

# Warm Electromagnetic Forming of AZ31B Magnesium Alloy Sheet

I. Ulacia<sup>1</sup>, A. Arroyo<sup>2</sup>, I. Eguia<sup>2</sup>, I. Hurtado<sup>1</sup>, M.A. Gutiérrez<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mondragon Goi Eskola Politeknikoa, Mondragon Unibertsitatea, Mondragon, Spain

<sup>2</sup> Labein-Tecnalia Research Center, Derio, Spain

- Introduction and motivation
  
- Electromagnetic forming experiments
  - EMF drawing
  - EMF bending
  
- Conclusions and ongoing work

There is a clear tendency for **weight reduction** in automotive and aeronautic industries.



“Cars on a diet”

The use of magnesium parts is expected to increase (e.g. Usamp 2007)



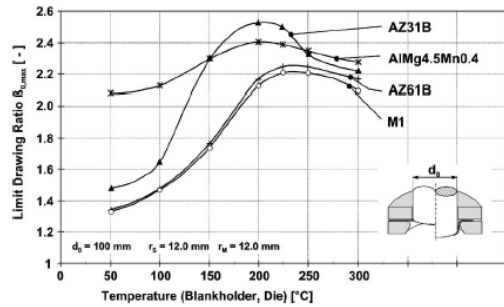
Mg alloys

	Al	Mg	Steel	Ti
$\rho$	2.8	1.74	7.83	4.5
$E$	70	45	210	110
$R_m$	150-680	100-380	300-1200	910-1190
$R_m/\rho^{(1)}$	54-243	57-218	38-153	202-264
$E/\rho^{(2)}$	25.0	25.9	26.8	24.4
$\sqrt{R_m}/\rho^{(3)}$	9.3	11.2	4.4	7.7
$\sqrt[3]{E}/\rho^{(4)}$	14.7	20.4	7.6	10.6

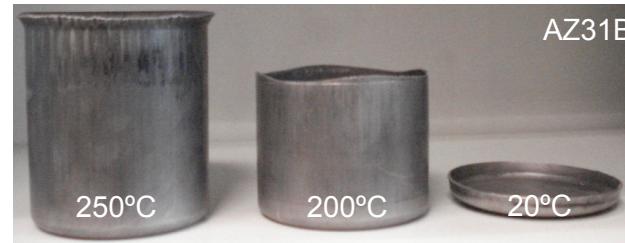
[Kleiner et al. 2003]

Strategies to increase formability:

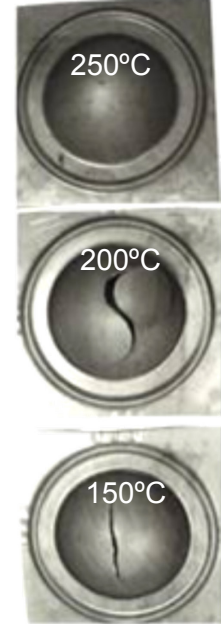
Increasing Temperature: Warm Forming



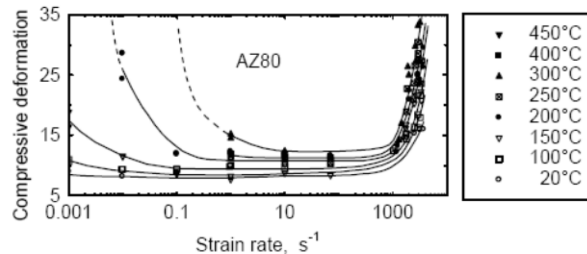
[Doege et al. 2001]



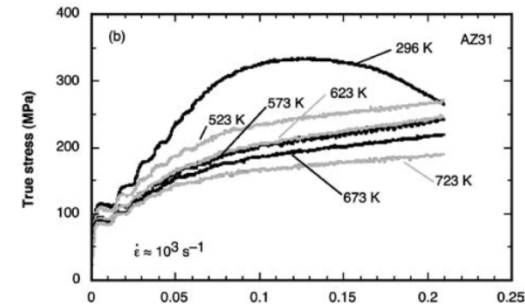
[Ulacia et al. 2008]



Increasing Strain Rate (EMF, EHF and explosive forming)



[El-Magd et al. 2004]



[Ishikawa et al. 05]

