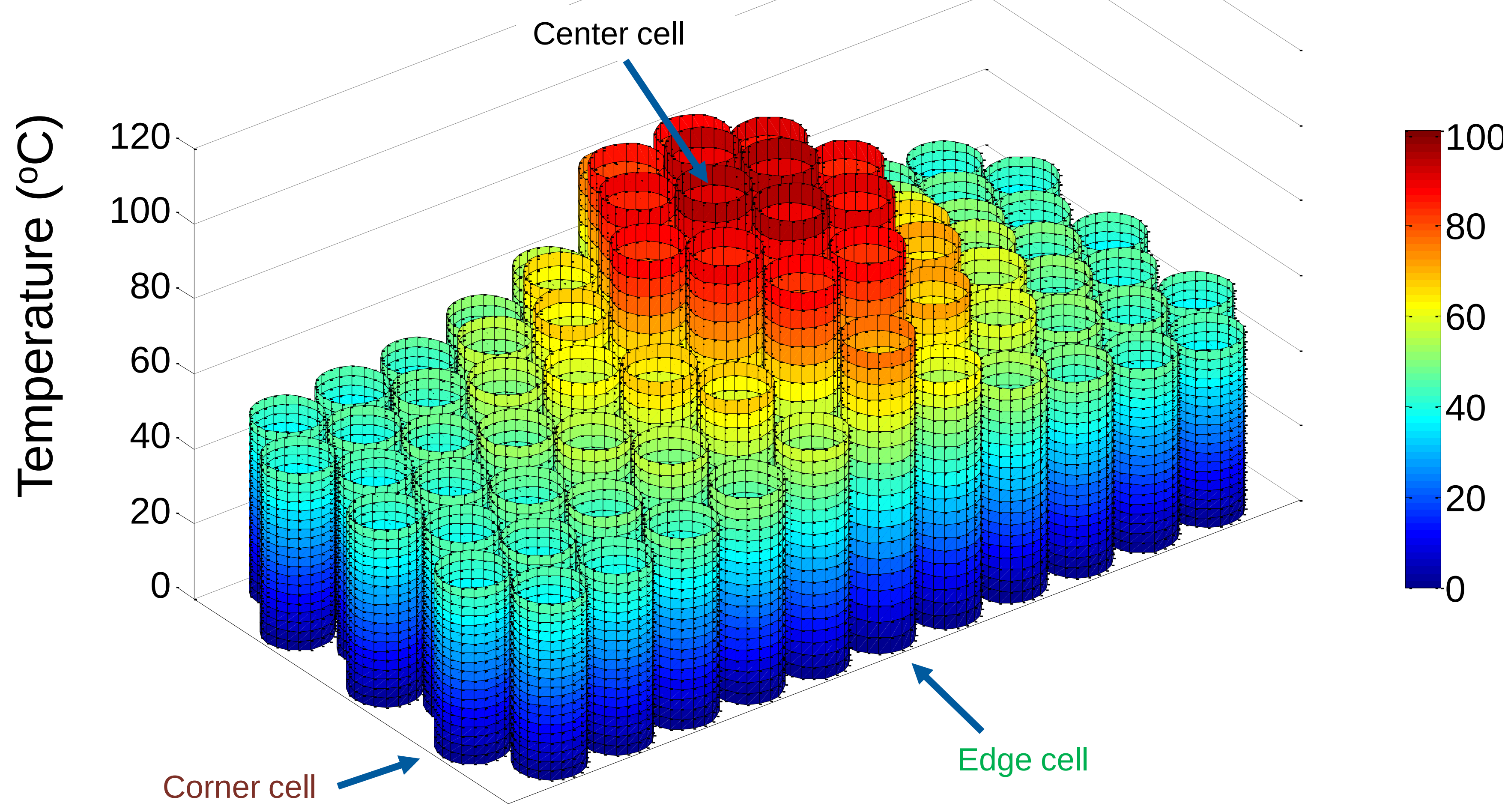


Model Validation – First 6000 seconds



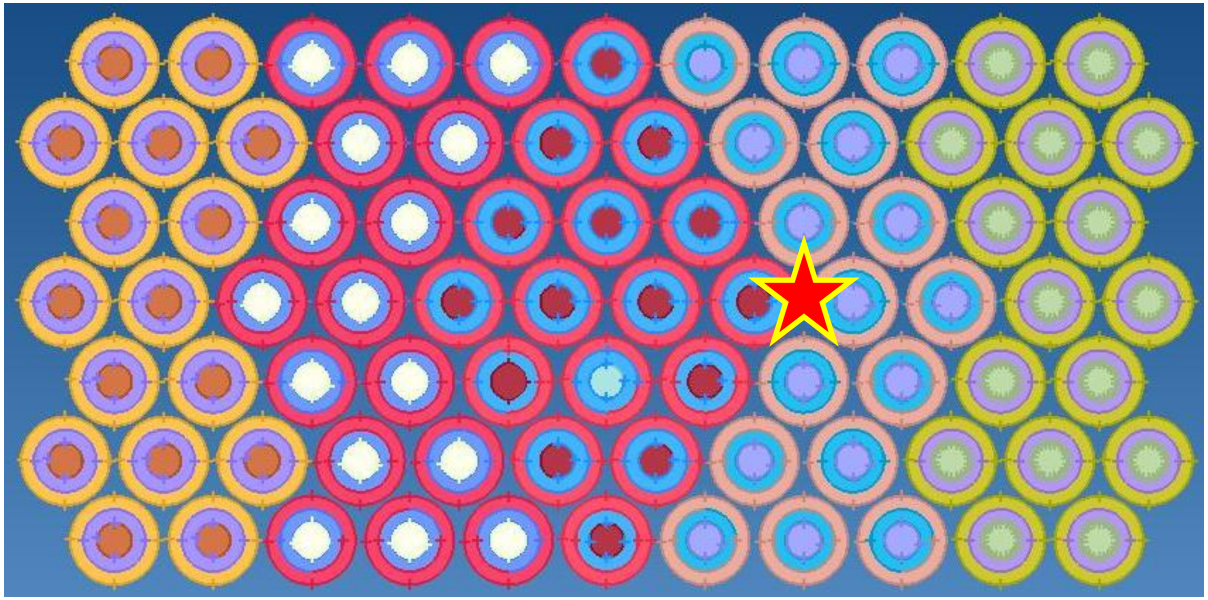
Cell Temperature Distribution at 6000 seconds

Height of cylinder depicts peak jellyroll