

*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# Developing a physically-based tantalum strength model: Integrating fundamental concepts with macroscale models

**Hojun Lim<sup>1</sup>, Corbett Battaile<sup>1</sup>, Jay Carroll<sup>2</sup>, Justin Brown<sup>3</sup>, Thomas Buchheit<sup>2</sup>,  
Fadi Abdeljawad<sup>1</sup>, Steve Owen<sup>4</sup>, Christopher Weinberger<sup>4</sup>, Brad Boyce<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Computational Materials & Data Science, <sup>2</sup>Materials Mechanics & Tribology,  
<sup>3</sup>Dynamic Material Properties, <sup>4</sup>Simulation Modeling Sciences,

**Sandia National Laboratories**

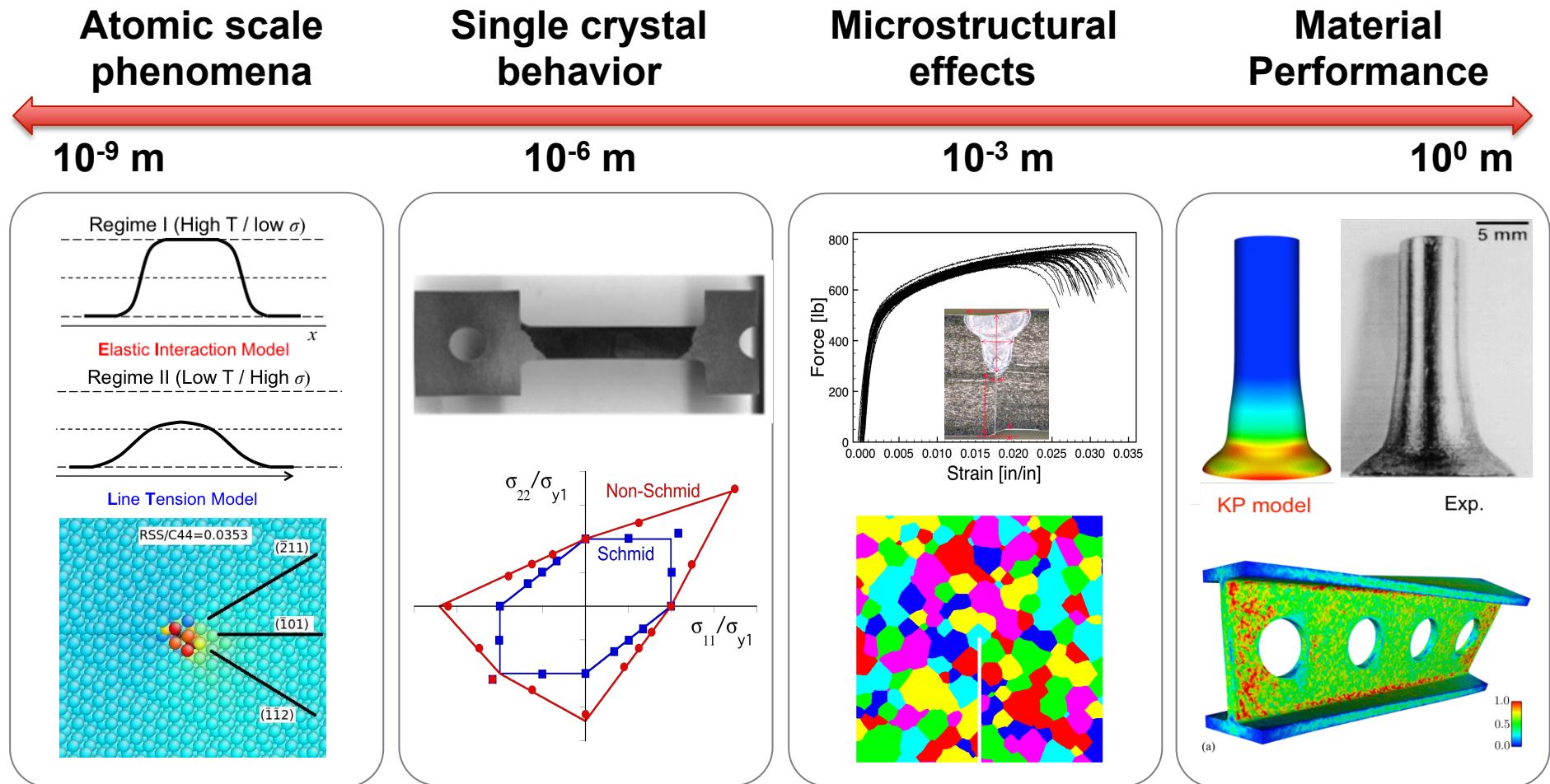
<sup>4</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics,  
**Drexel University**



Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

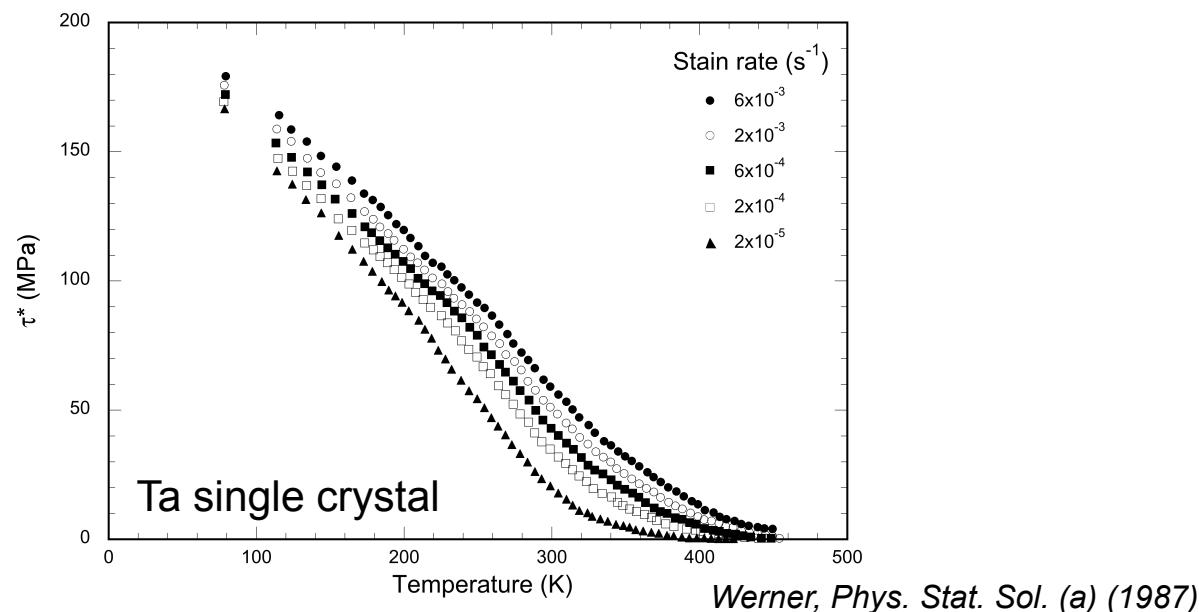
# Multi-scale Approach

Multi-scale simulation & experiments to understand & predict material's reliability



- **Introduction**
- **Ta strength model incorporating effects of T,  $\dot{\epsilon}$  and P**
- **Experimental Validation of CP-FE Simulations**
- **Grain-scale Microstructural Variability**
- **Polycrystalline modeling using phase field grain growth model**
- **Summary**

# Ta strength model incorporating effects of temperature, strain rate and pressure



- Lim, H., Battaile, C. C., Carroll, J. D., Boyce, B. L., Weinberger, C. R., 2015. "A physically based model of temperature and strain rate dependent yield in BCC metals: Implementation into crystal plasticity", *J. Mech. Phys. Sol.*, 74, 80–96.