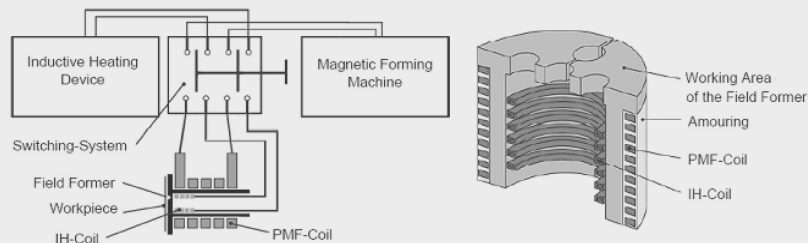
## Previous work in EMF of Mg alloys:

### Tube

TU Berlin, Germany  
[Uhlmann *et al.* 2004]

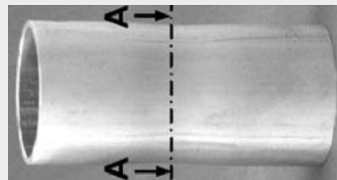
A **tool** for combining Inductive Heating and Magnetic Forming was shown.

No deformed parts or values were shown



IUL Dortmund, Germany  
[Psyk *et al.* 2006]

Suitability of different **extruded Mg tubes** for EMF was characterised



### Sheets

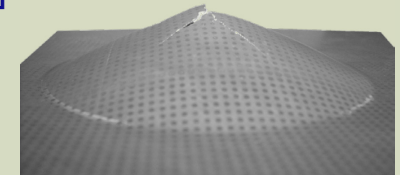
VTT and Helsinki University, Finland  
[Revueña *et al.* 2007]

Increase of formability was reported for AZ31B, although deformation values were not shown



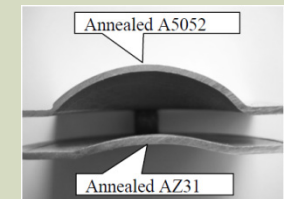
Labein and Mondragon Univ., Spain  
[Ulacia *et al.* 2008]

Increase of formability was measured for AZ31B at Room Temp



AIST, Japan  
[Murakoshi *et al.* 2008]

EMF at different temp.



Current research:

Aim: Evaluate the effect of temperature on the electromagnetic forming of Mg AZ31 sheets

AZ31B (commercial). 1 mm thickness. GS=10 $\mu$ m

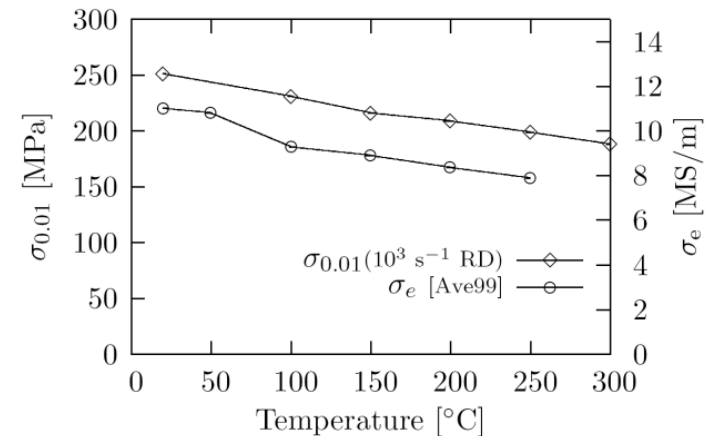
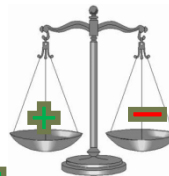
Element	Zn	Al	Si	Cu	Mn	Fe	Ni	Ca	Sn	Others
wt%	0.96	2.7	0.01	$\leq 0.01$	0.21	0.002	$\leq 0.001$	$\leq 0.01$	0.00	$\leq 0.30$

