

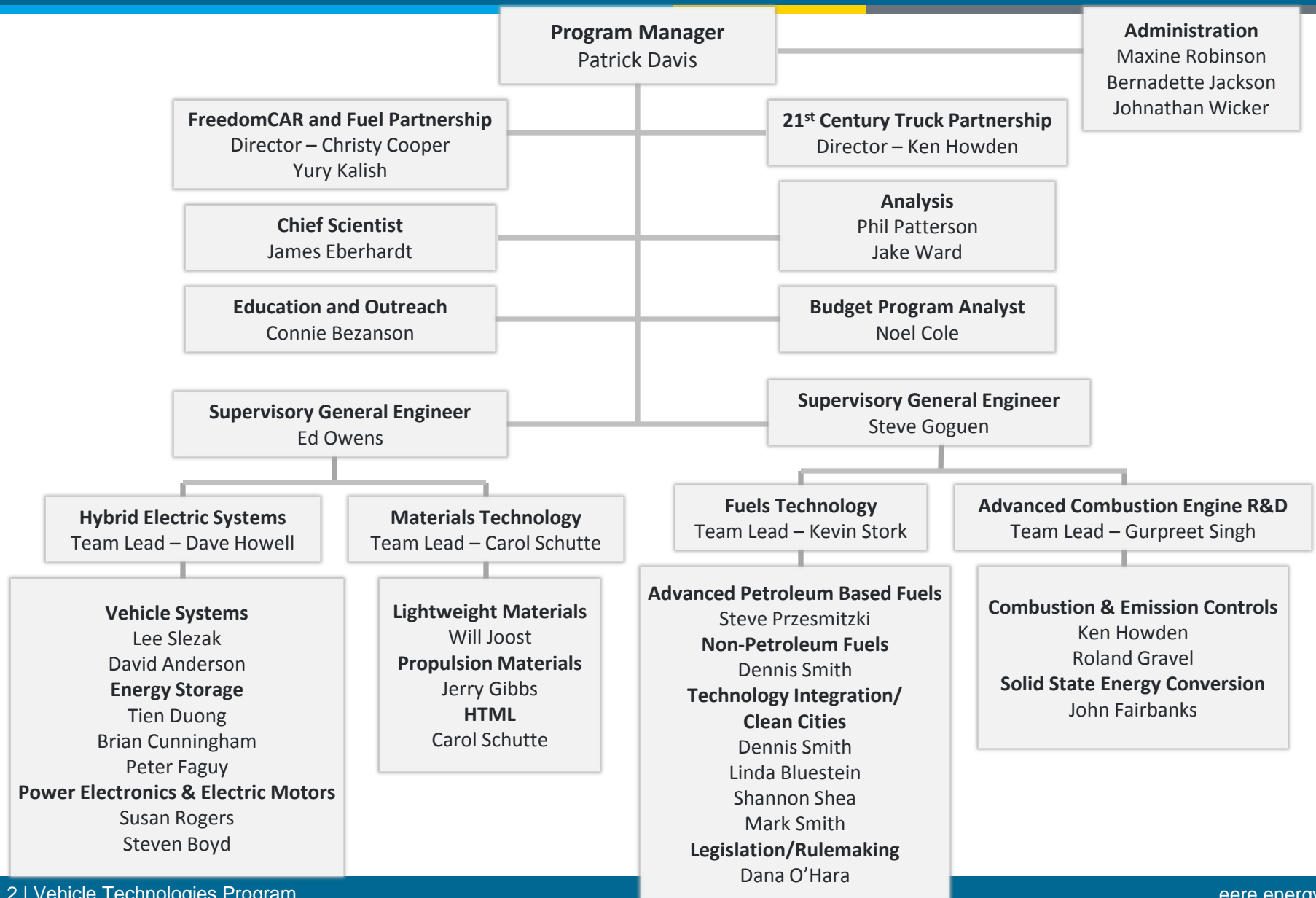


## Energy, Materials, and Vehicle Weight Reduction

**Will Joost**

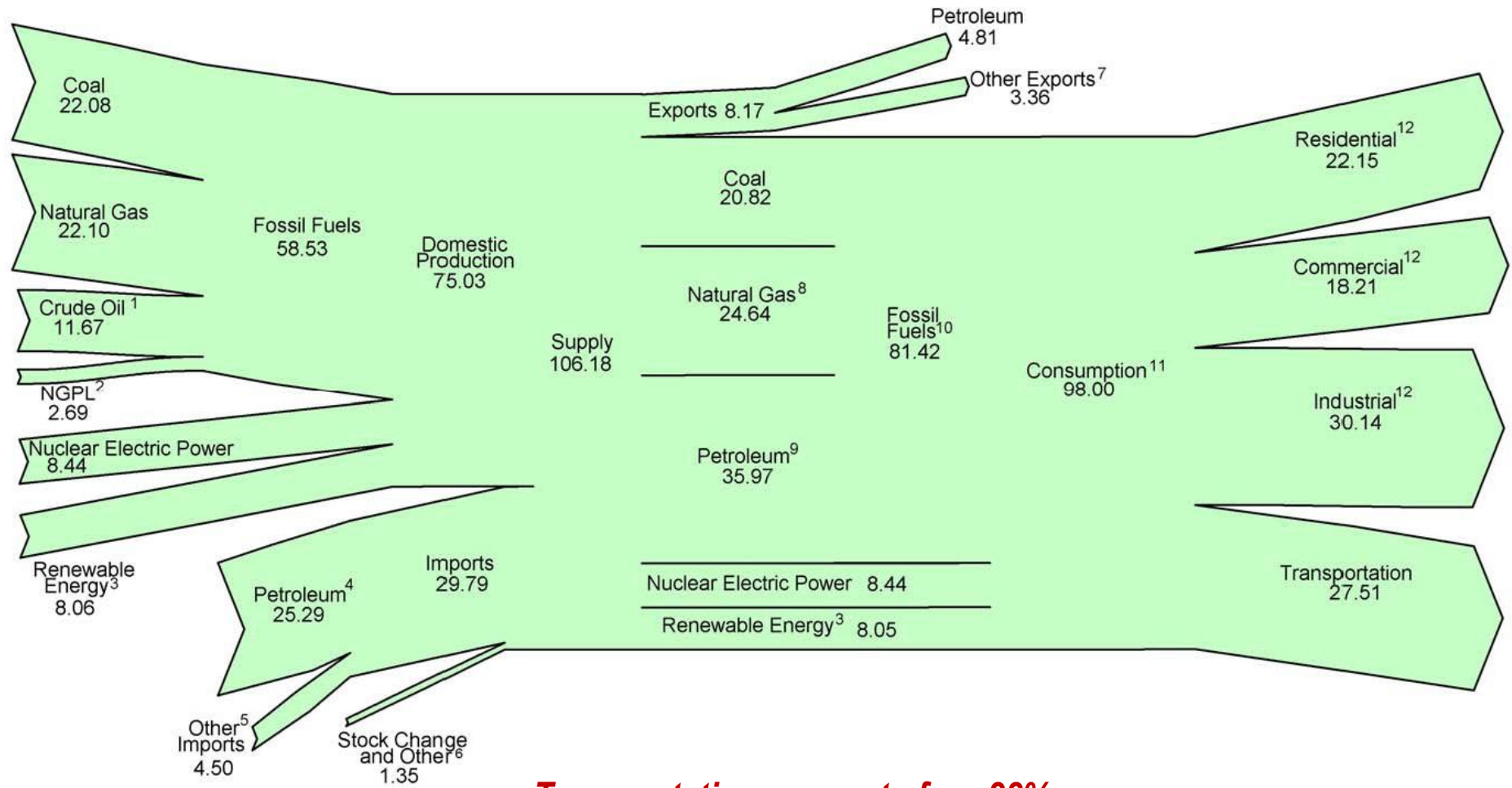
Technology Area Development Manager  
Lightweight Materials  
Vehicle Technologies Program

# Vehicle Technologies Program



- *Why reduce vehicle weight?*
- *What does weight reduction look like today?*
- *How can we move forward?*