temperature (°C) of each cell as predicted by model.



Model Analysis for Pack-Internal Shorts

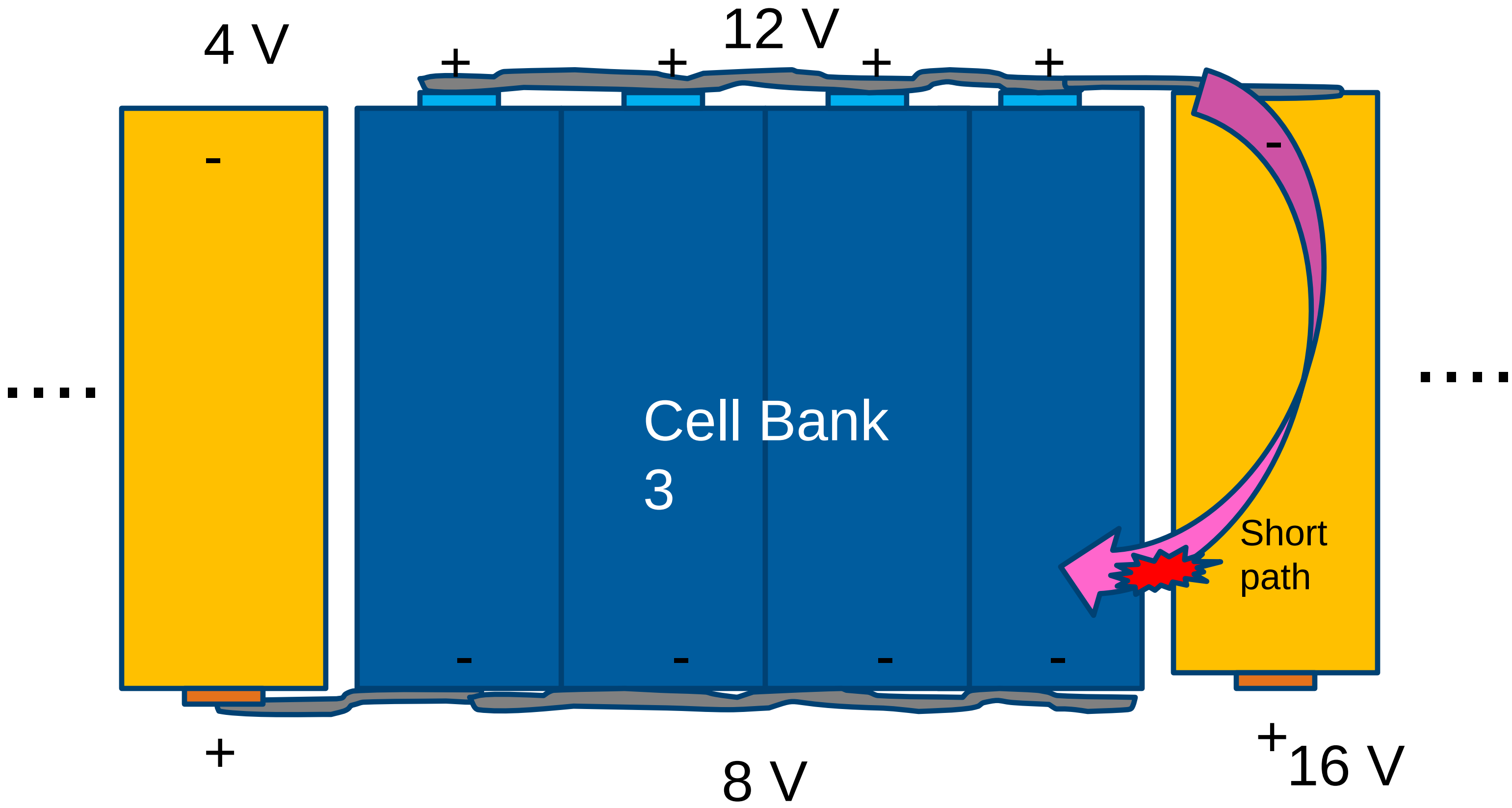
E.g., bank 3 short is caused by foreign object between banks 3 and 4*