Increasing temperature

Decrease of electrical conductivity 

Decrease of yield strength 

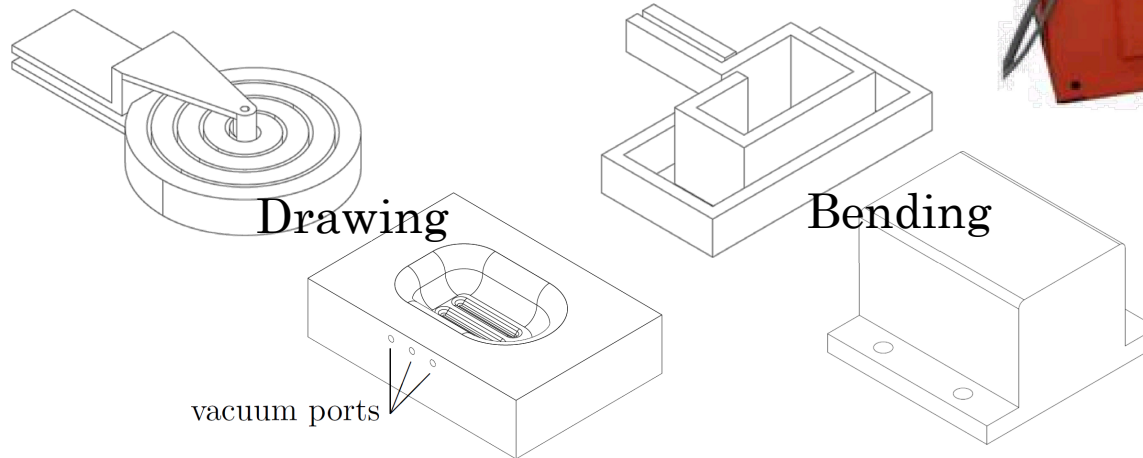
Increase of active def. mechanisms 



EMF at different temperatures:

**Machine:** Maxwell Magneform at *Labein-Tecnalia*

- **Capacitor bank:** 60kJ (1800  $\mu$ f – 8.66 kV)
- **40 Tn Hydraulic Press**
- **Coils & dies:**



**Test conditions:**

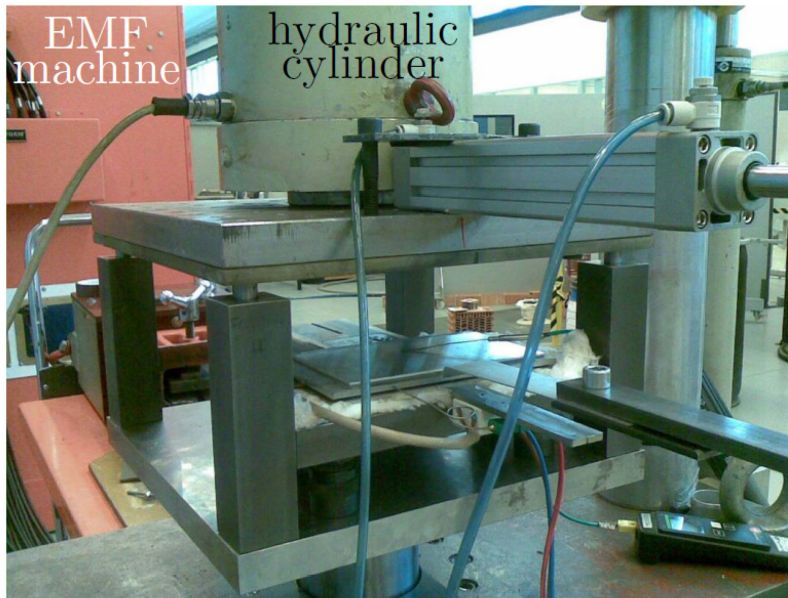
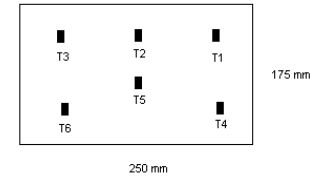
- **Temperatures:** R.T., 100°C, 150°C, 200°C, 250°C
- **Discharged Energies:**
  - 6 kJ - 15 kJ (Drawing)
  - 1 kJ – 6 kJ (Bending)



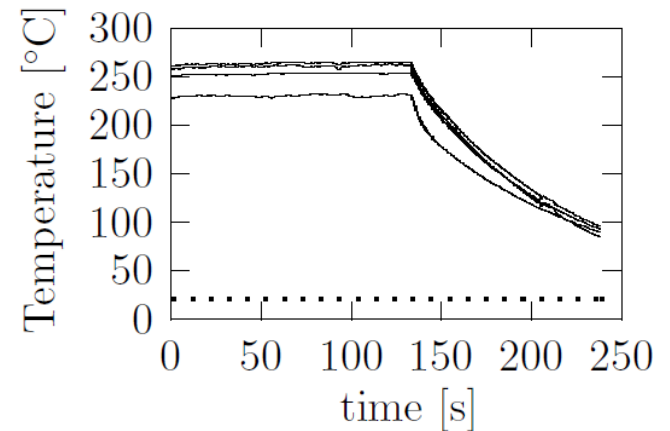
EMF at different temperatures:

**Heating Strategy:** Heating outside the forming position

- Step 1. Heating: Temperature was controlled with thermocouples
- Step 2. Automatic Transfer: Temp drop measured (Cooling curves for each Temp)
- Step 3. Closing and EMF discharge:  
Time for discharging measured → Initial Temp.

