



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Design and Control of Advanced Functional Systems with Non- Conventional Material Properties

Dr Simon Pope

Department of Automatic Control and Systems Engineering

The University of Sheffield

[s.a.pope@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.a.pope@sheffield.ac.uk)



# Structure

- Background
  - Advanced Functional Materials
  - Metamaterials (EPSRC growth area)
    - Electromagnetic/optic
    - Acoustic/Elastic/Mechanical
  - Advanced Functional Systems
- Systems challenges in metamaterials
  - Modelling and Systems Identification
  - Performance and Optimisation
  - Manufacture



# Advanced Functional Material:

A collection of components/elements designed to provide a homogeneous material with a certain set of characteristics which would not arise through typical bulk/native material properties alone.

## Advanced Functional Materials

**Auxetic materials**

Materials with a negative poisson ratio

**Metamaterials**

Materials with negative dynamic parameters, such as mass or permittivity

**Microlattice materials**

Materials with novel static properties, such as low mass to volume ratio.

...



# Background to Metamaterials

- Metamaterials have received growing interest over the last 10-15 years due to their unique physical characteristics.
- Composed of arrays of sub-wavelength sized elements (meta-atoms) with effective dynamic bulk properties which can't be found in nature.
  - Initially developed in Electromagnetics
  - Broadened to include Acoustics and Elastodynamics.
- They are currently listed by EPSRC as a research area to grow.



# Background to Metamaterials

The dynamics of electromagnetic media are governed by Maxwell's equations (isotropic linear dielectric):

$$\nabla \times E = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial B}{\partial t} \quad B = \mu H$$

$$\nabla \times H = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} \quad D = \epsilon E$$

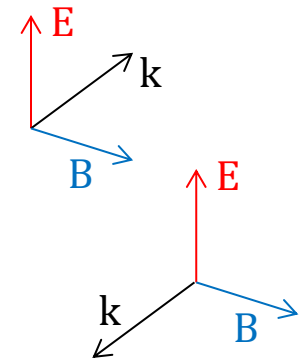
All known natural and conventional media are restricted to positive values for the constitutive parameters  $\mu$  and  $\epsilon$ .

# Background to Metamaterials

Viktor Veselago in 1964 investigated the effect of negative  $\mu$  and  $\epsilon$  <sup>1</sup>:

$\mu > 0$  &  $\epsilon > 0$   $\rightarrow$   $E$ ,  $H$  and  $k$  form a right-handed set

$\mu < 0$  &  $\epsilon < 0$   $\rightarrow$   $E$ ,  $H$  and  $k$  form a left-handed set



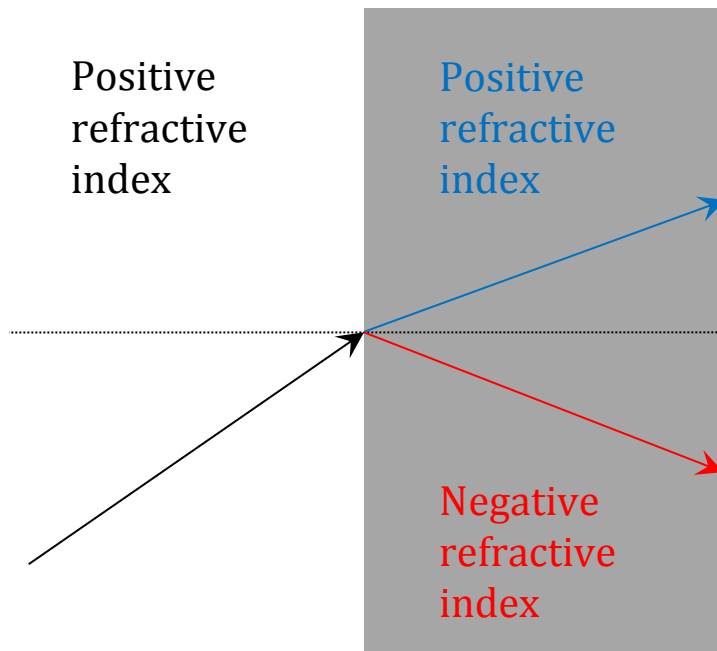
The importance/interest of left-handed materials:

- Opposing phase and group velocity
- Negative refractive index  $n = -\sqrt{\epsilon\mu}$
- Reversed Doppler shift