# U.S. Total Energy Flow (QBtu) - 2010

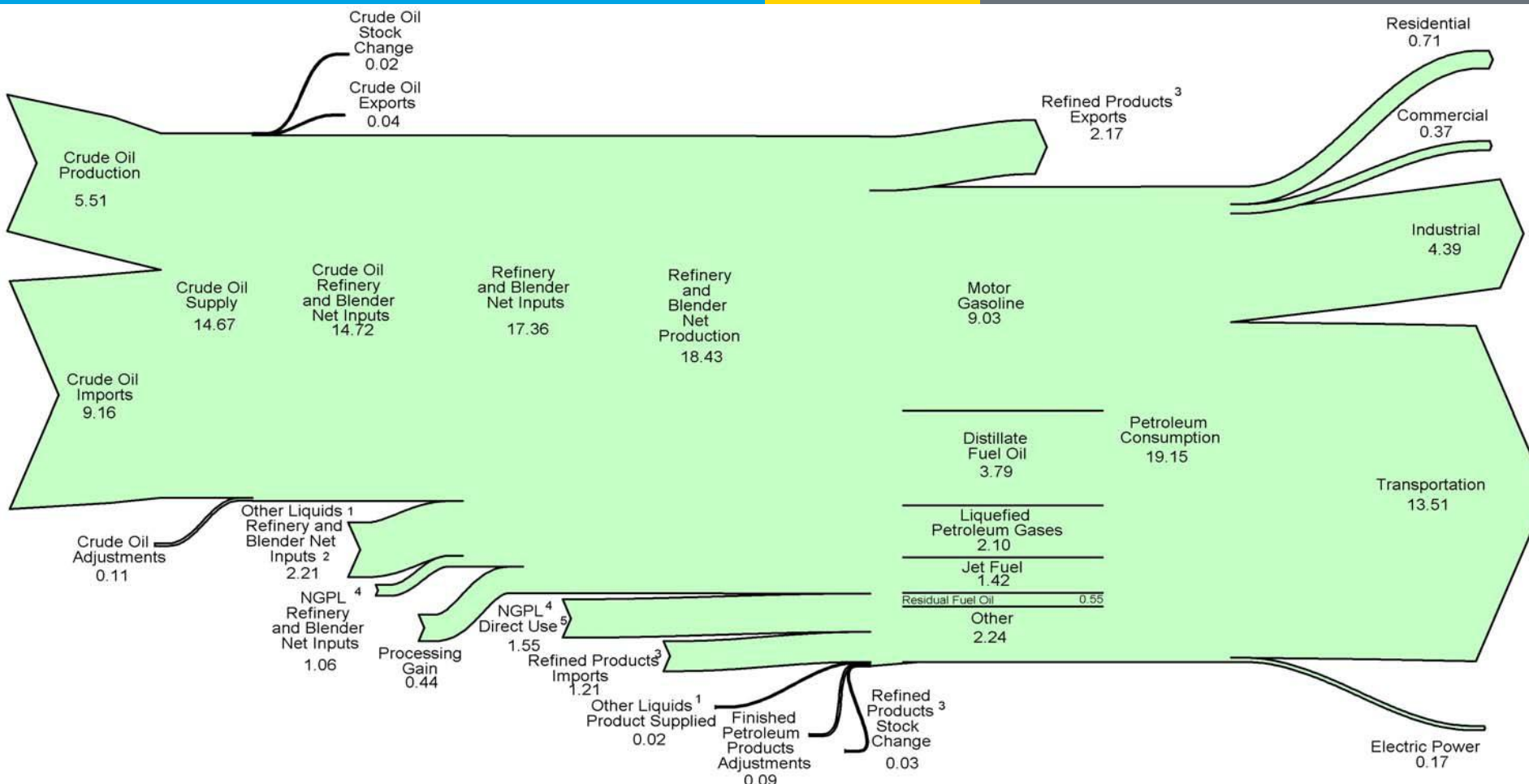


**Transportation accounts for ~28% of U.S. energy consumption**

Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))