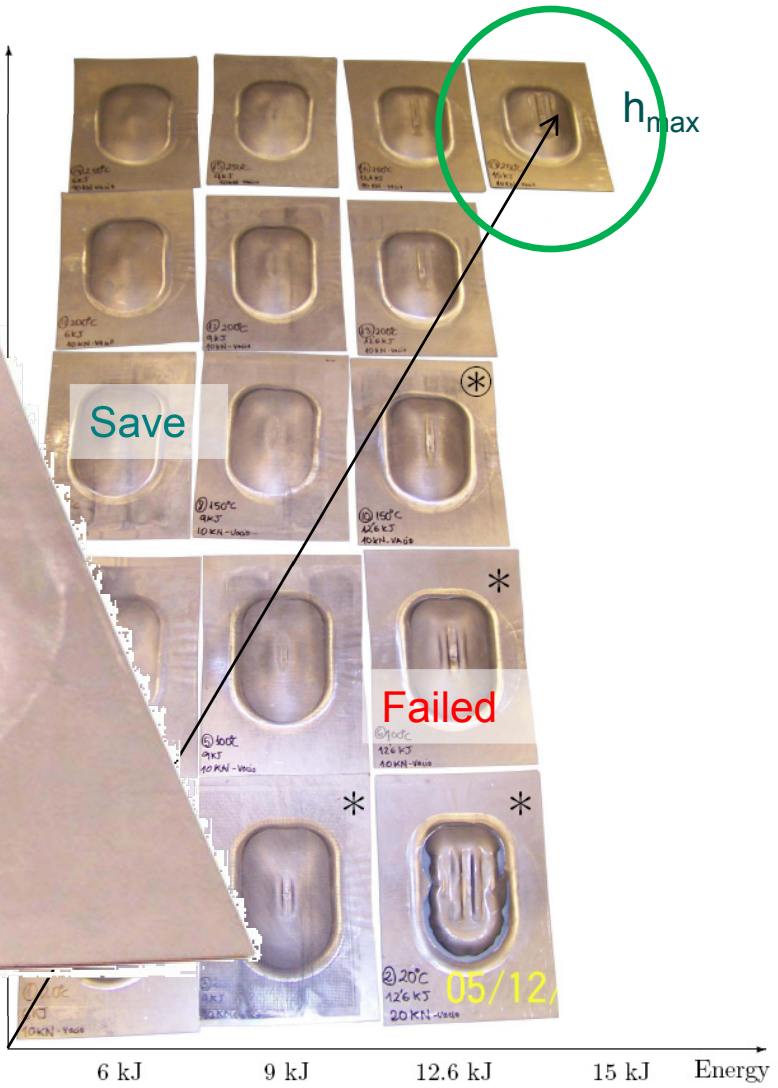
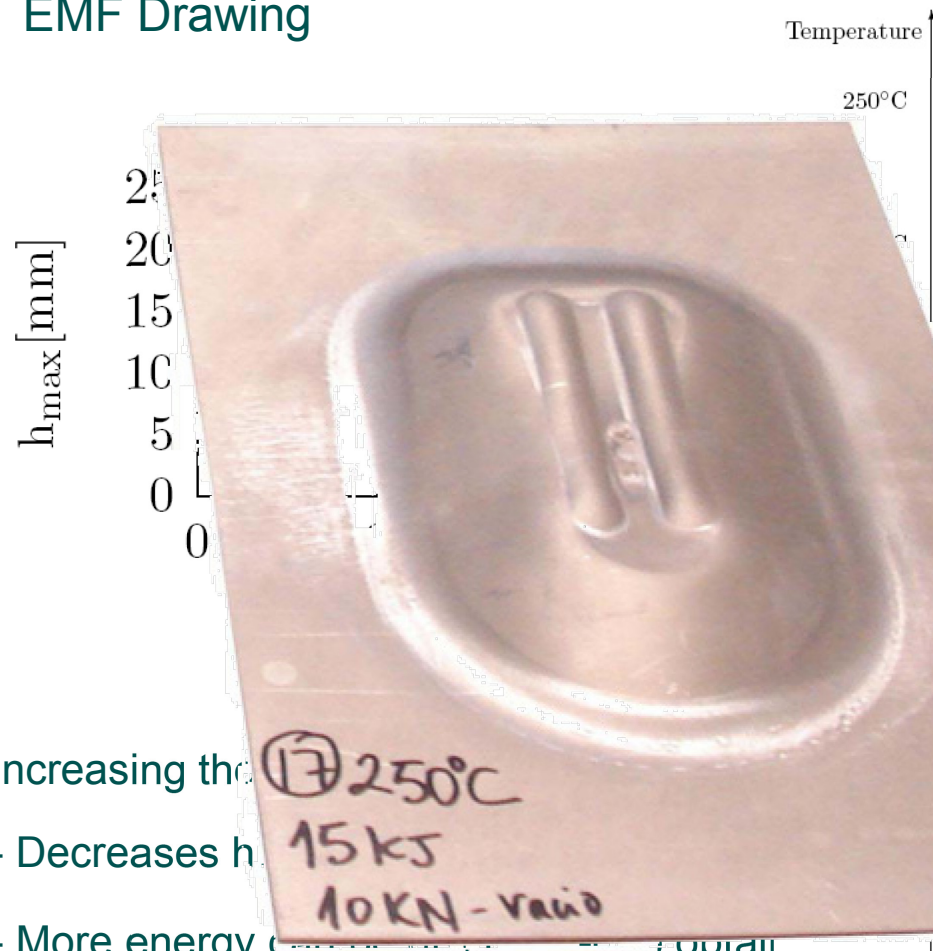