# Background to Metamaterials

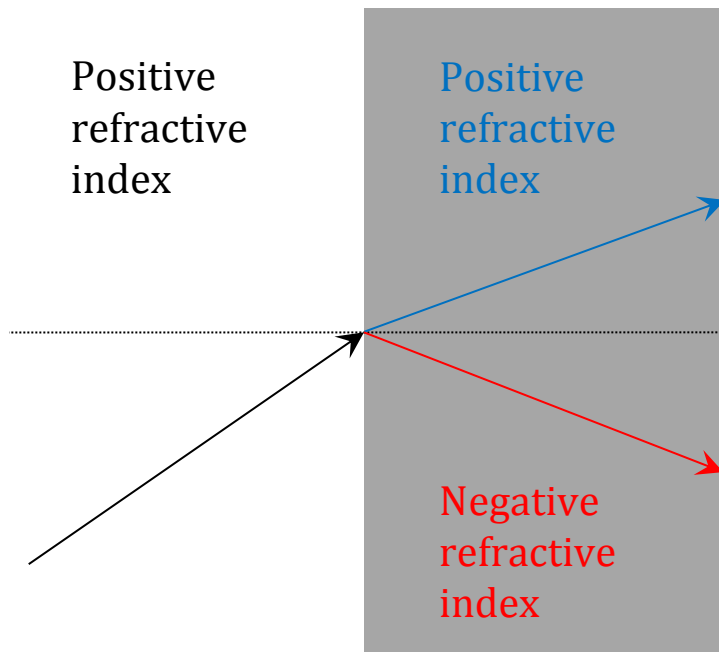
## Negative refraction





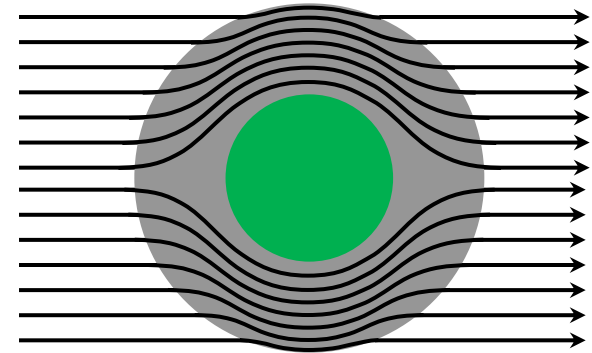
# Background to Metamaterials

## Negative refraction



## Applications

Invisibility cloaks

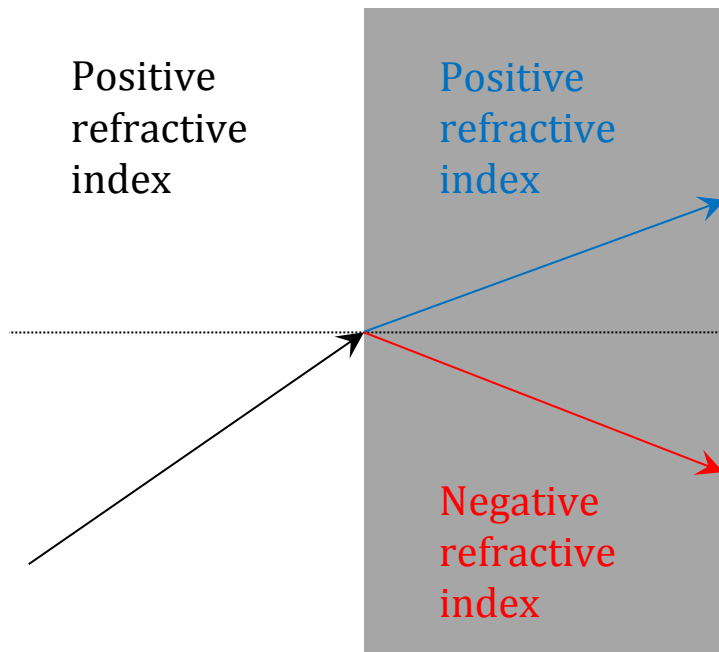






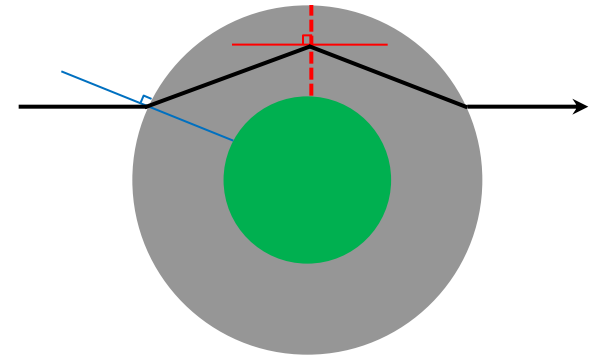
# Background to Metamaterials

## Negative refraction



## Applications

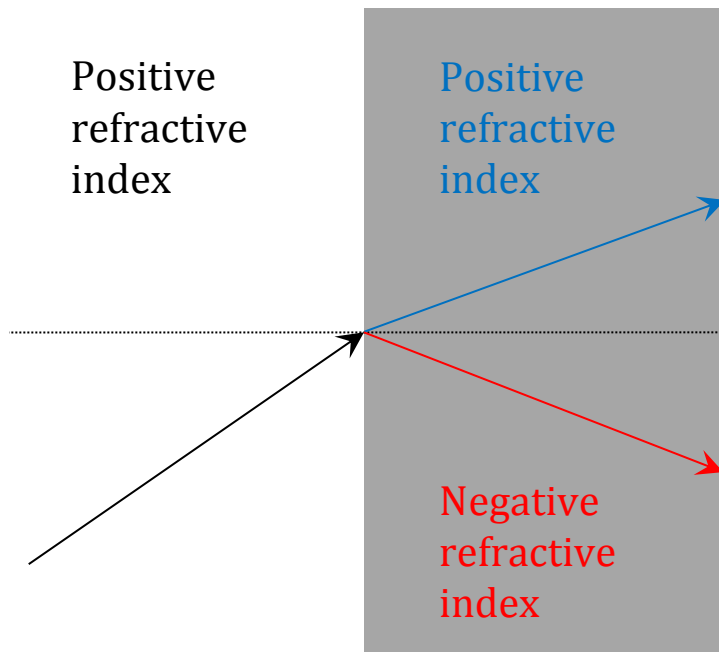
Invisibility cloaks





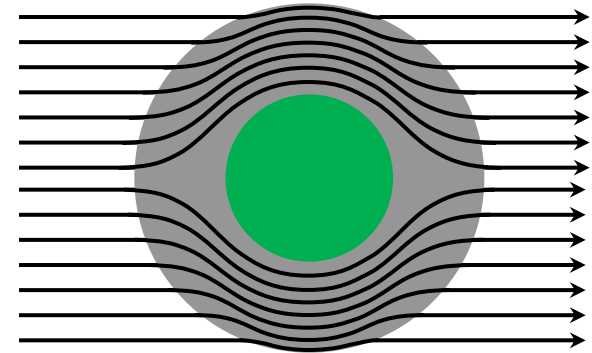
# Background to Metamaterials

## Negative refraction

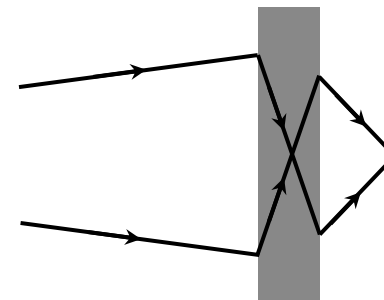


## Applications

Invisibility cloaks



Flat lenses





# Background to Metamaterials

What about  $\mu > 0$  &  $\varepsilon < 0$  or  $\mu < 0$  &  $\varepsilon > 0$  ?