# U.S. Petroleum Flow (Mbpd) - 2010

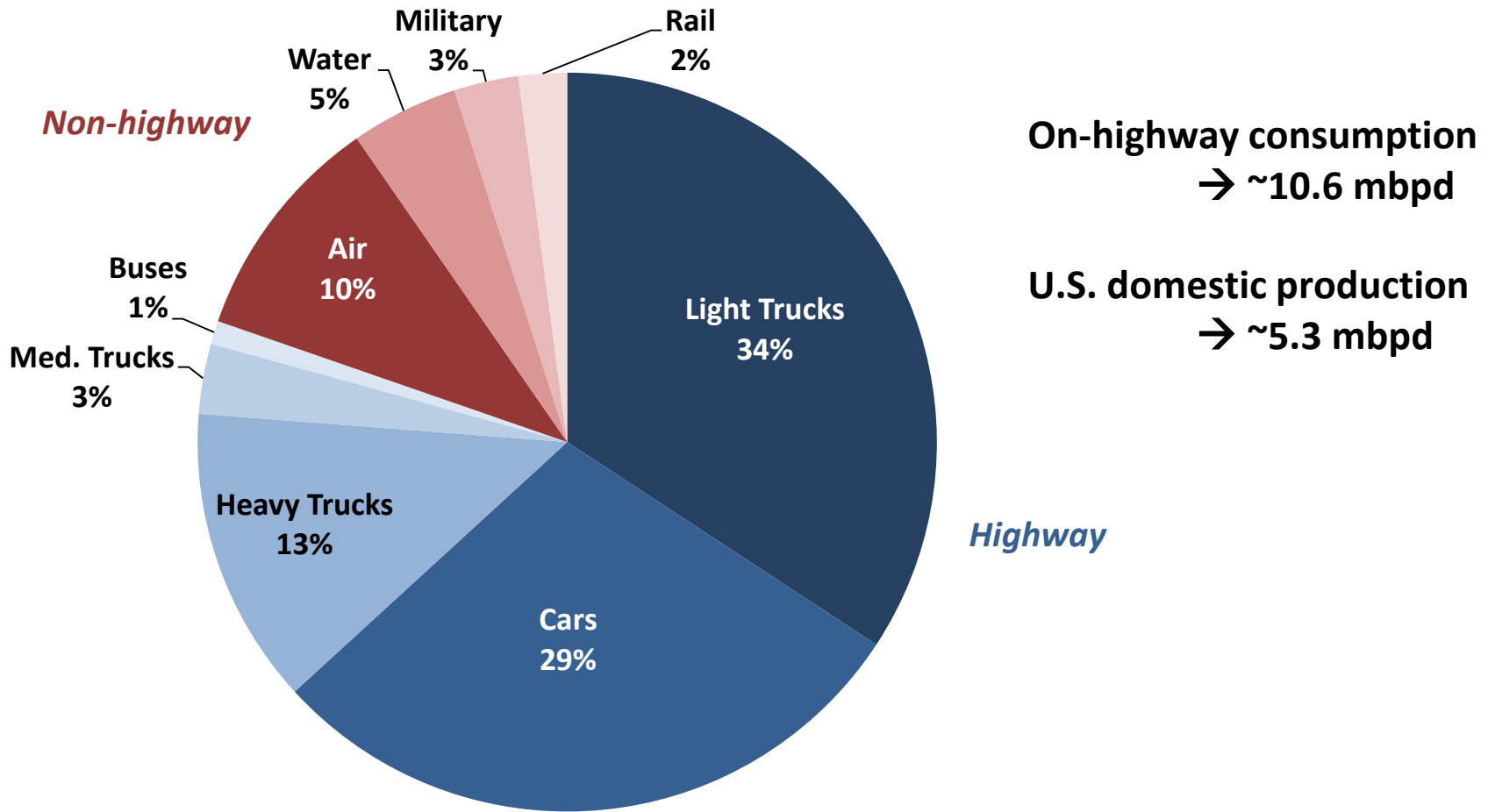


**94% of transportation energy is from petroleum**

**71% of petroleum is used in transportation**

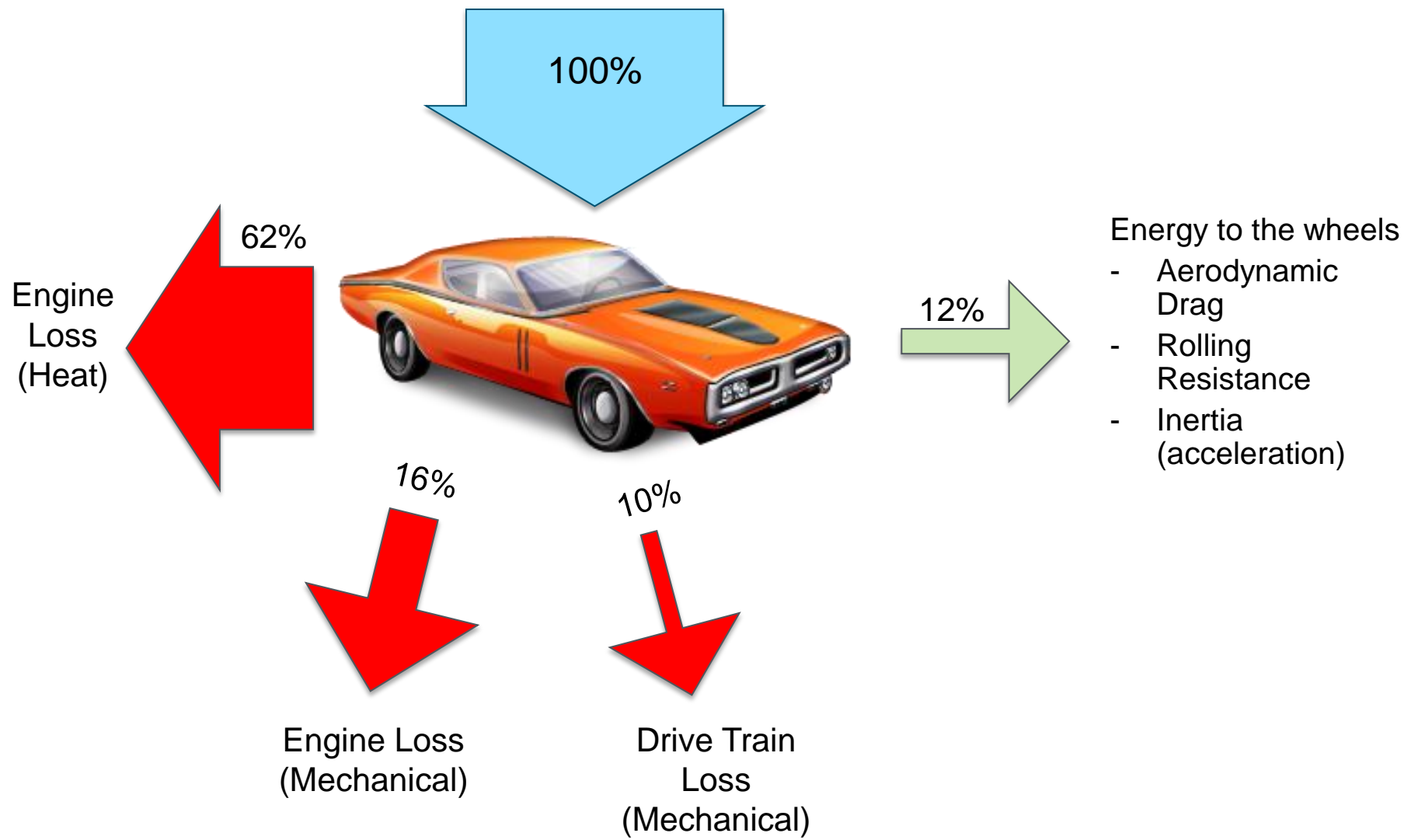
Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))

# Transportation Energy Consumption by Mode - 2009



Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))

# Energy flow in a typical ICE vehicle



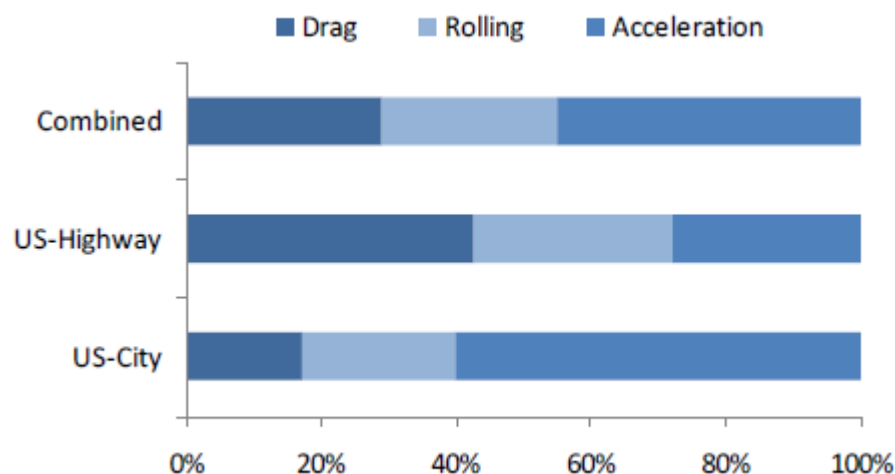
$$\text{Fuel Consumed} = \frac{\int b \cdot \left(\frac{F_T \cdot V}{\eta}\right) dt}{\int V dt}$$

$b$  = **Specific Fuel Consumption (Heat/Mech Loss)**

$F_T$  = **Tractive Forces (Drag, Inertia, Rolling)**

$\eta$  = **Drivetrain Efficiency (Mechanical Loss)**

$$F_T = F_{ROLL} + F_{ACCEL} + F_{AERO} = (fmg) + (ma) + \left(\frac{1}{2} C_D \cdot \rho_{AIR} \cdot V^2 \cdot A\right)$$



Cheah, L. *Cars on a Diet: The Material and Energy Impacts of Passenger Vehicle Weight Reduction in the U.S., 2010.*



- We know that mass affects tractive forces
  - Rolling resistance, inertial forces
- The relationship between mass and energy consumption is complicated by a variety of factors
  - Averages/fleet mix
  - Mass compounding
  - Vehicle design
  - Powertrain resizing
  - Material energy content
  
- *So how does vehicle mass affect vehicle efficiency?*

# What can weight savings do for you?



## ***Improve performance***

- Fuel economy
- Acceleration
- Gradability
- Handling/Feel
- Safety?



## ***Increase freight efficiency***

- Freight efficiency when weight limited
- Fuel efficiency when volume limited

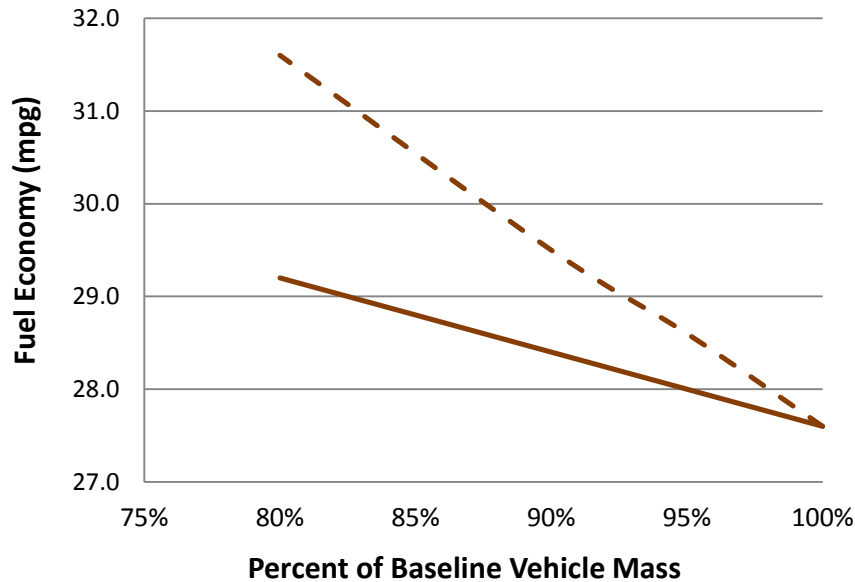


## ***Extend electric range***

- Increase range with existing battery
- Maintain range with smaller battery
- Optimize for requirements