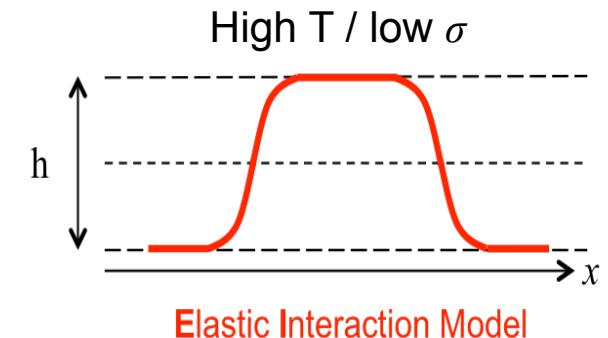
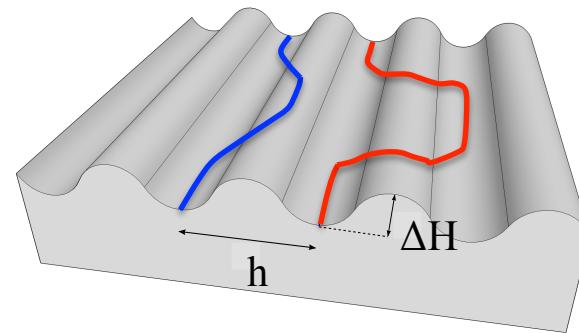
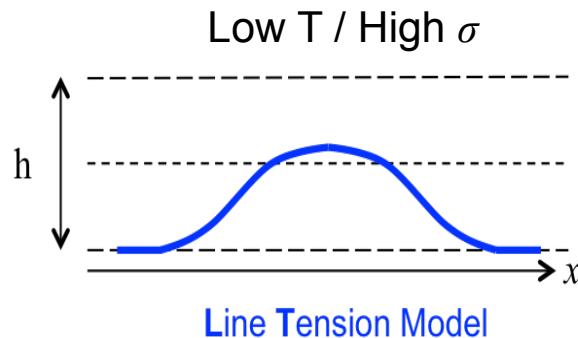
# Dislocation Kink-Pair Theory

$$\tau(T, \dot{\gamma}) = \underbrace{\tau^*(T, \dot{\gamma})}_{\text{Thermal}} + \underbrace{\tau_{obs}}_{\text{Athermal}}$$

In FCC metals,  $\tau^* \approx 0$

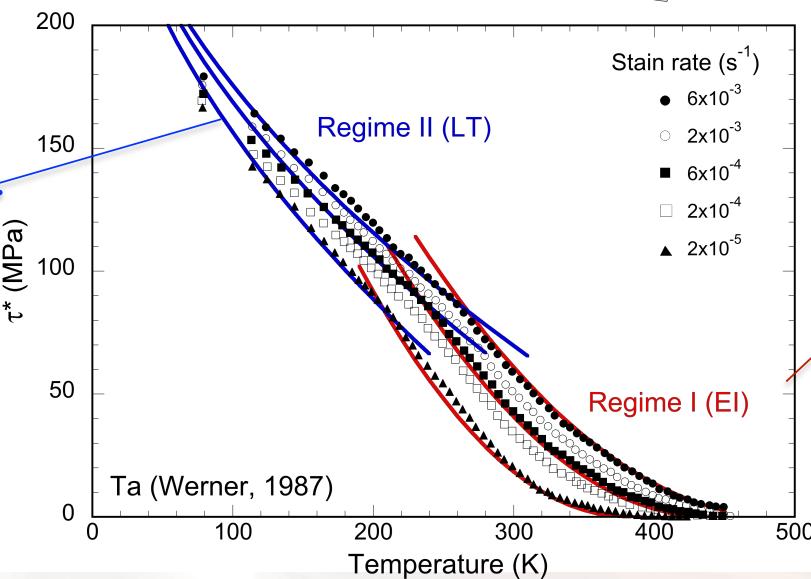
In BCC metals,  $\tau^* \gg 0$   $(T \ll T_c)$

## Peierls barrier and thermal activation of dislocations



$$\tau_{LT}^*(T, \dot{\gamma}) = \tau_{LT}^0 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{k_B T}{2H_k} \ln \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}_0}{\dot{\gamma}} \right) \right)^{1/2} \right]$$