- A material with permittivity and permeability with opposite signs has a complex refractive index.
- Such materials have a complex wave vector which efficiently blocks wave propagation in the material.



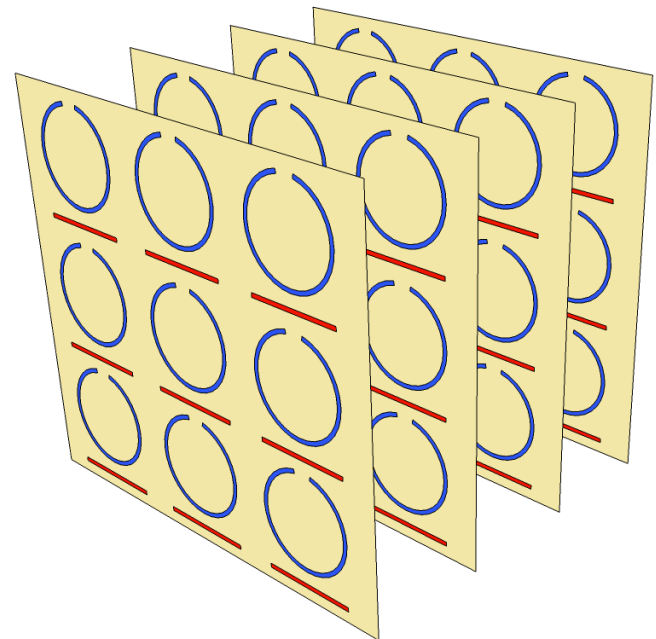
# How can we achieve $\mu < 0$ & $\varepsilon < 0$ ?

- One answer is metamaterials
  - They are composed of a periodic array of sub-wavelength sub-structures.
- For example, an array of local resonators and the associated  $180^\circ$  phase change at resonance can lead to parameters ( $\mu$  and  $\varepsilon$ ) which are effectively negative for a homogeneous material.

When excited by an external electromagnetic field <sup>2</sup>:

**Split ring resonators** generate an oscillating magnetic field

**Straight rod resonators** generate an oscillating electric field





# Acoustic and Elastic Metamaterials

The dynamics of elastic media are governed by Navier's equation (isotropic and homogeneous media):

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 \vec{u}}{\partial t^2} = \mu \nabla^2 \vec{u} + (\mu + \lambda) \nabla (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) + \vec{f}$$

Or the more general:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \frac{\partial^2 \vec{u}}{\partial t^2} &= \nabla \cdot \vec{\sigma} + \vec{f} \\ \vec{\sigma} &= \mathbf{C} : \vec{\varepsilon} \\ \vec{\varepsilon} &= \frac{1}{2} [\nabla \vec{u} + (\nabla \vec{u})^T] \end{aligned}$$



# Acoustic and Elastic Metamaterials

- A problem similar to the electromagnetic case.
- However the general solution is more complex as any disturbance leads to both shear and pressure wave generation within an elastic medium.
- Much work considers the simpler case of acoustic wave propagation which is governed by:

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 \vec{p}}{\partial t^2} = \kappa \nabla^2 \vec{p} + \vec{f}$$



# Acoustic and Elastic Metamaterials

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 \vec{p}}{\partial t^2} = \kappa \nabla^2 \vec{p} + \vec{f}$$

$\rho$  – Density

$\kappa$  – Bulk Modulus

$\rho > 0$  and  $\kappa > 0$  in all natural/conventional media – which is intuitively obvious, otherwise for example gravity wouldn't be much use in the conventional sense.



# Acoustic and Elastic Metamaterials

The ideas for electromagnetic media can be extended to their mechanical counterparts, namely that:

If  $\rho < 0$  &  $\kappa < 0$  the resulting media has:

- Opposing phase and group velocity

- Negative refractive index  $n = -\sqrt{\frac{\rho}{\kappa}}$

- Reversed Doppler shift

If  $\rho < 0$  &  $\kappa > 0$  or  $\rho > 0$  &  $\kappa < 0$  then propagating waves are effectively blocked and the material acts as a vibration/sound isolator.





# Acoustic and Elastic Metamaterials

## Applications

- Acoustic/Vibration cloaks:
  - Removing “dead spots” in rooms
  - Seismic protection for buildings
  - Strategic advantage – i.e. sonar evasion for submarines
- Imaging:
  - Ultrasound imaging for health and manufacturing
- Lightweight and thin high efficiency sound insulation
  - Buildings and transportation



# How can we achieve $\rho < 0$ & $\kappa < 0$ ?

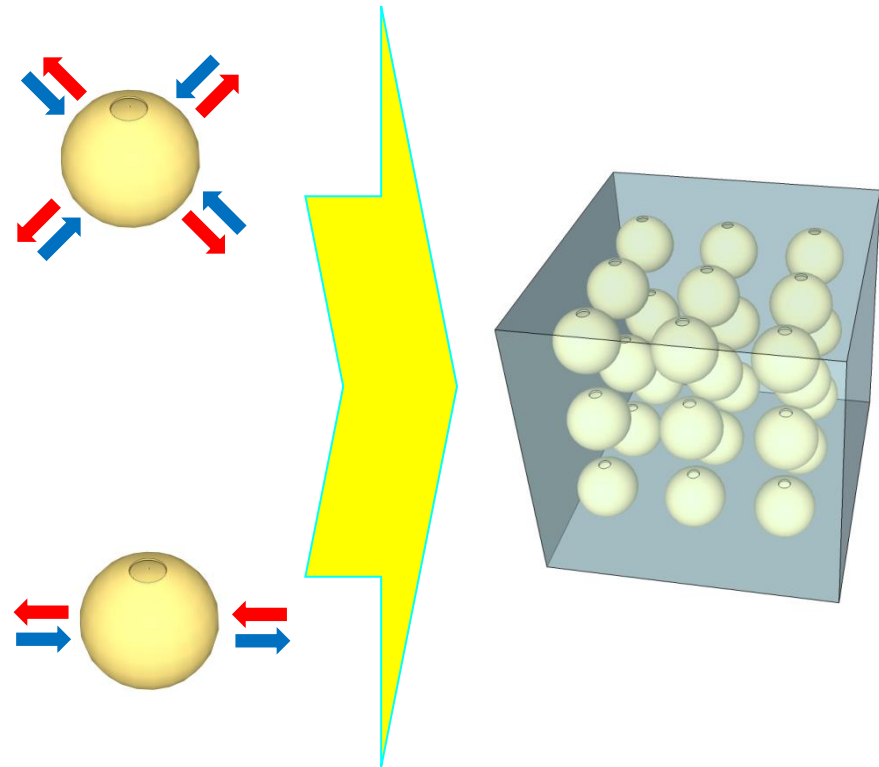
For example:

**Negative Bulk Modulus** – can result from a monopole resonance

The symmetrical expansion/contraction of a split hollow sphere provides such a resonance <sup>3</sup>

**Negative Density** – can result from a dipole resonance

The asymmetrical side-to-side (rigid body) resonance of a sphere <sup>4</sup> (or split hollow sphere) provides such a resonance



## How can we achieve $\rho < 0$ & $\kappa < 0$ ?

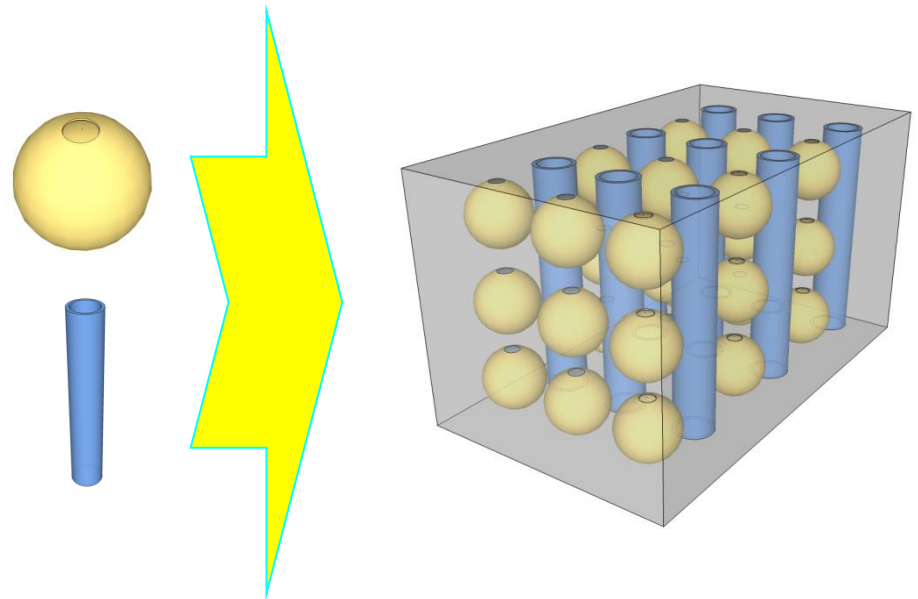
The required phase response for two different modes of the same element are unlikely to overlap.

More common to combine two different types of resonant elements.

For example <sup>5</sup>:

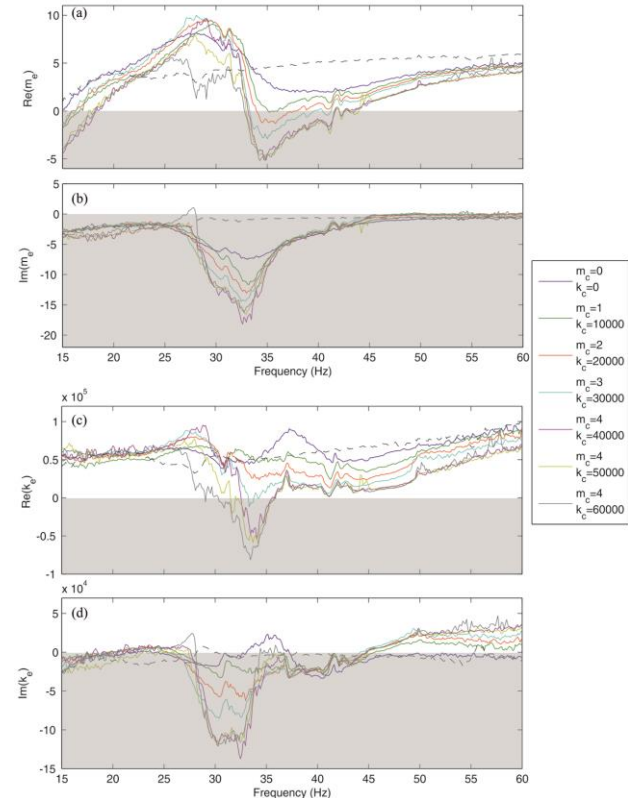
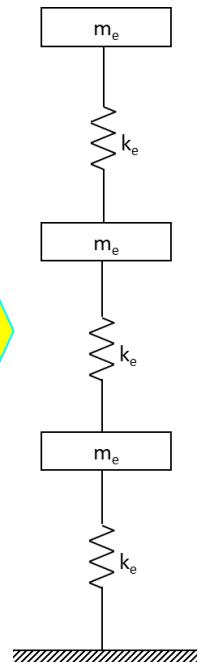
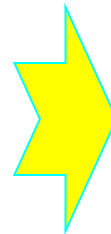
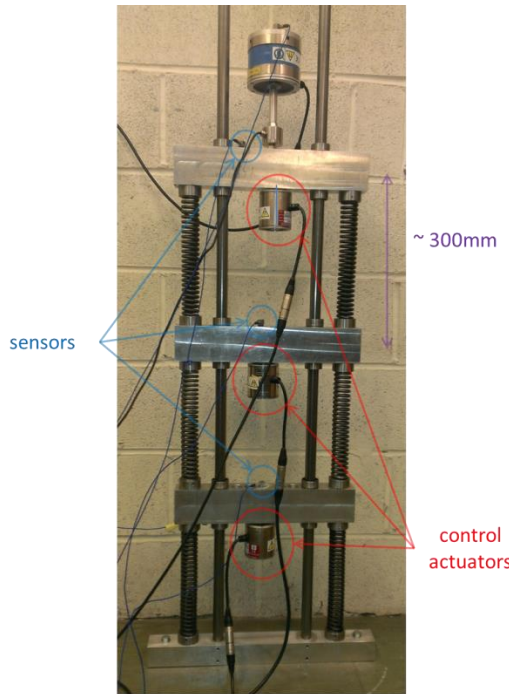
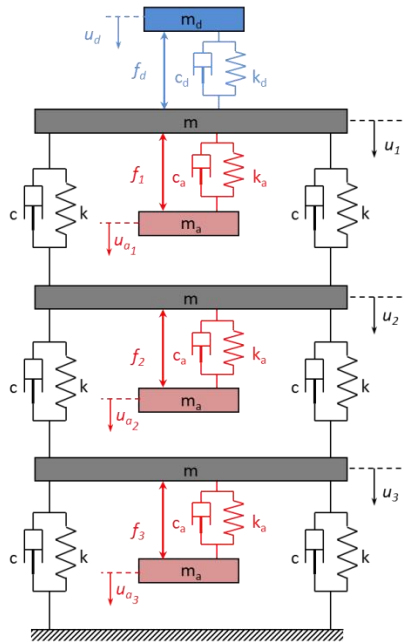
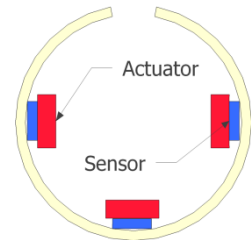
Split Hollow Sphere - **Negative Bulk Modulus**