## Fuel Economy vs. Mass

— Conv    - - - Conv w/ Resizing

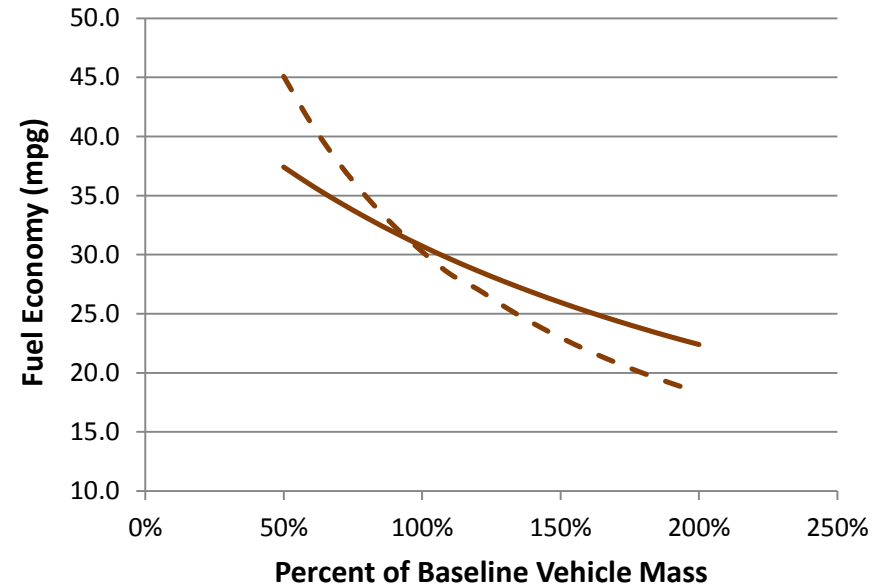


*Ricardo Inc., 2008*

**Conv. Midsize Sedan:** 6.8% improvement in fuel economy for 10% reduction in weight

## Fuel Economy vs. Mass

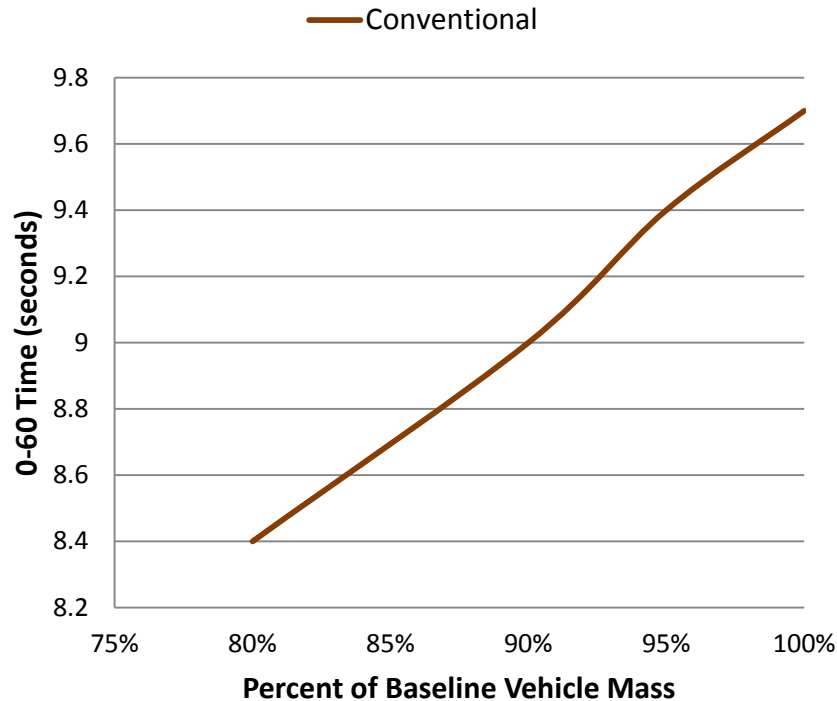
— Conv    - - - Conv w/Resizing



*FAST Model, NREL 2011*

**Conv. Midsize Sedan:** 6.9% improvement in fuel economy for 10% reduction in weight

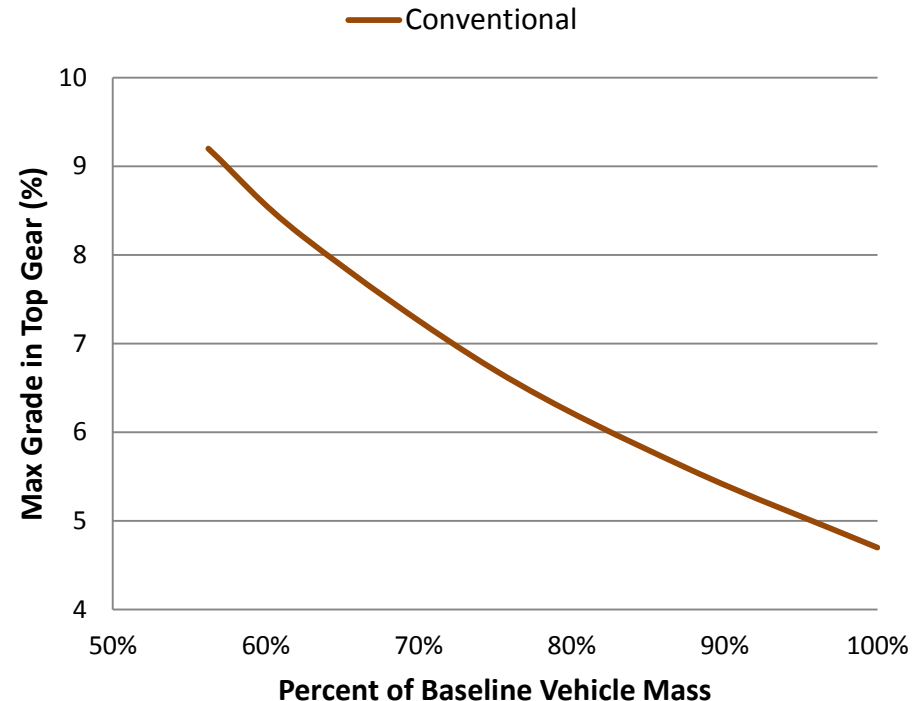
## Acceleration vs. Mass



*Ricardo Inc., 2008*

**Conv. Midsize Sedan:** 7% improvement in 0-60 time for 10% reduction in weight

## Gradability vs. Mass



**Conv. Midsize Sedan:** 25% improvement in gradability for 10% reduction in weight

**Performance improvements compete with resizing → design objectives**

# Heavy Duty Vehicles



Empty Trailer

13,000 lbs (16%)

Tractor

16,000 lbs (20%)

+

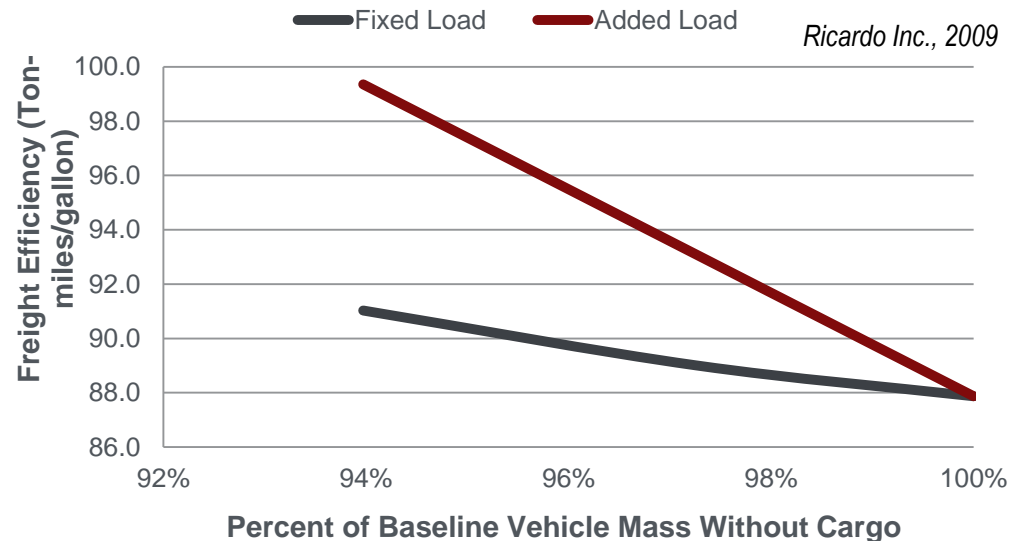


Cargo

51,000 lbs (64%)

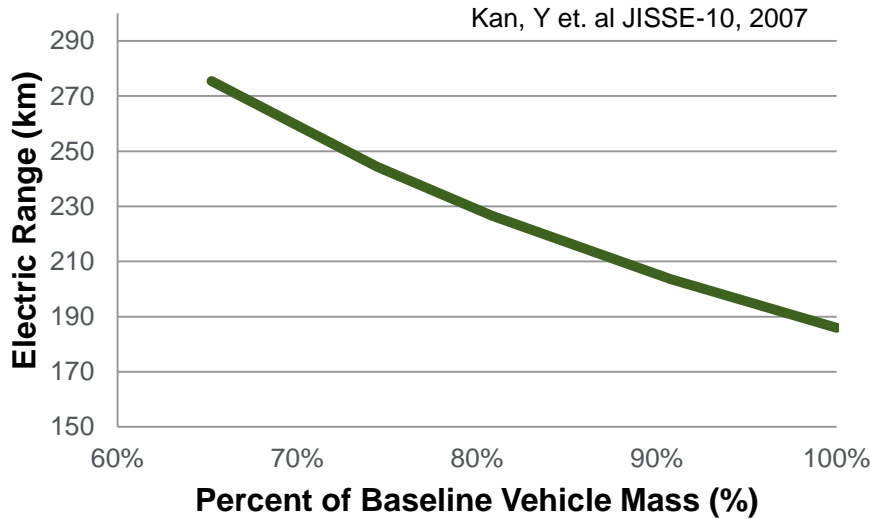
= 80,000 lbs

- 50% reduction in tractor/trailer weight  
→ 23% reduction in total weight
- You can't "lightweight" cargo  
→ You can increase freight efficiency