Cooling curve for 250°C





EMF Drawing

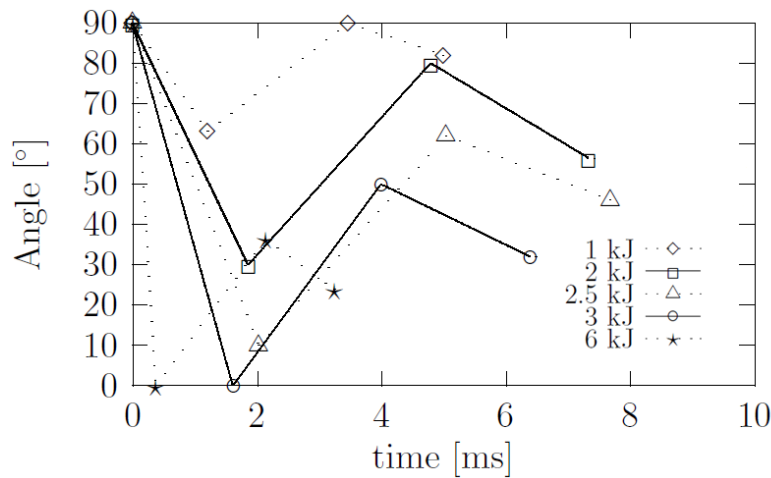
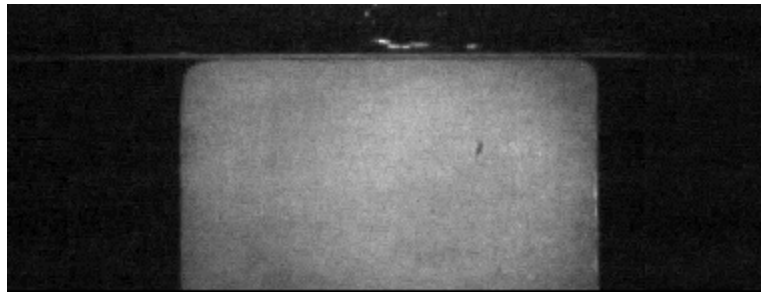


- Increasing the temperature
- Decreases  $h_{max}$
- More energy

EMF Bending

Room temperature

Energy for impact?



	Impact/Max.Def.	Springback	Final shape
1 kJ	t ≈ 1.2 ms	t ≈ 3.46 ms	t ≥ 5 ms
2 kJ	t ≈ 1.86 ms	t ≈ 4.8 ms	t ≥ 7.33 ms
2.5 kJ	t ≈ 2.026 ms	t ≈ 5.04 ms	t ≥ 7.68 ms
3 kJ	t ≈ 1.626 ms	t ≈ 4 ms	t ≥ 6.4 ms
6 kJ	t ≈ 0.373 ms	t ≈ 2.13 ms	t ≥ 3.25 ms

- Non-symmetrical deformation (coil)
- Impact in 2.5-3 kJ
- Decrease of springback with increasing energy
- Higher plastic deformation
- High velocity impact