Bank 1	Bank 2	Bank 3	Bank 4	Bank 5
+	-	+	-	+

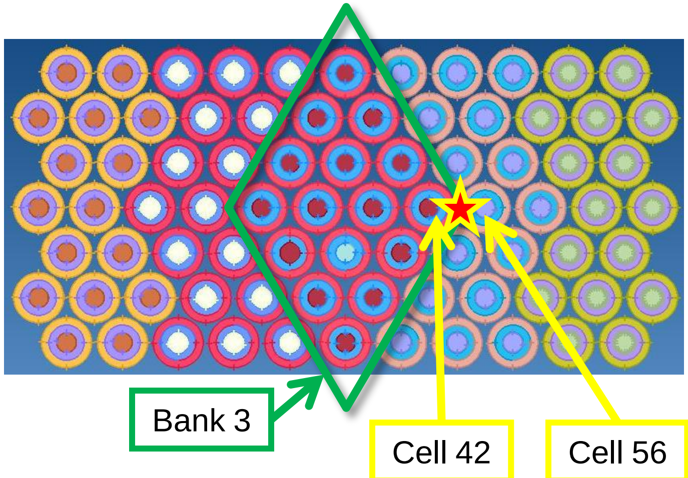
* Requires more than two faults: Introduction of foreign object debris & penetration of Kapton/Nomex/Kapton divider between banks

Schematic of Shorted Middle Cell Bank



- Short runs through can of cell from adjacent bank 4
- Bare walls of cells are negatively biased
- Note that 3-layer (Kapton-Nomex-Kapton) bank-to-bank insulator is omitted for clarity

Bank 3 Short from 100% SOC



- Cell 42 (bank 3) participates in electrical discharge
- Cell 56 (bank 4) does not electrically discharge; its external can wall serves as a path for short current
- Model assumes ohmic heat of short shared equally by cells 42 and 56

- Internal-to-pack short more thermally severe than external-to-pack
- Thermal mass dominates – negligible dependence on Earth vs. space boundary conditions
- Runaway possibly prevented at 10 mΩ
- Runaway predicted at 20,30 mΩ with collateral damage