# Weight Reduction and “Electric Vehicles”

## EV Range vs. Mass

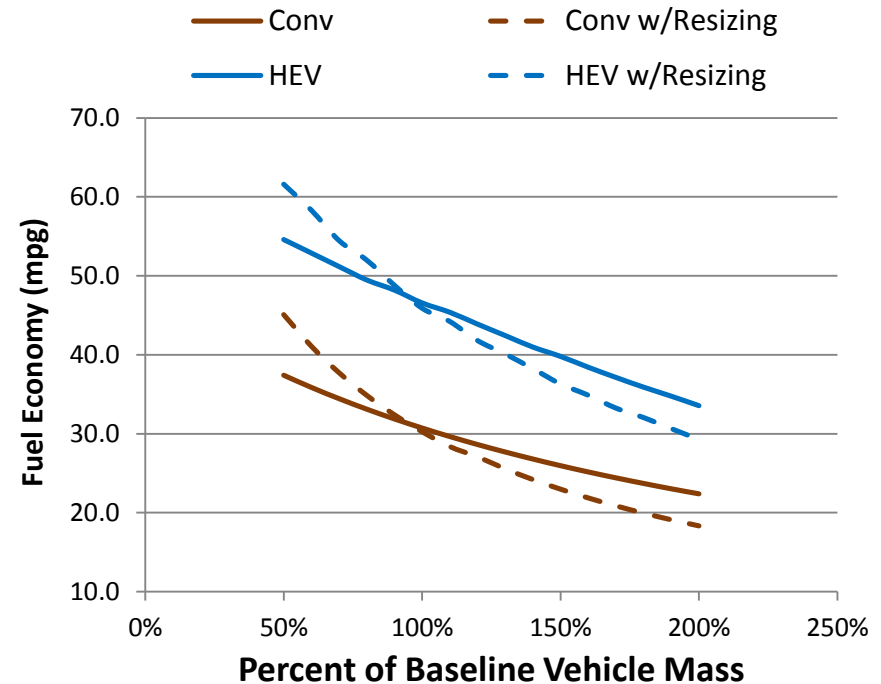


**BEV Midsize Sedan:** 13.7% improvement in electric range for 10% reduction in weight

## Battery Cost Savings

- \$/kWh fixed
- Fewer kWh to maintain range
- ... Design balance including cost!

## Fuel Economy vs. Mass



FAST Model, NREL 2011

**HEV Midsize Sedan:** 5.1% improvement in fuel economy for 10% reduction in weight

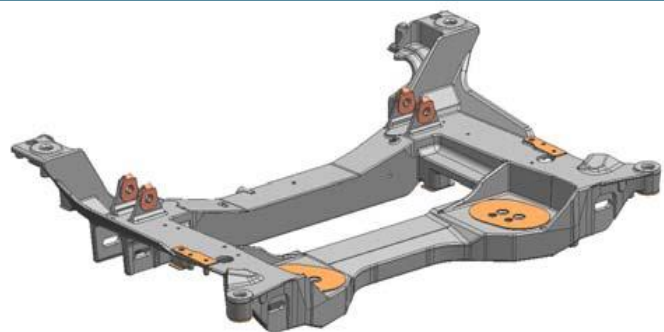


- Directly calculating the impact of vehicle weight reduction on energy consumption is difficult
  - Complicated by mass compounding, design, material energy content, etc.
- Mass reduction does provide improvements
  - Typical ICE Vehicles → Efficiency, performance, and optimization
  - Heavy Duty Vehicles → Freight Efficiency
  - HEV/PHEV/BEV → Range, battery size, and cost
- Impact on Energy Consumption
  - Nearer term: 30% light duty wt. reduction, 15% heavy duty wt. reduction → **Potentially more than 2 QBtu per year saved!**
  - Longer term: 45% light duty wt. reduction, 25% heavy duty wt. reduction → **Potentially more than 3.5 QBtu per year saved!**

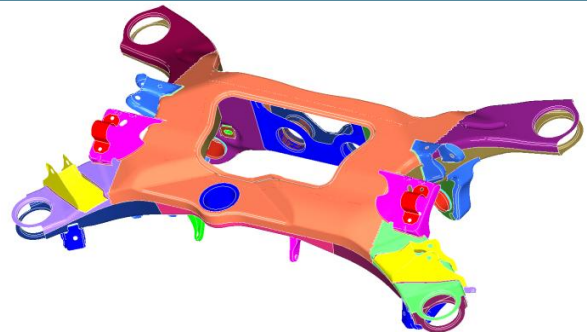
# Weight Reduction Potentials

Lightweight Material	Material Replaced	Mass Reduction (%)	Relative Cost Per Part
Magnesium	Steel, Cast Iron	60 - 75	1.5 - 2.5
Carbon Fiber Composites	Steel	50 - 60	2 - 10+
Aluminum Matrix Composites	Steel, Cast Iron	40 - 60	1.5 - 3+
Aluminum	Steel, Cast Iron	40 - 60	1.3 - 2
Titanium	Steel	40 - 55	1.5 - 10+
Glass Fiber Composites	Steel	25 - 35	1 - 1.5
Advanced High Strength Steel	Mild Steel	15 - 25	1 - 1.5
High Strength Steel	Mild Steel	10 - 15	1

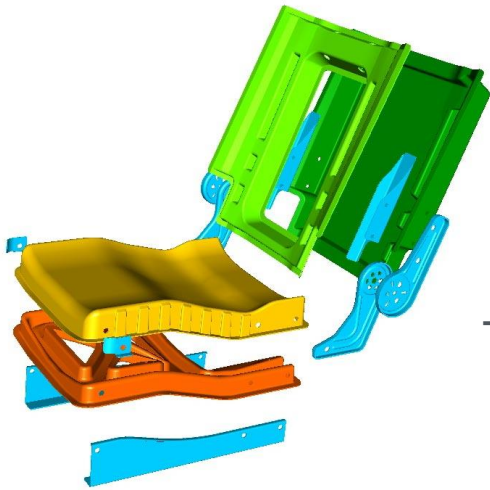
# Example Component Lightweighting



- Mg engine cradle for Corvette Z06
  - **35%** lighter than Al
- Single piece Mg casting vs. multi-piece steel assembly



- AHSS rear cradle for RWD vehicles
  - **27%** lighter than conventional design, no loss of stiffness
  - Cost neutral



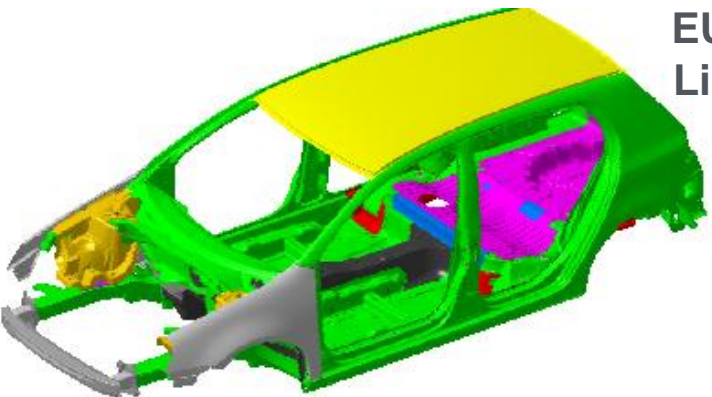
- Carbon Fiber Composite seat structure
  - **58%** lighter than standard design



- Mg engine block, bedplate, oil pan, and engine cover
  - **28%** lighter than Al version


# Example System Lightweighting

### EU Super Light Car



- Multi-material vehicle, AI intensive
- **30%** weight reduction for BIW

### Energy Foundation - Lotus



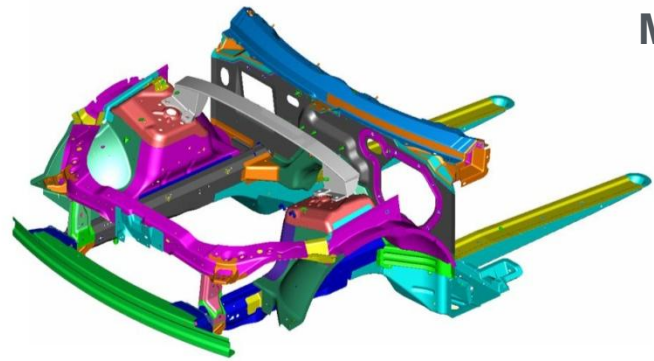
- AHSS intensive vehicle
- **16%** weight reduction for BIW