(Antiparabolic Peierls potential)



$$\tau_{EI}^*(T, \dot{\gamma}) = \tau_{EI}^0 \left[ 1 - \frac{k_B T}{2H_k} \ln \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}_0}{\dot{\gamma}} \right) \right]^2$$

# Pressure Dependence

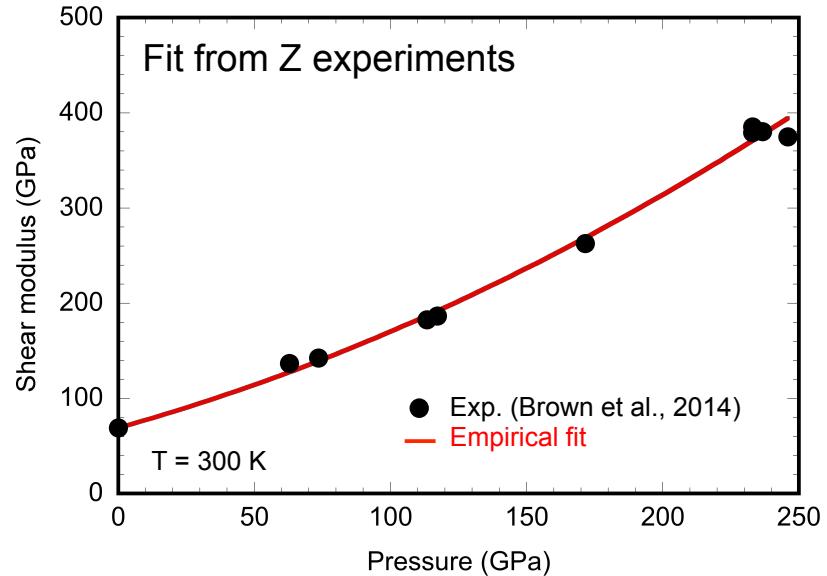
## ❖ Pressure dependent shear modulus

$$\mu(T, P) = \mu_0 - \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial T} (T - 300) + \alpha_1 P + \alpha_2 P^2$$

$$\frac{\partial \mu}{\partial T} = 0.009 \text{ GPa/K}$$

$$\alpha_1 = 7.99 \times 10^{-1} \text{ GPa}^{-1}$$

$$\alpha_2 = 2.13 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GPa}^{-2}$$

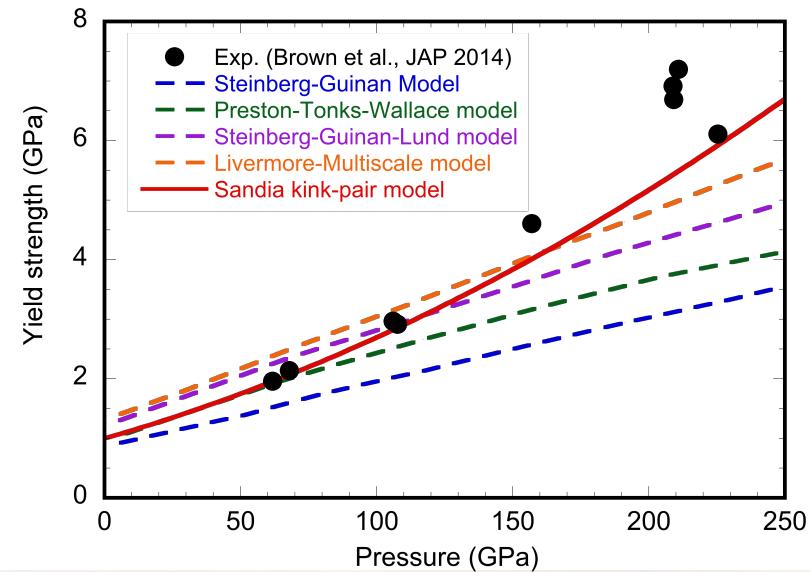


## ❖ Pressure dependent yield strength

$$\tau = \min(\tau_{EI}^*, \tau_{LT}^*) + \tau_{obs}$$

$$\tau_{EI}^* = \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \tau_{EI}^0 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\mu_0 k_B T \ln(\dot{\gamma}_0 / \dot{\gamma})}{\mu(2H_k^0)} \right) \right]^2$$