Hollow rod - **Negative Density**





# Active Acoustic/Elastic Metamaterials<sup>6</sup>

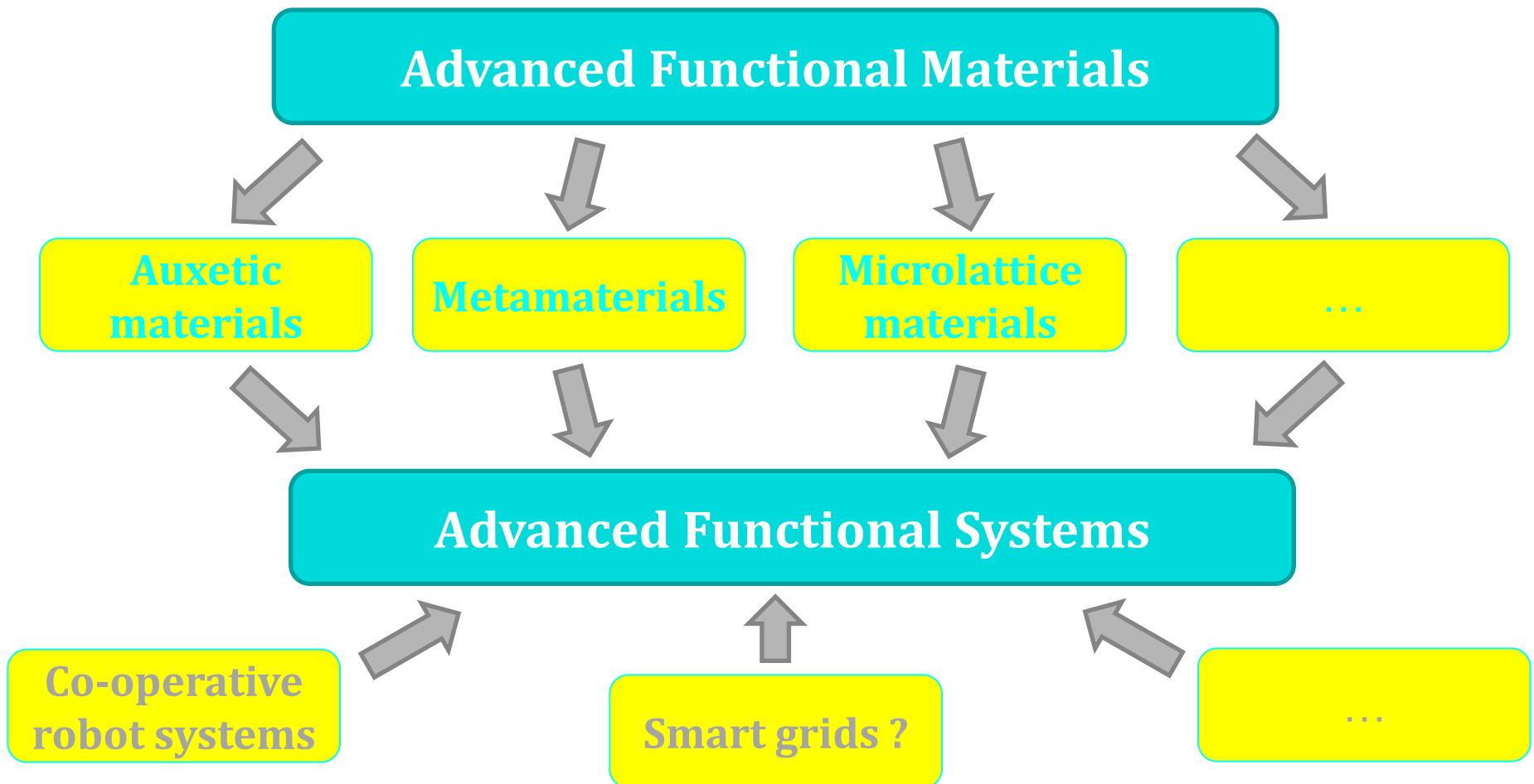


$$f_i = -m_c \ddot{u}_i + k_c (u_{i-1} + u_{i+1} - 2u_i)$$



# Advanced Functional System:

A collection of components or sub-systems designed to provide a homogeneous system with a certain set of characteristics which would not arise through the typical properties of a single (bulk) system (material) alone.