### PNGV

- Multi-material vehicles
- **~25%** overall vehicle weight reduction

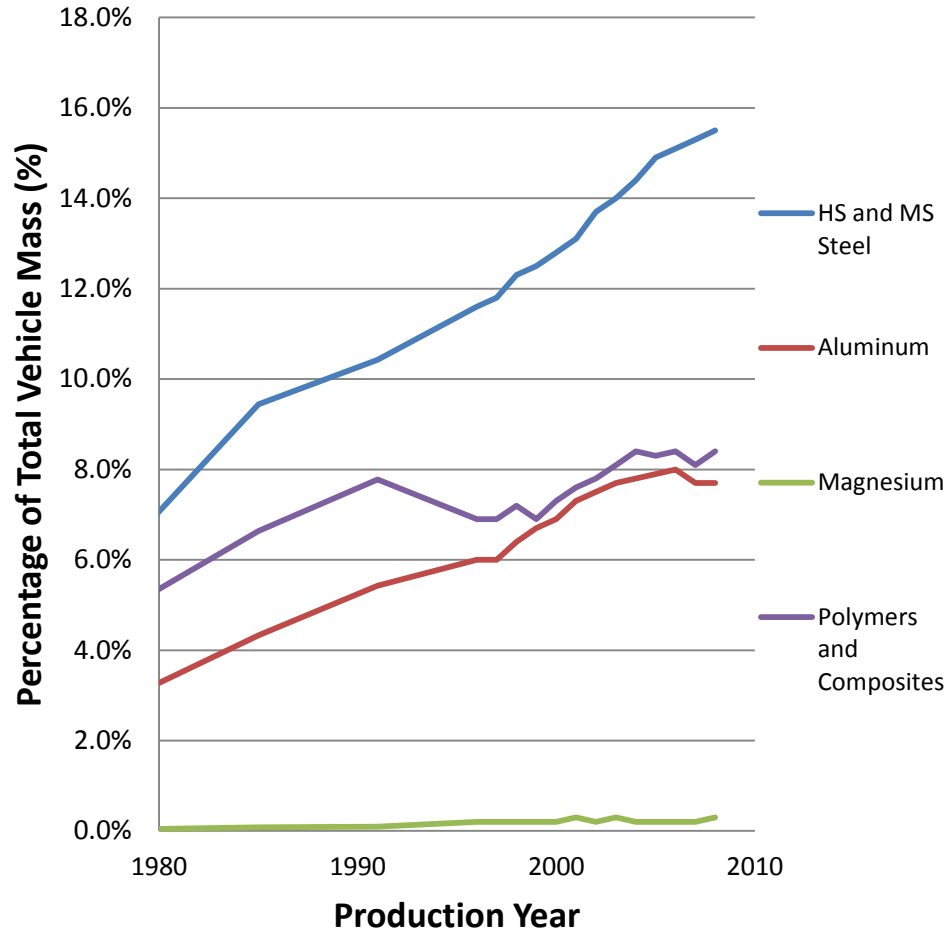
### Mg Front End



- Mg intensive front end structure
- **45%** weight reduction compared to steel
- 56% reduction in part count

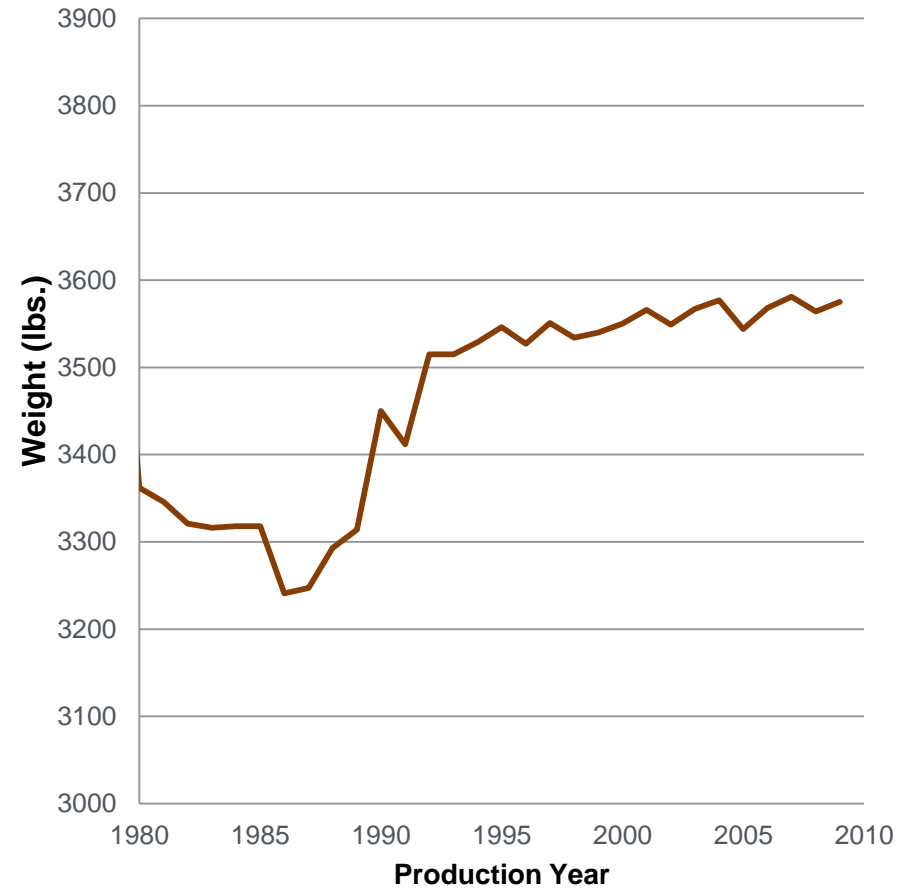
# Characteristics of Production Vehicles

## Vehicle Material Content vs. Year



*Wards, American Metals Market*

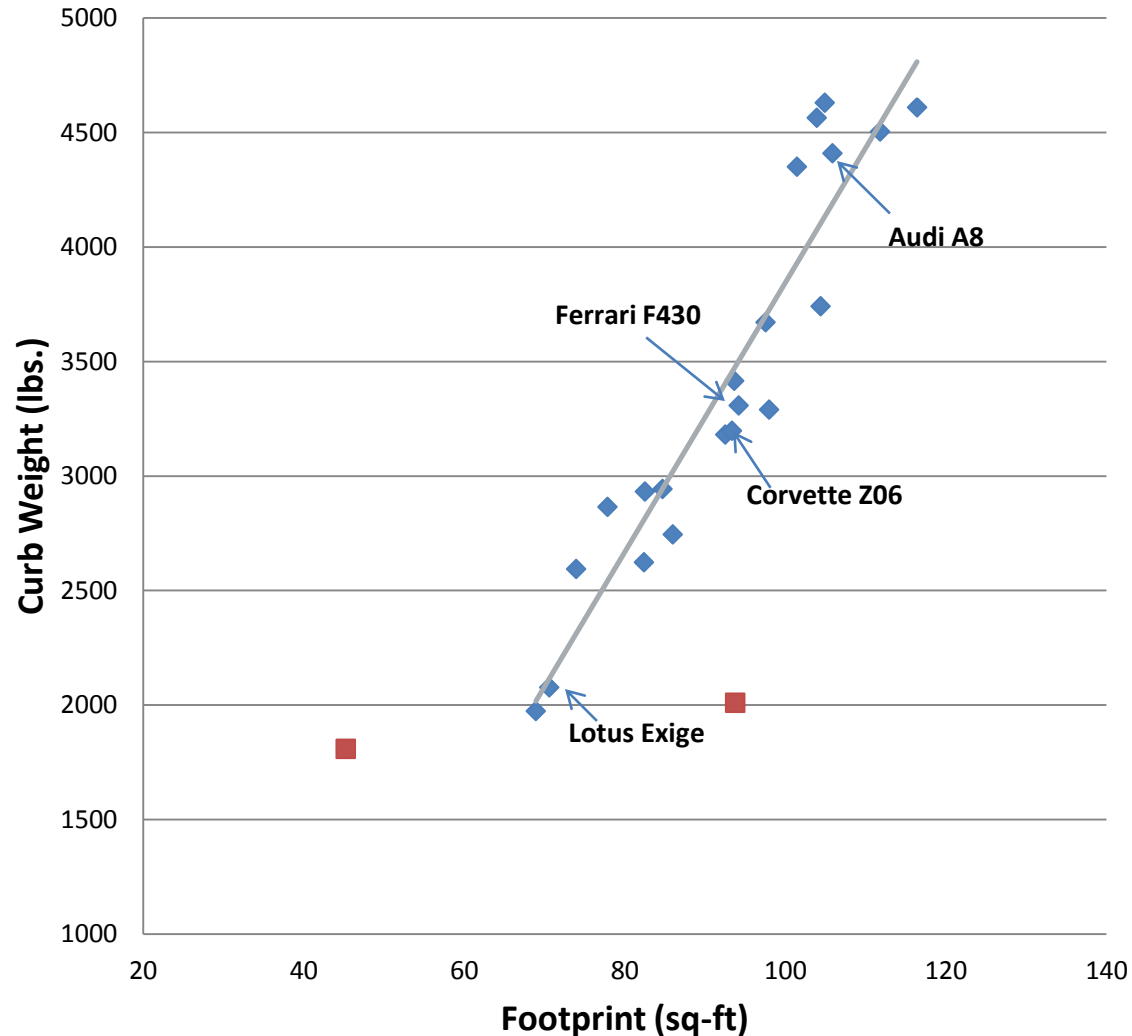
## Average Curb Weight vs. Year - EPA Midsize Car



*EPA*

- Some advanced material use is “tactical” ...  
...hoods, interior pieces, etc.
- A few vehicles use advanced materials at a full-vehicle level...  
...but do not save considerable weight!