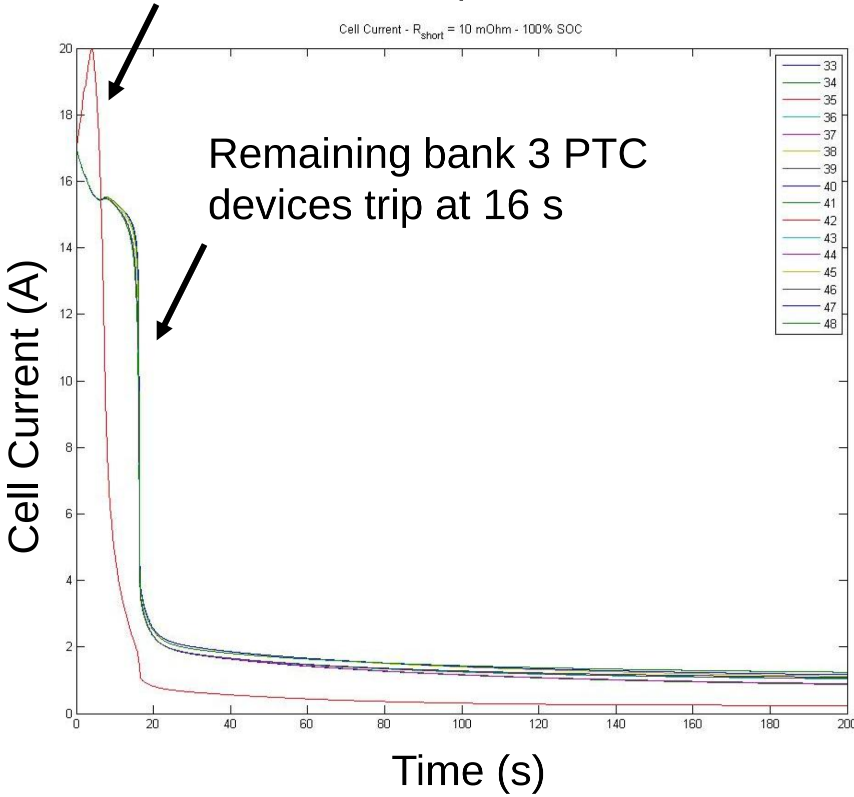
R_{short}	**Short Condition** (SOC_0 = 100%)	**Cell 42 T_{max}** (Bank 3)	**Cell 56 T_{max}** (Bank 4)
10 mΩ	External-to-pack, earth	97°C @ 6000-s	75°C @ 6000-s
	Internal-to-pack, earth	150°C @ 16-s	146°C @ 16-s
	Internal-to-pack, space	153°C @ 16-s	147°C @ 16-s
20 mΩ	Internal-to-pack, space	525°C @ 110-s	522°C @ 110-s
30 mΩ	Internal-to-pack, space	595°C @ 240-s	591°C @ 240-s

Bank 3 Short from 100% SOC: 10 mΩ vs. 20 mΩ

10 mΩ:

Bank 3 PTC devices trip quickly and uniformly because high inrush current causes PTC self-heating