# Summary – Metamaterials

## Domains

- Optical/Electromagnetic
- Acoustic
- Elastic/Mechanical
- Thermal

## Types

- Resonant/Non-Resonant
- Passive/Active
- Linear/Non-Linear
- ...



# Summary – Metamaterial properties

- Single negative parameter
- Double negative parameter
- Polarisable (Chiral)
- Parameter anisotropy
- Unidirectional wave propagation (Rectification)
- Frequency selective and parameter tuneable
- Pentamode - solids that behave like fluids over a finite domain
- ...



# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research

Primarily driven by the need to translate fundamental work into application and industrial domains

- Shielding/Absorbers – including lightweight devices
- Cloaking – optical/seismic
- Lensing – flat and super-lenses
- Filtering
- Small antennas
- Improved sensing
- ...



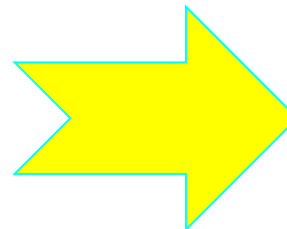
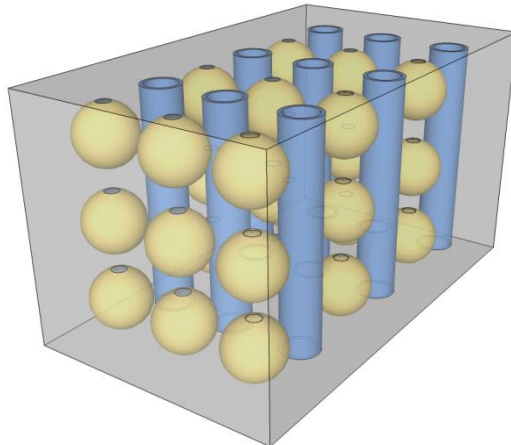


# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Modelling

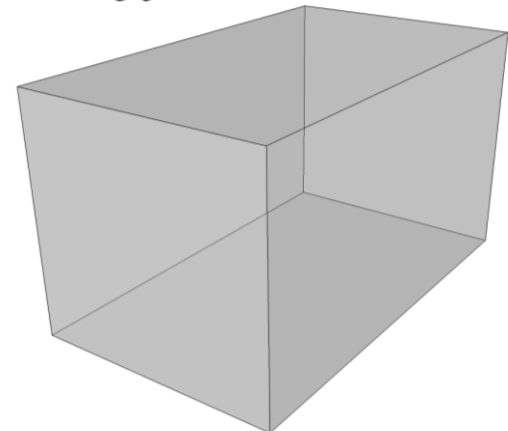
## Homogenisation

- Large arrays of discrete elements with a complex local response → *What is their equivalent homogenous function?*
- Further complicated by the potential active, electromechanical and non-linear nature of the discrete systems/elements.

Characterised by a mixture of local/global and discrete/distributed variables and parameters



$$\rho_e \frac{\partial^2 \vec{p}(x, y, z)}{\partial t^2} = \kappa_e \nabla^2 \vec{p}(x, y, z)$$



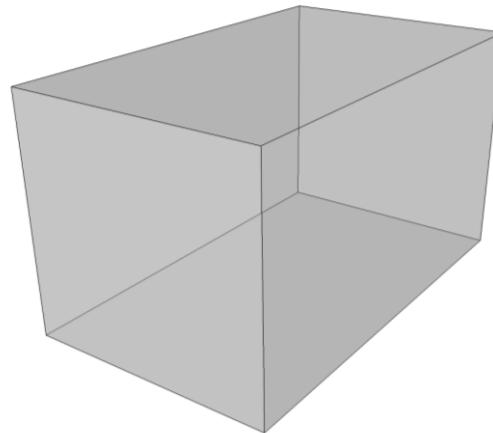


# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Modelling

## Spatiotemporal modelling

- Some applications require a complex spatial (including anisotropic) distribution for the effective material parameters
- These can also be time varying, particularly in adaptable materials.

$$\rho_e(x, y, z, t) \frac{\partial^2 \vec{p}(x, y, z)}{\partial t^2} = \kappa_e(x, y, z, t) \nabla^2 \vec{p}(x, y, z)$$

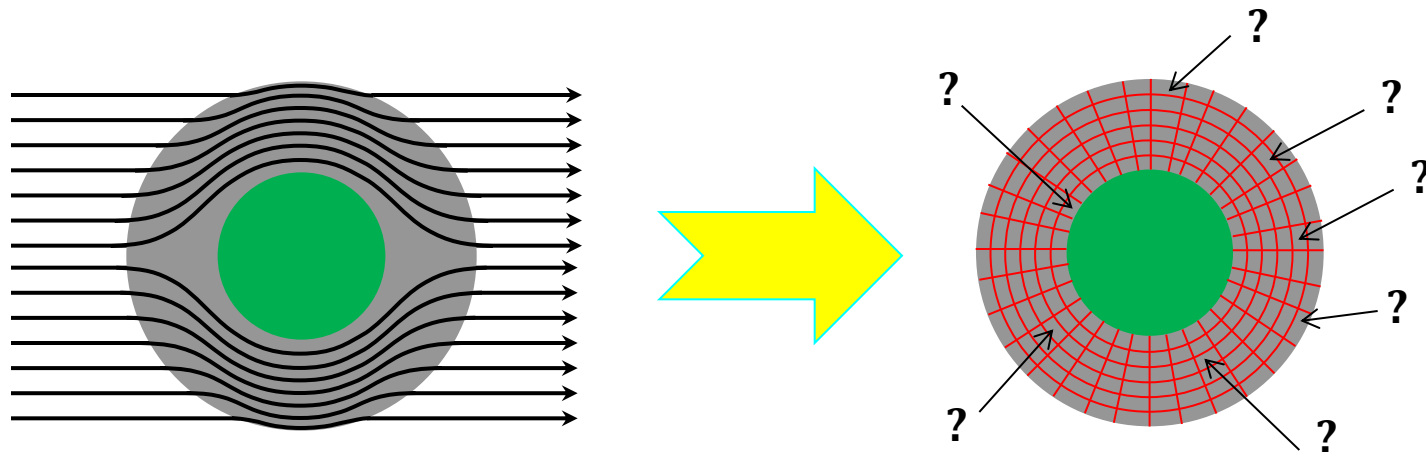




# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Modelling

## Inverse modelling

- The desired outcome function might be known – for example the spatial distribution of the magnitude of the material parameters.
- *What is the required distribution of discrete elements and the their local properties?*