## Vehicle Curb Weight vs. Footprint





- Lightweight materials have found increased application in production vehicles
- Weight reduction doesn't always result in weight reduction
  - Offset by the addition of new features
  - Offset by improving performance, comfort, design
  - Offset by improving safety and crashworthiness

*The materials and design toolbox is growing*

## Light- and Heavy-Duty Roadmaps

### Properties and Manufacturing

- Reducing the cost
  - raw materials
  - processing
- Improving
  - performance
  - manufacturability

### Multi-material Enabling

- Enabling structural joints between dissimilar materials
- Preventing corrosion in complex material systems
- Developing NDE techniques

### Modeling and Simulation

- Predicting the behavior accurately
- Optimizing complex processes efficiently
- ICME: Developing new materials and processes

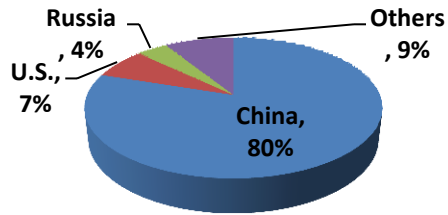
## Demonstration, Validation, and Analysis

## Magnesium

When it “works” → *Cost (~\$2-5/ lb-saved)*

Otherwise →

- Lack of domestic supply, unstable pricing
- Difficulty forming sheet products at low temperatures
- Limited energy absorption in conventional alloys



## Aluminum

When it “works” → *Cost (~\$1-3/ lb-saved)*

Otherwise →

- Difficulty casting complex, high strength parts
- Insufficient strength in conventional automotive alloys
- Non-conventional alloys benefit from non-automotive heat treatment

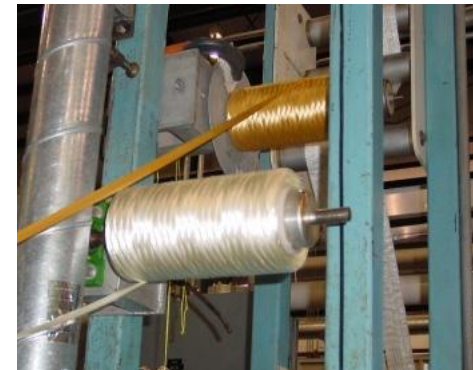


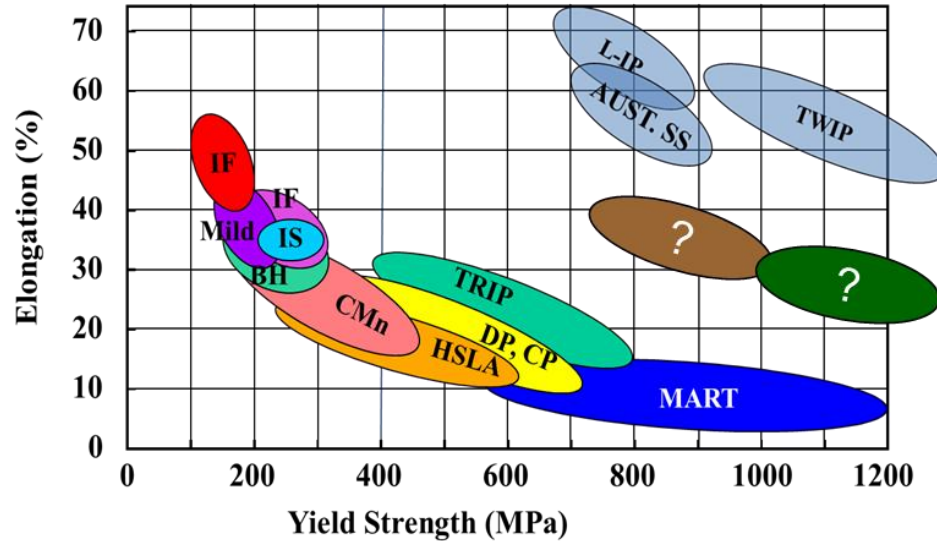
## Carbon Fiber Composites

When it “works” → *Cost (~\$3-6/ lb-saved)*

Addressing Cost →

- Producing carbon fiber from low cost feedstock (~50% of carbon fiber cost)
- Graphitizing carbon fiber more rapidly/efficiently (~23% of carbon fiber cost)





## *Beating the banana curve*

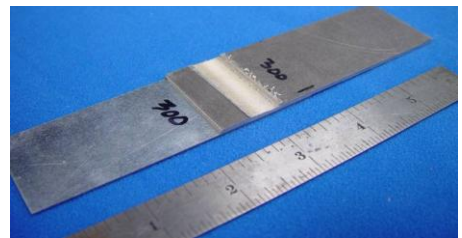
- What other relevant properties should we consider?
- What are the microstructural options to achieve 3G properties?
- **Can this be compatible with existing infrastructure? Should it be?**

## *3G...now what?*

- How do you turn sheet into components?
- How will the steel behave in a crash event?
- **What is the system-level weight reduction potential of these steels?**
- **Does it have to be stamped sheet?**

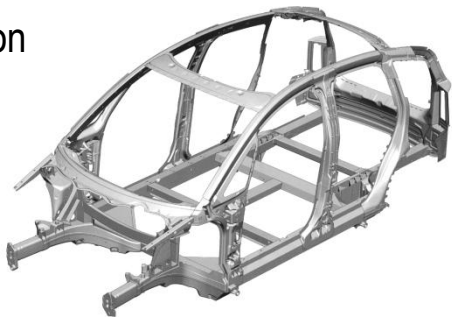
## Magnesium

- Corrosion (galvanic and general)
- Difficulty Joining
  - Mg-Mg
  - Mg-X
  - Riveted Joints
- Questionable compatibility with existing paint/coating systems



## Aluminum

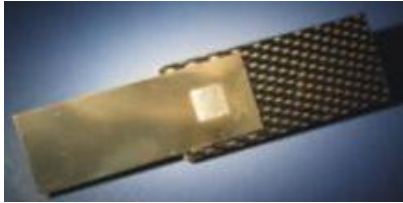
- HAZ property deterioration
- Difficulty joining mixed grades
  - Joint integrity
  - Joint formability
- Difficulty recycling mixed grades



	Mg	Si	Cu	Zn
5182	4.0 - 5.0	< 0.2	< 0.15	< 0.25
6111	0.5 - 1.0	0.6 - 1.1	0.5 - 0.9	< 0.15
7075	2.1 - 2.9	< 0.4	1.2 - 2.0	5.1 - 6.1

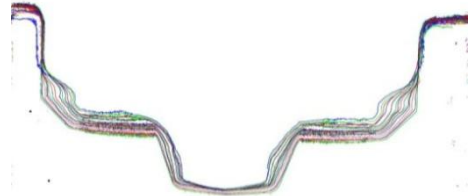
## Carbon Fiber Composites

- Corrosion and environmental degradation
- Some difficulty joining
- Questions regarding non-destructive evaluation



## AHSS

- HAZ property deterioration
- Limited weld fatigue strength
- Tool wear, tool load, infrastructure



## Magnesium

- Corrosion (galvanic and general)
- Difficulty Joining
  - Mg-Mg
  - Mg-X
  - Riveted Joints
- Questionable compatibility with existing paint/coating systems



## Aluminum

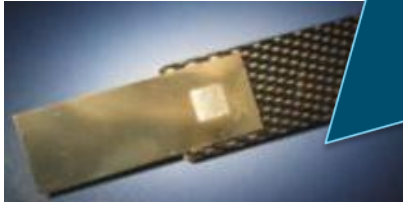
- HAZ property deterioration
- Difficulty joining mixed grades
  - Joint integrity
  - Joint flexibility
- Difficulty joining mixed grades



	Si	Cu	Zn
4.0 - 5.0	< 0.2	< 0.15	< 0.25
0.5 - 1.0	0.6 - 1.1	0.5 - 0.9	< 0.15
2.1 - 2.9	< 0.4	1.2 - 2.0	5.1 - 6.1

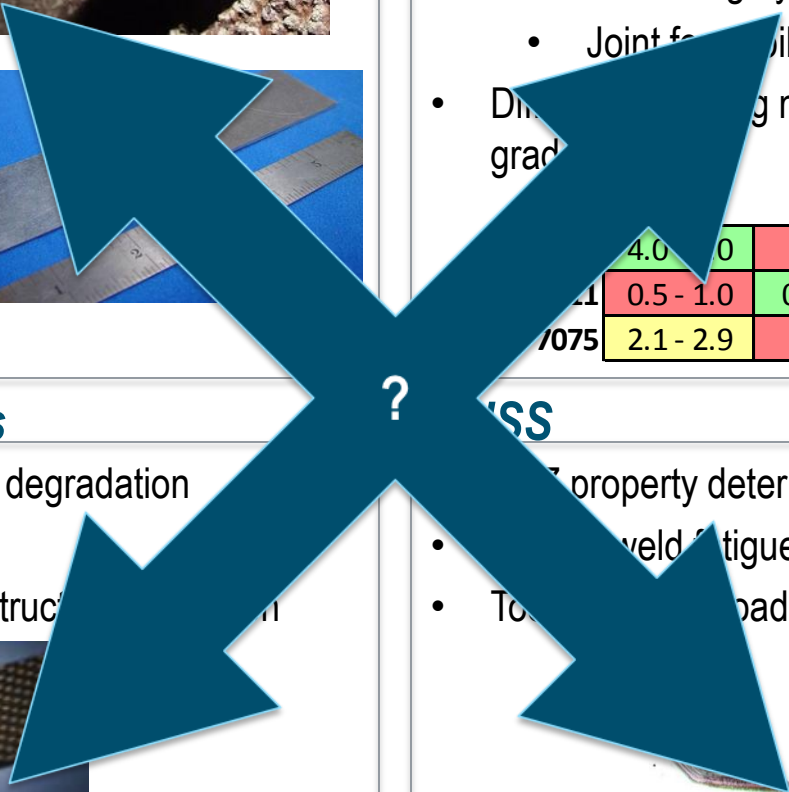
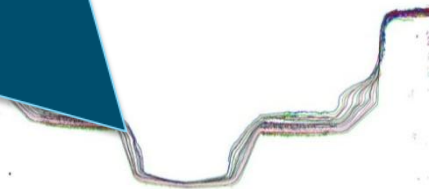
## Carbon Fiber Composites