## EMF Bending

Different temperatures

**For a given energy, if:**

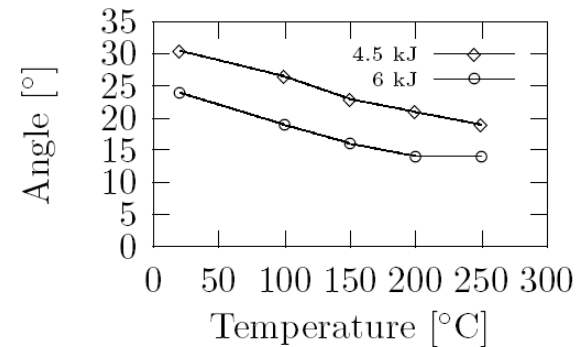
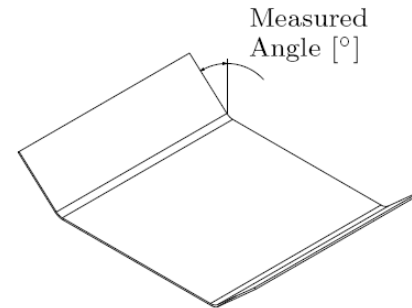
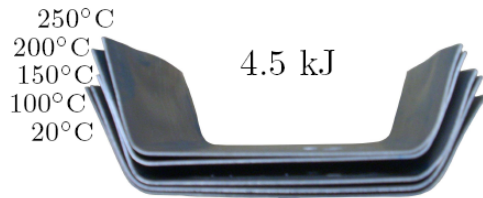
Temperature  $\uparrow$  (Elect. Conductivity  $\downarrow$ )  $\rightarrow$  Forces (Acceleration)  $\downarrow \rightarrow$  Impact vel.  $\downarrow$

**Then, from the previous results we should expect that:**

The final springback will increase with temperature.

EMF Bending

Different temperatures



\*Non homogeneous deformation in the whole flange

Increasing temperature: final angle is closer to the **target angle**

→ Reduction of springback due to decrease of yield strength with temperature

## Concluding remarks:

Warm EMF is studied: **Higher deformation** values could be obtained increasing **temperature**

→ It could be suitable to form **complex geometries** in Mg parts

**Springback** behavior of magnesium sheet at high strain rates was studied (EMF bending experiments). It was shown that:

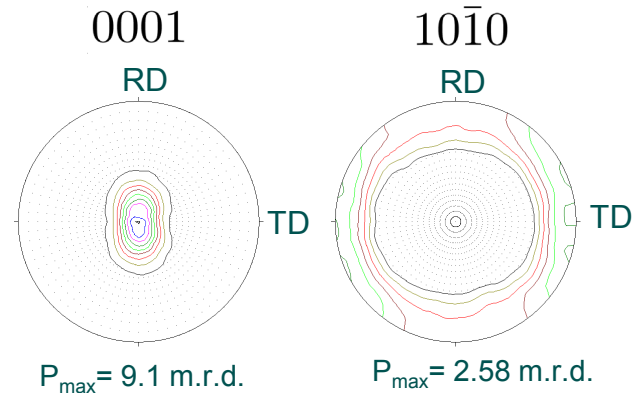
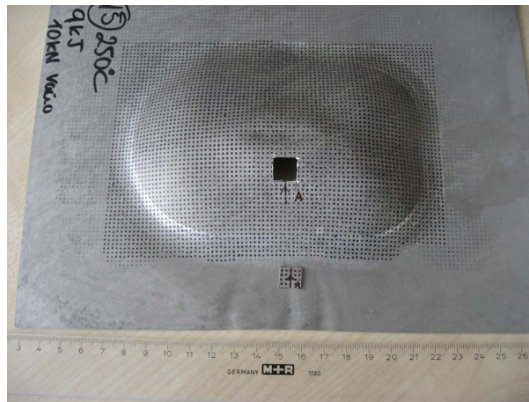
- Increasing the discharged energy the springback decreases
- Increasing temperature also decreases the springback

It is shown that temperature has different effect depending on the EMF operation:

- The decrease of electrical conductivity is important in drawing operations
- The decrease of yield stress is more important in bending

Material Characterization at high strain rate biaxial loading:

- Microstructure and texture analysis (EBSD & Neutron diff.)



- Compare with uniaxial results

EMF of other Mg alloys (e.g. ZE10)

- Weaker initial texture





## Thank you for your attention!



**Dr. Ibai Ulacia**

Mechanical and Manufacturing Department  
Mondragon Goi Eskola Politeknikoa  
Mondragon Unibertsitatea  
[iulacia@eps.mondragon.edu](mailto:iulacia@eps.mondragon.edu)