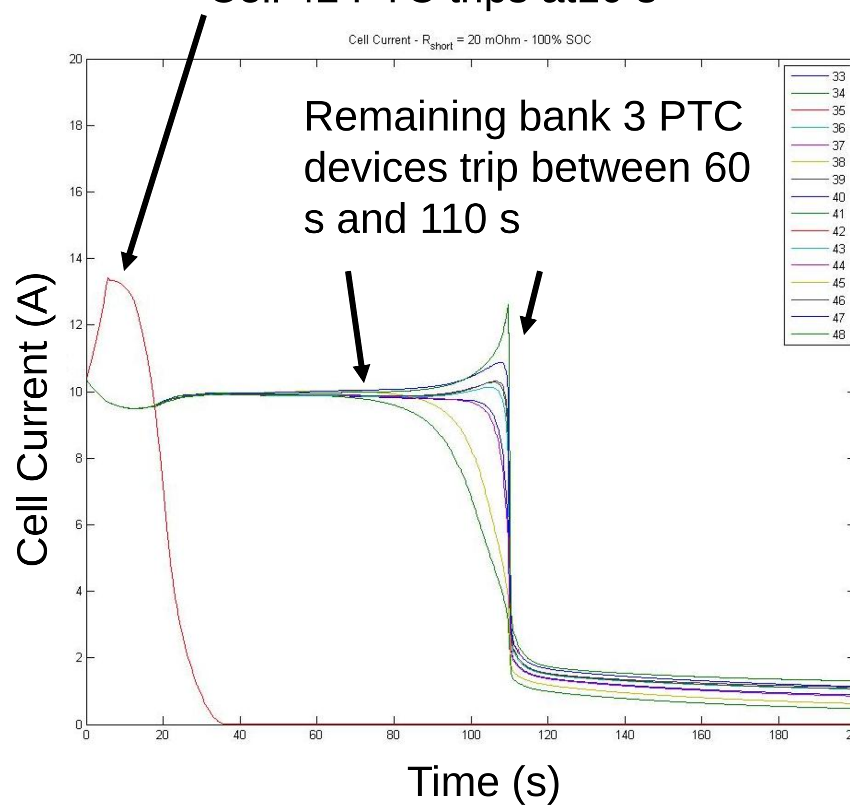
Cell 42 PTC trips at 8 s



20 mΩ:

Bank 3 PTC devices trip slowly at different times, depending upon bank 3 temperature distribution