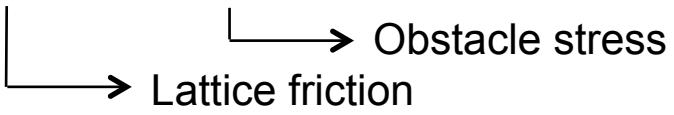
$$\tau_{LT}^* = \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \tau_{LT}^0 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\mu_0 k_B T \ln(\dot{\gamma}_0 / \dot{\gamma})}{\mu(2H_k^0)} \right)^{1/2} \right]$$



# BCC Crystal Plasticity Framework

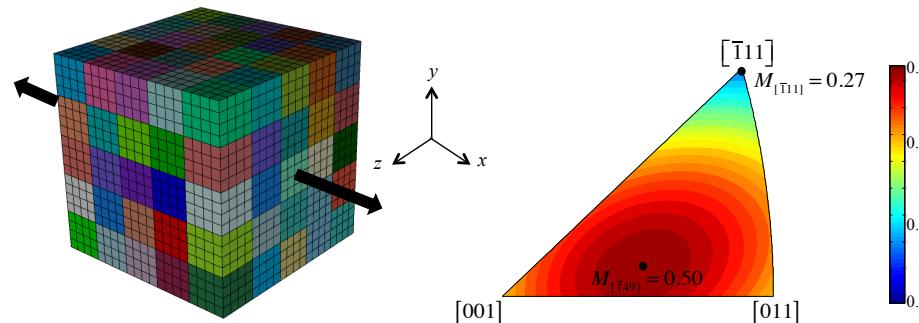
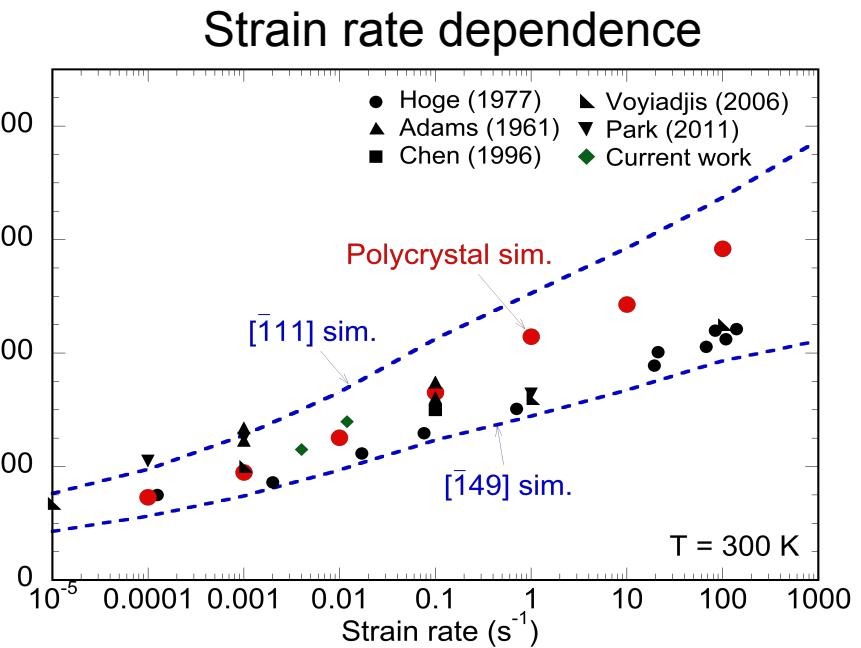
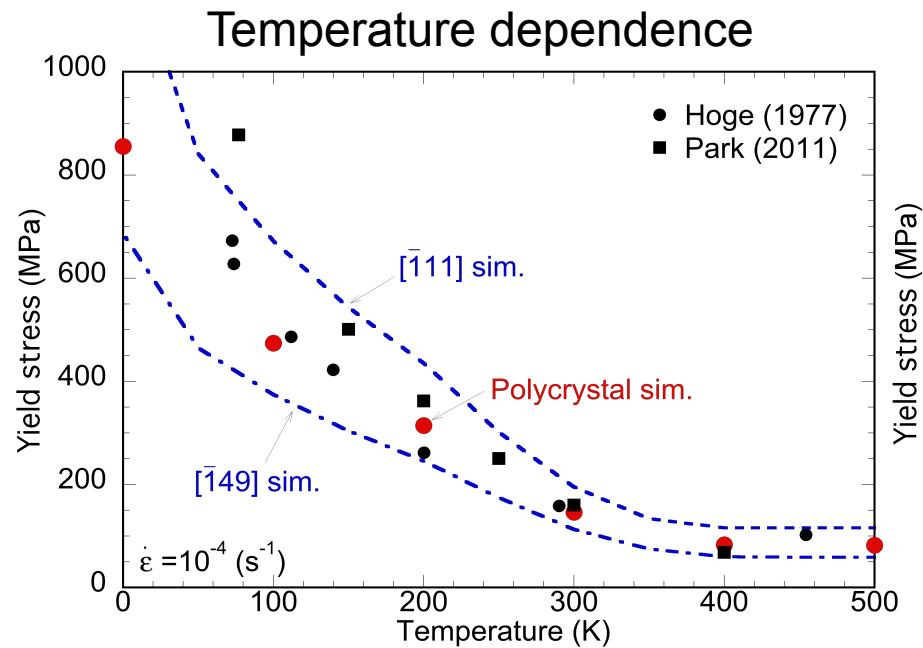
- FEM code developed at Sandia National Laboratories (JAS-3D)
- 24  $\{110\}<111>$  slip systems