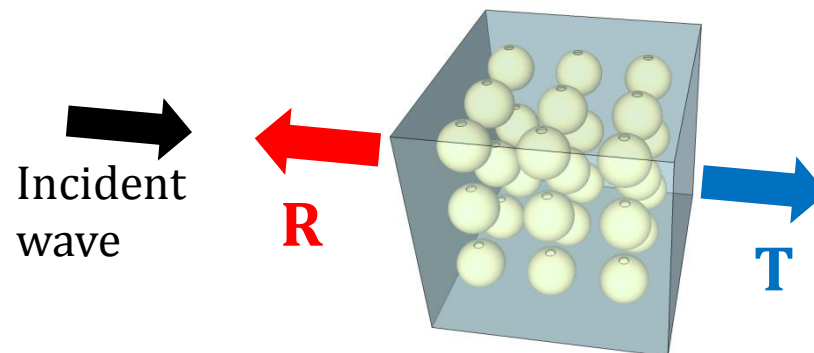


# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Systems Identification

Objective is to manipulate the effective parameters of a system → *What are the characterising homogenous function and parameters of an experimental metamaterial?*

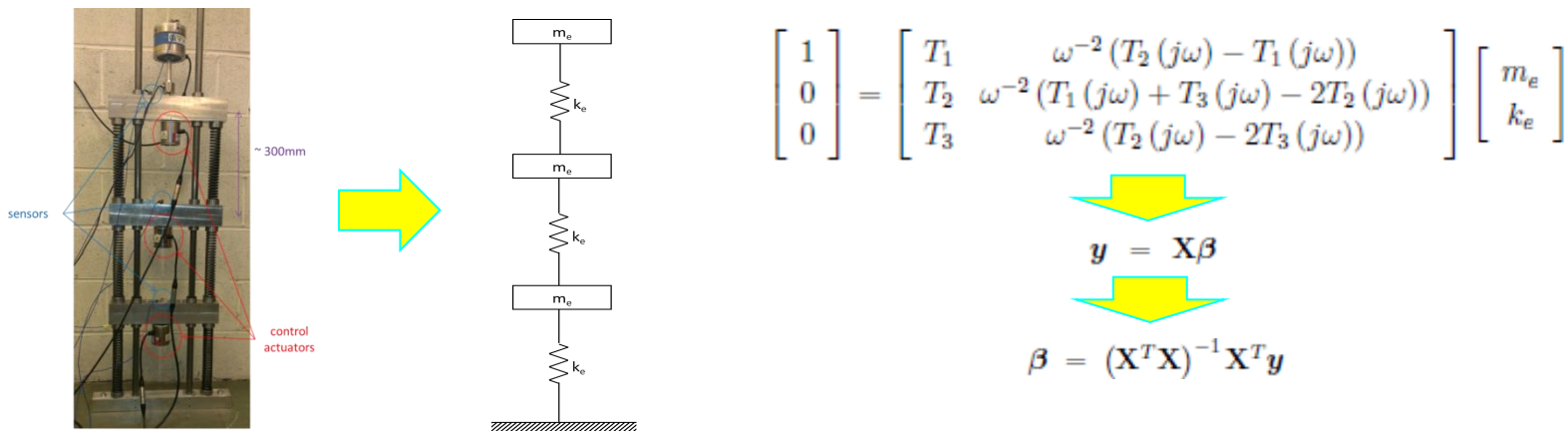
- A commonly used approach - measure the transmission and reflection coefficients, assume a standard linear function for the impedance and refractive index and solve for the effective parameters <sup>7</sup>.

This is subject to certain conditions and for example cannot be applied to active materials or shear elastic waves.



## Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Systems Identification

- Another approach requires direct measurements of each discrete element, from which a homogenous model can be determined.
  - Advantage include that the global response is considered and it can be extended to a complete black box model, but a disadvantage is that it requires multiple internal measurements <sup>6</sup>.



A need to identify linear and non-linear parameter functions for a wide range of designs and based on a wide range of measurements

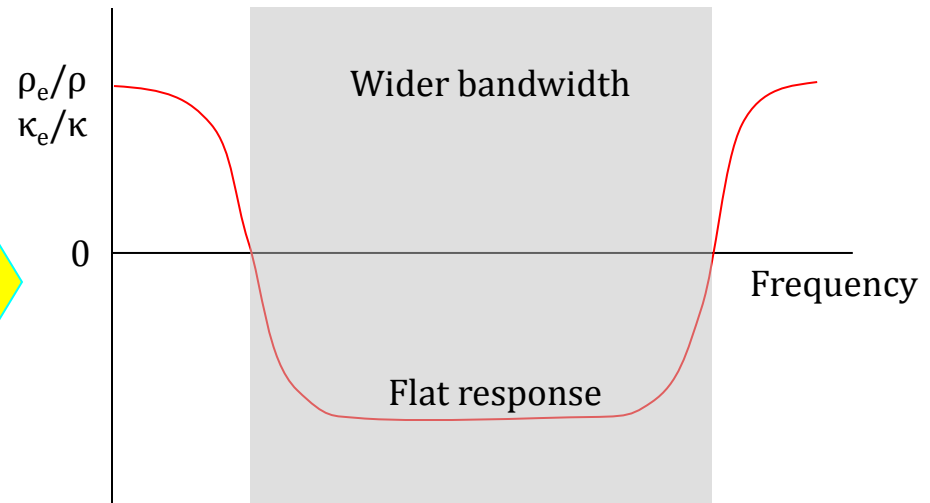
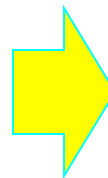
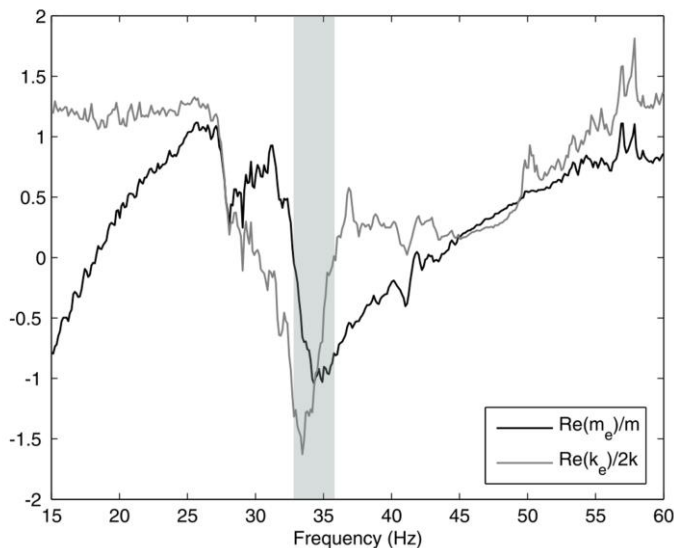


# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Improved Performance

## Bandwidth

The effective parameters are usually inherently dispersive  $\rightarrow$  desired parameters are only present over a finite (and often narrow) bandwidths.

*How can a larger bandwidth be achieved which is suitable for applications?*



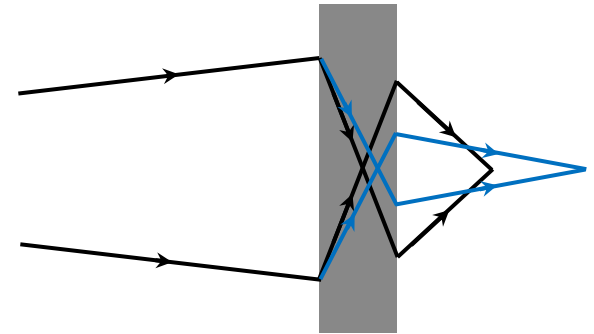


# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Improved Performance

## Tuning/Adaption

*How can changing user or environmental demands be met?*

e.g. variable focal length through control of the refractive index

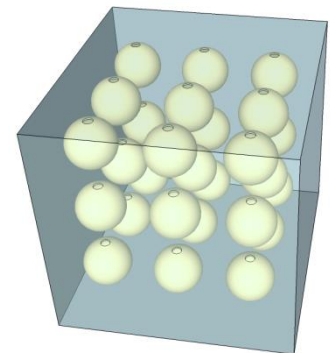
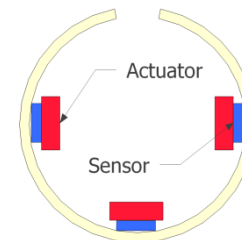


## Passive/Active

There are clear pros and cons of either passive or active designs – *what is the best combination?*

Inherently multi-input, multi-output systems

*Can a standard design meet the requirements for a range of applications?*



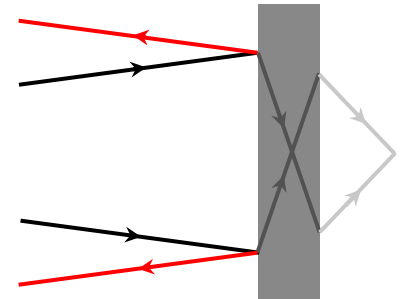


# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Improved Performance

## Impedance matching

Minimising reflection at the boundaries can be difficult in fluid/acoustic/elastic domains

*Can the impedance match inherently required by some applications (e.g. cloaks and lenses) be effectively achieved?*



## Loss minimisation

Passive designs are inherently dissipative

*Can the low transmission loss required by some applications (e.g. lenses) be achieved?*

The problem of meeting the varied performance requirements is inherently a multi-objective optimisation problem:  
spatial + temporal + frequency distribution of the parameters





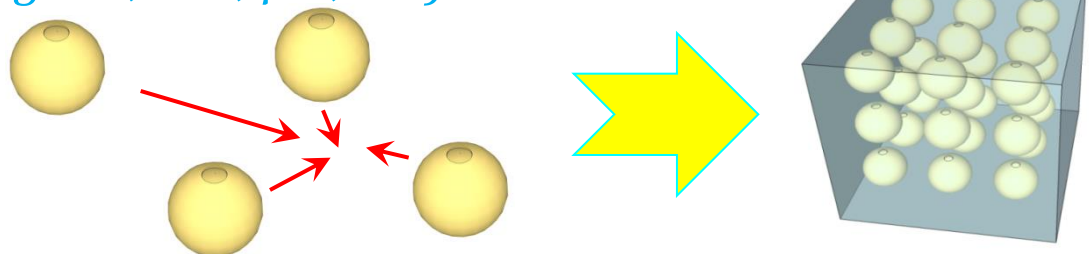
# Systems Challenges for Metamaterial Research: Manufacture

## Translating designs into devices

- The vast majority of work concentrates on producing designs to realise a particular parameter function or prototype application.
- *Can these designs be translated into market ready products?*
  - Design tools, manufacturing techniques, etc.

## Self-Assembly

- Multiple small systems → *Is self assembly possible across a suitability wide range of scales (e.g. cm, mm,  $\mu\text{m}$ , nm)?*





## Conclusion

- Metamaterials are part of an exciting new class of material
- To realise their potential it is important to consider them as Advanced Functional Systems.
- Systems Challenges in metamaterials research includes:
  - Modelling and simulating complex heterogeneous systems
  - Extracting the parameter functions for experimental implementations of these complex heterogeneous systems
  - Improving and tailoring the performance of what are inherently multi-objective and multi-input, multi-output systems
  - Manufacture and product development