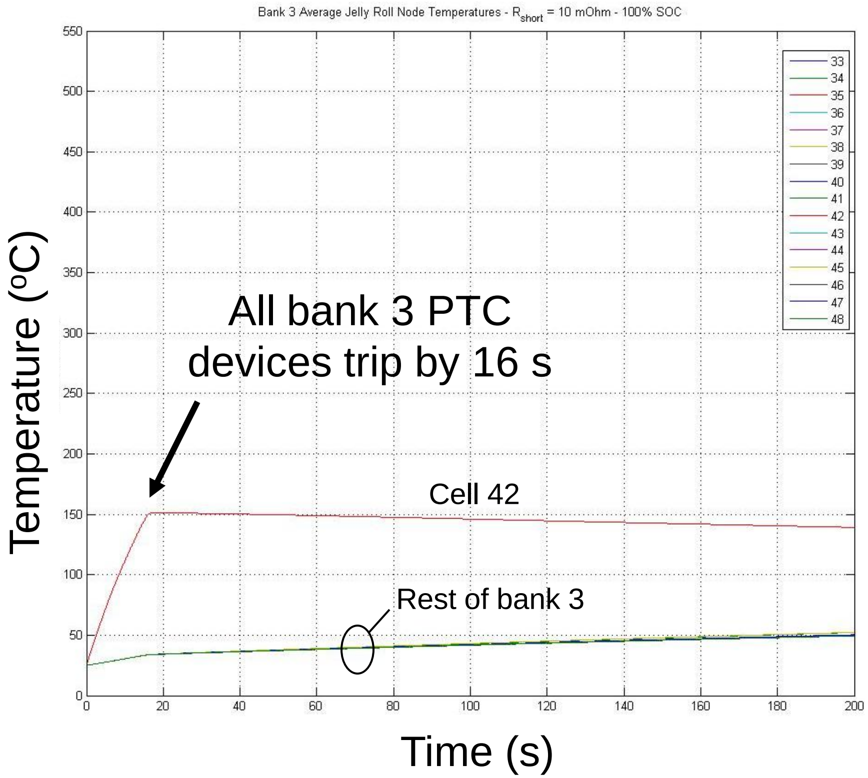
Cell 42 PTC trips at10 s



Bank 3 short from 100% SOC: 10 mΩ vs. 20 mΩ

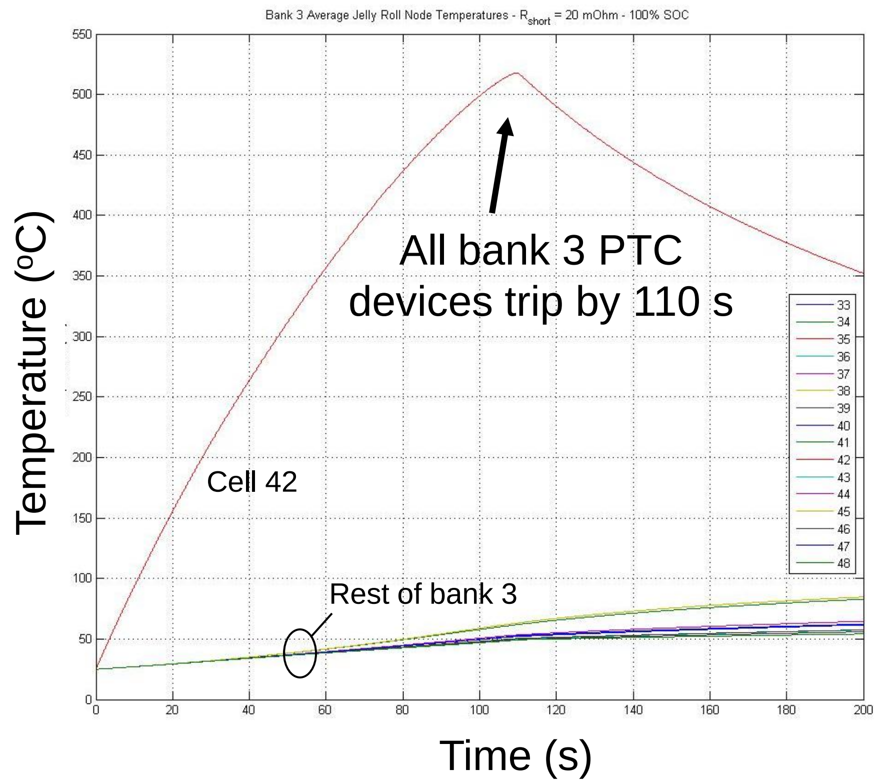
10 mΩ:

Bank 3 PTC devices trip quickly and uniformly due to high in-rush current causing PTC self-heating

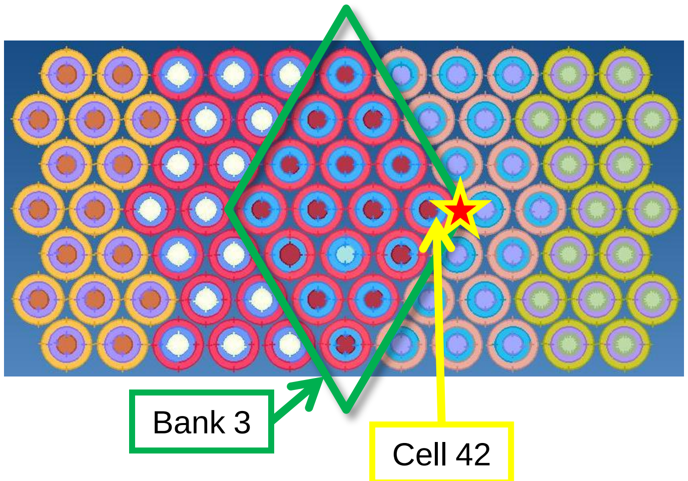


20 mΩ:

Bank 3 PTC devices trip slowly, at different times dependent upon bank 3 temperature distribution



Bank 3 Short from 100% SOC: Cell-to-Cell Radiation



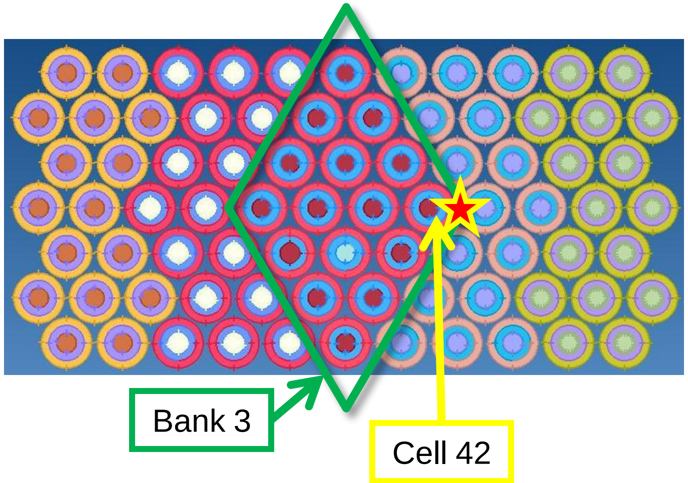
Design question:
Would a high-emissivity coating applied to bare cell walls help limit thermal excursion?

R_{short}	Short Condition (SOC_0 = 100%)	Cell wall emissivity	Cell 42 T_{max} (Bank 3)
20 mΩ	Internal-to-pack, earth	ε = 0.3 (Nominal)	525°C @ 110 s
		ε = 0.9 (Coating)	410°C @ 102 s

(Insufficient impact)

Bank 3 Short: SOC Dependence

Is battery design tolerant to pack-internal shorts when stored at low SOCs?