- Corrosion and environmental degradation
- Some difficulty joining
- Questions regarding non-destructive testing



## SS

- HAZ property deterioration
- Weld fatigue strength
- Tensile load, infrastructure





## Magnesium

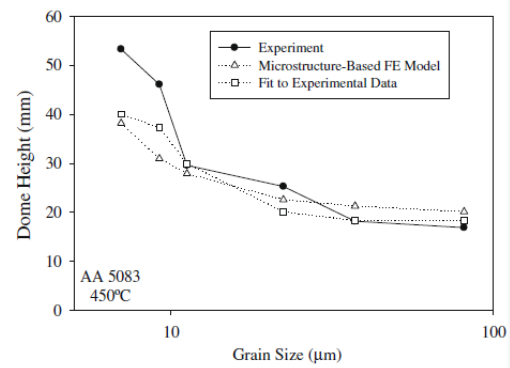
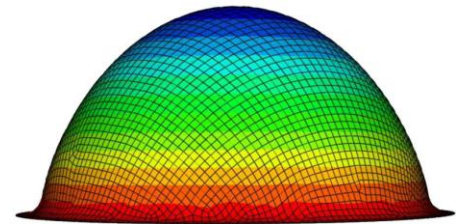
- Complicated deformation in HCP Mg alloys
  - Highly anisotropic plastic response
  - Profuse twinning
- Few established design rules for anisotropy
- Substantial gaps in basic metallurgical data



Q. Ma et al. *Scripta Mat.* **64** (2011) 813–816

## Aluminum

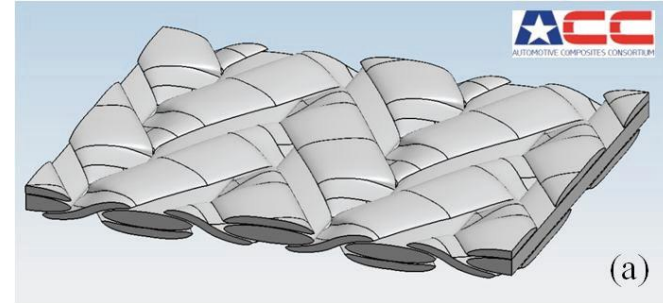
- Basic metallurgical models are well established
- Substantial fundamental data is available
- Useful predictive models established for some conditions
- Truly predictive, multi-scale models are still lacking



P.E. Krajewski et al. *Acta Mat.* **58** (2010) 1074–1086

## Carbon Fiber Composites

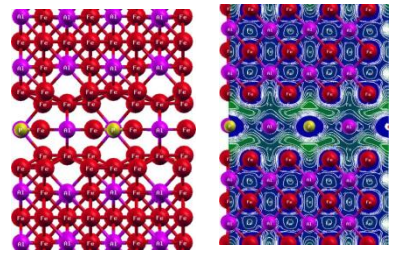
- Process-structure models:
  - Difficult to predict fiber orientation and length in long-fiber injection molding
- Structure-property models:
  - Complicated micro/meso/macrostructures make efficient simulation of structural and crash performance difficult



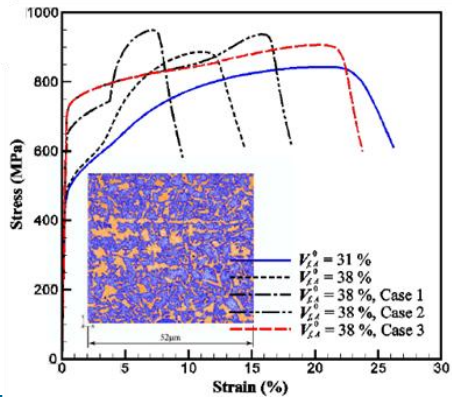
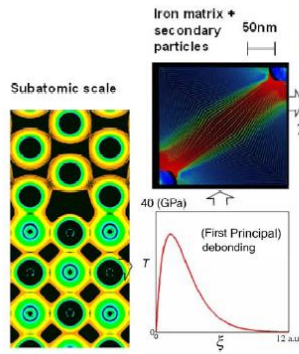
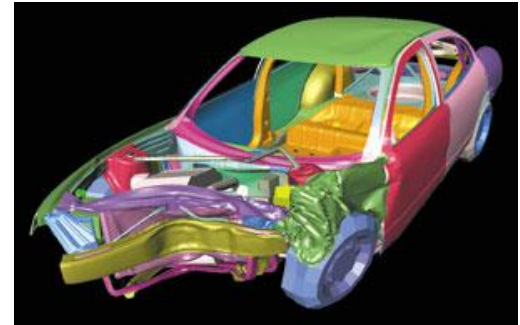
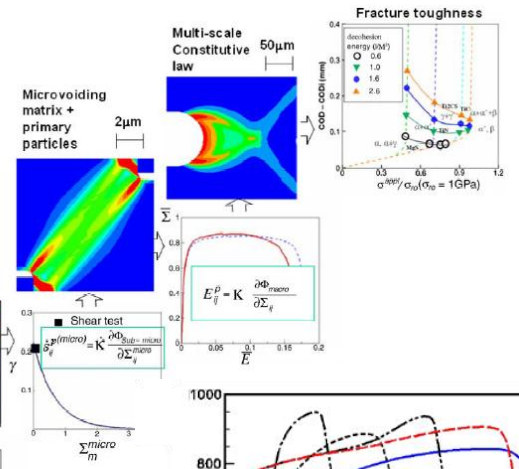
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/resources/fcvt\\_reports.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/resources/fcvt_reports.html)

## Beating the banana curve

- There are many paths towards new, advanced properties
  - How can we efficiently optimize the existing approaches?
  - How can we efficiently discover new approaches?



N.I. Medvedeva et al. Phys. Rev. B **81** (2010) 012105



## Predictive Engineering

- Can we apply these techniques to solve engineering problems?
  - Prediction/design for manufacturing?
  - Prediction/design for performance?

S. Haw et al. Compt. Meth. Appl. Mech. Eng. **193** (2004) 1865-1908

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/pdfs/merit\\_review\\_2010/lightweight\\_materials/lm020\\_sun\\_2010\\_o.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/pdfs/merit_review_2010/lightweight_materials/lm020_sun_2010_o.pdf)

## *Energy and Vehicle Weight Reduction*

- U.S. transportation energy accounts for 28% of total consumption
- 94% of transportation energy is from petroleum
- The relationship between weight and energy savings is complicated...
- ...but significant fuel economy and energy savings are likely

## *Vehicle Weight Reduction Today*

- Lightweight materials (including steels) have seen wider application in vehicles...
- ...but vehicle weight has increased!
- Demand for improved safety, comfort, emissions control, etc. has offset weight reduction
- Development of lightweight materials provides a strong foundation for future weight reduction

## *Moving Forward with Lightweight Materials*

- Steel, Aluminum, Magnesium, Carbon Fiber Composites, and other materials will likely play a roll in continued weight reduction
- Significant unanswered questions exist in properties, manufacturing, multi-material enabling, and modeling/simulation of these materials
- **Where does steel need to go from here?**

## Mass Reduction, Vehicles, and Energy:

- Cheah, L.W. Cars on a Diet: The Material and Energy Impacts of Passenger Vehicle Weight Reduction in the U.S. Ph.D. Dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 2010.
- Lutsey, N. Review of Technical Literature and Trends Related to Automobile Mass-reduction Technology, Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis, 2010.

## EERE Vehicle Technologies Program Resources:

- Annual Reports  
[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/resources/fcvt\\_reports.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/resources/fcvt_reports.html)
- Annual Review Presentations  
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/resources/proceedings/index.html>
- Annual Merit Review  
May 16 – 18, 2012, Crystal City (Arlington), VA

*william.joost@ee.doe.gov*