R_{short}	Short Condition	Initial SOC	Initial OCV	Cell 42 T_{max} (Bank 3)
20 mΩ	Internal-to-pack, earth	1.5%	3.428 V	117°C @ 85 s
		0.5%	3.346 V	83°C @ 80 s

No thermal runaway when stored at 0% SOC (3.25 OCV).

Summary

- NREL performed an internal short model simulation study to characterize an internal short and its evolution over time by linking and integrating NREL's electrochemical cell, electro-thermal, and abuse reaction kinetics models.

- Initial heating pattern at short events depends on nature of short, cell characteristics, and system configuration.

- Temperature rise for short is localized in large capacity cells.

- Short current is carried mostly by metal collectors.

- A simple puncture in the separator is not likely to lead to an immediate thermal runaway of a cell.

- Maintaining the integrity of the separator seems critical to delay short evolution.

- PTC device is an effective thermal regulator. Maximum cell temperature (final state) is very similar for a variety of initial and boundary conditions.

Summary

- 80-cell spacesuit battery electrical/thermal model
  - Captures relevant physics for cell-external shorting events, including PTC behavior
  - Agrees well with pack-external bank 3 short experiment run by ABSL
  - Predicts that design will tolerate all pack-external short resistance conditions

- Relocating short from pack-external (experimental validation) to pack-internal (modeling study) causes substantial additional heating of cells that can lead to cell thermal runaway
  - Negligible sensitivity to earth/space boundary conditions (thermal mass dominates)
  - Large sensitivity to R_{short}
    - $R_{short} < 10\ m\Omega$: 16P bank PTC devices trip quickly, most likely preventing runaway
    - $10\ m\Omega < R_{short} < 60\ m\Omega$: Thermal runaway appears likely
  - Nevertheless, this finding re-emphasizes the general imperative of battery pack assembly cleanliness

- Design is tolerant to pack-internal short when stored at 0% SOC

Acknowledgments

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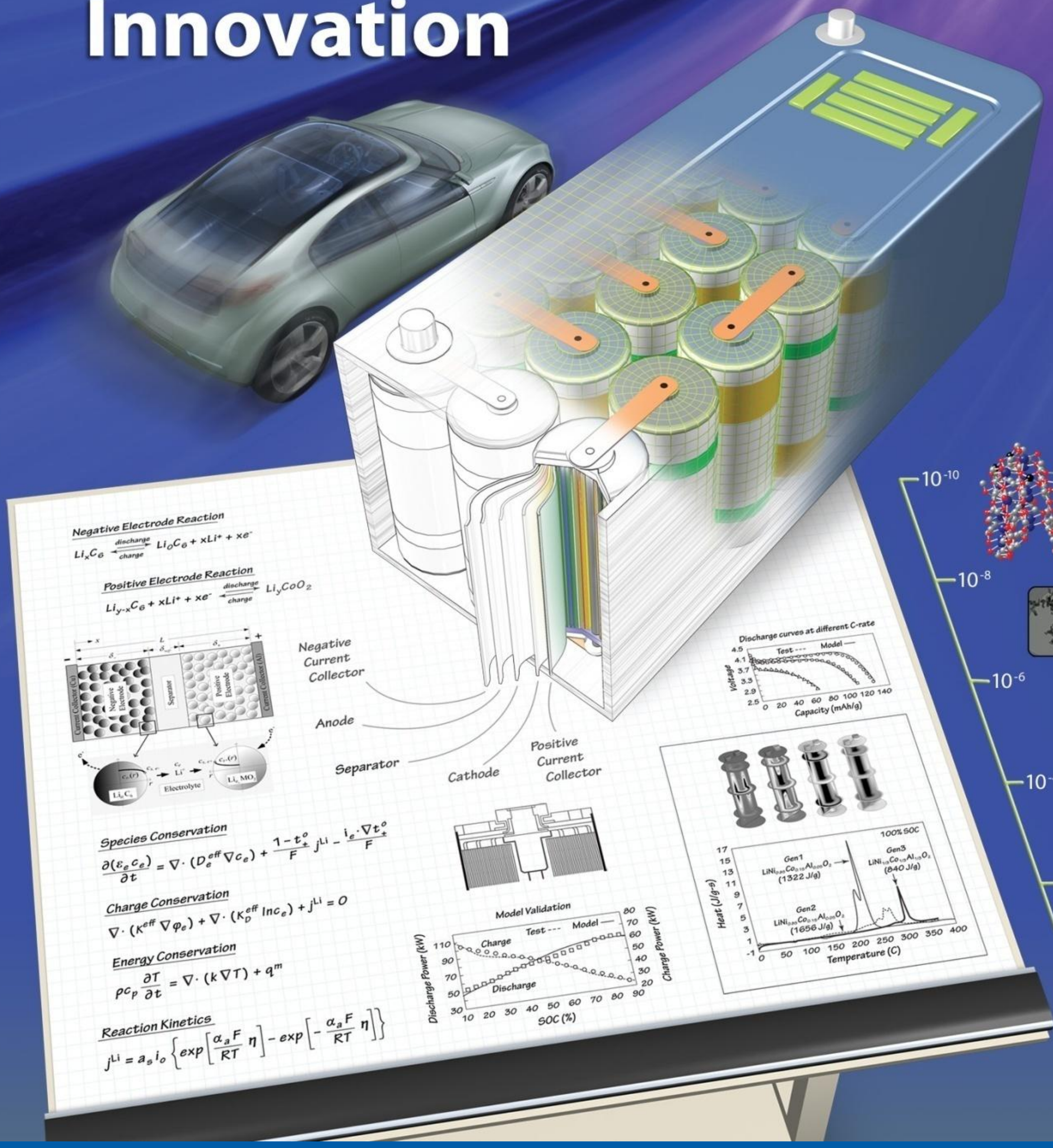
- Brad Strangways

ABSL

- Craig Flora

Thank you for your attention!

Digital Battery Innovation



Multi-physics design and analysis paving the road for future automotive batteries

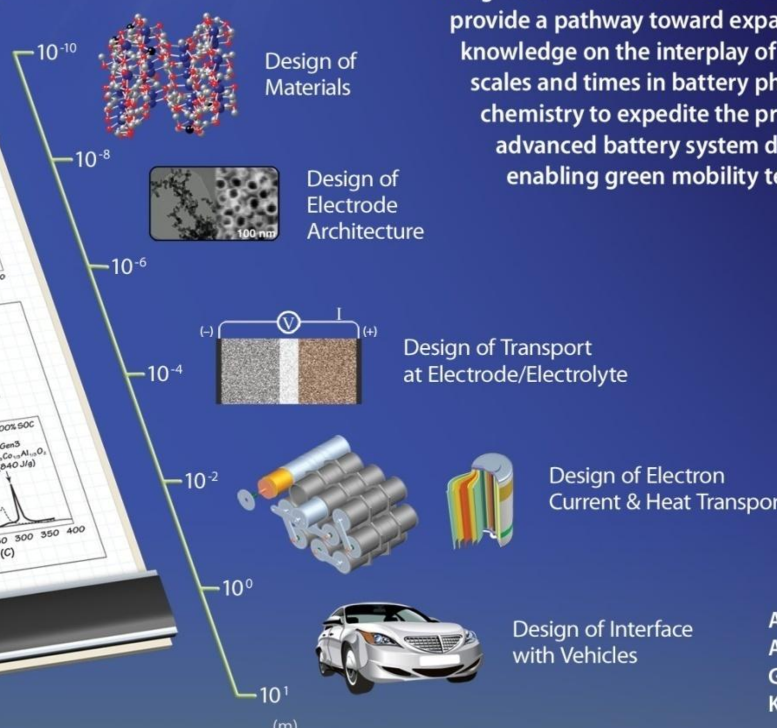
Designing Li-Ion cells and modules using computer aided design and engineering tools to

- Reduce the process of product design, build, and test cycle.
- Accelerate product development cycle to reduce battery cost.

The goal is to use state of the art battery modeling tools and codes developed by NREL, universities, National Labs, battery companies and others in an integrated system for universal use.

The requirements for lithium-ion batteries for next generation electrified vehicles must be addressed over various length and time scales in which physical and chemical processes are occurring—from atomic variations to vehicle interface controls.

Integrated multi-scale models need to provide a pathway toward expanding knowledge on the interplay of different scales and times in battery physics and chemistry to expedite the process of advanced battery system development enabling green mobility technologies.



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DOE's New CAEBAT Program

- Will integrate the accomplishments of battery modeling activities in national lab programs and make them accessible as design tools for industry
- Will shorten time and cost for design and development of EDV battery systems