- Slip rate:  $\dot{\gamma}^\alpha = \dot{\gamma}_0^\alpha \left( \frac{\tau^\alpha}{g^\alpha} \right)^{1/m}$  (Hutchinson, 1976)
- Slip resistance:  $g^\alpha = \min(\tau_{EI}^{*\alpha}, \tau_{LT}^{*\alpha}) + \tau_{obs}^\alpha$ 



Obstacle stress  
Lattice friction
- Obstacle stress:  $\tau_{obs}^\alpha = A\mu b \sqrt{\sum_{\beta=1}^{NS} \rho^\beta}$  (Taylor, 1934)
- $\dot{\rho}^\alpha = \left( \kappa_1 \sqrt{\sum_{\beta=1}^{NS} \rho^\beta} - \kappa_2 \rho^\alpha \right) \cdot |\dot{\gamma}^\alpha|$  (Kocks, 1976)

# Temperature and Strain Rate Dependence



Measured yield stresses of BCC polycrystals lie between the bounds predicted by CP-FEM models on extreme single crystal orientation.

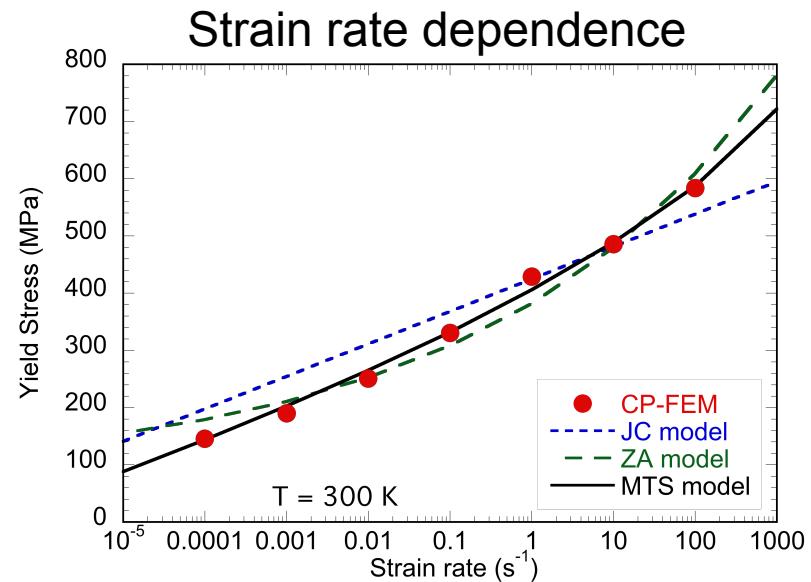
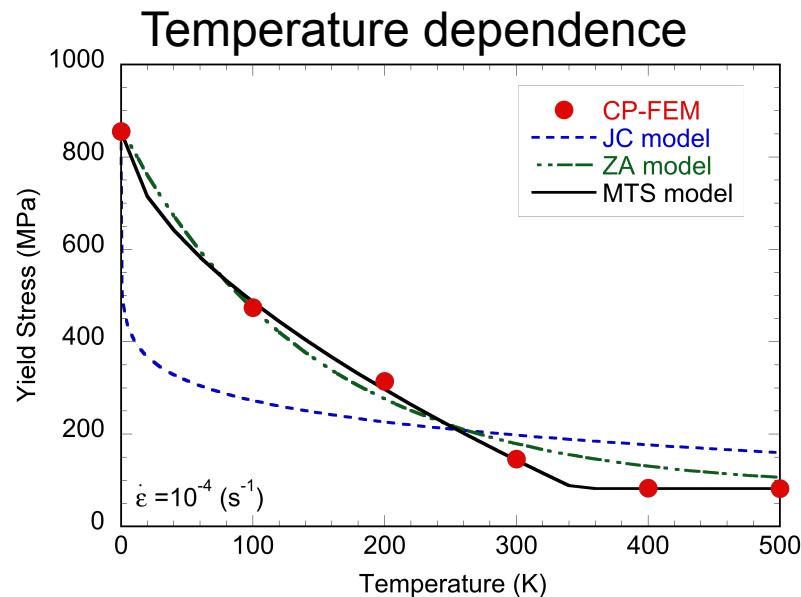
# Continuum-Scale Polycrystal Models

- ❖ Johnson and Cook (JC) model (Johnson and Cook, 1983, 1985)
- ❖ Zerilli-Armstrong (ZA) model (Zerilli and Armstrong, 1987)
- ❖ Mechanical Threshold Stress (MTS) model (Follansbee, 1988)

$$\sigma_y^{JC} = A(1 + C \ln \dot{\varepsilon})(1 - T^{*m})$$

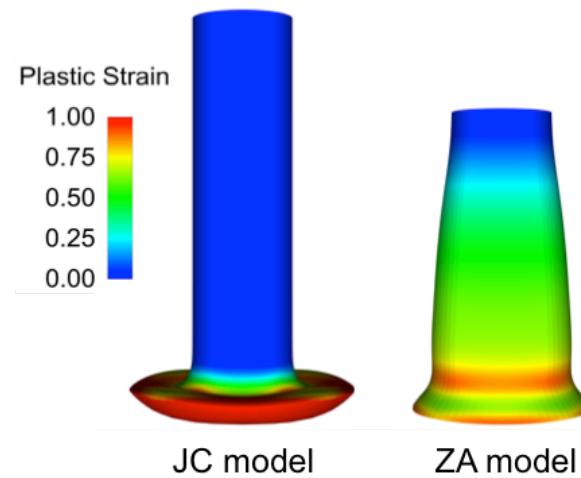
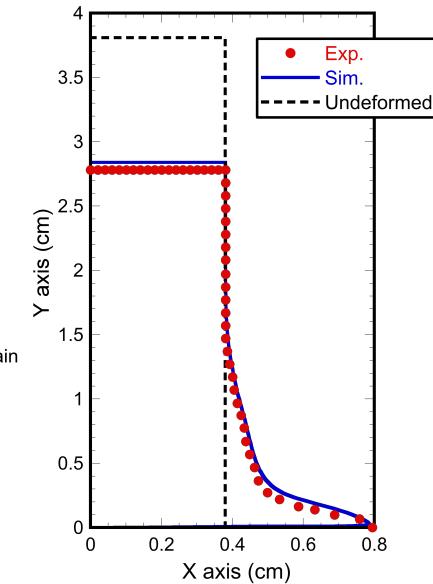
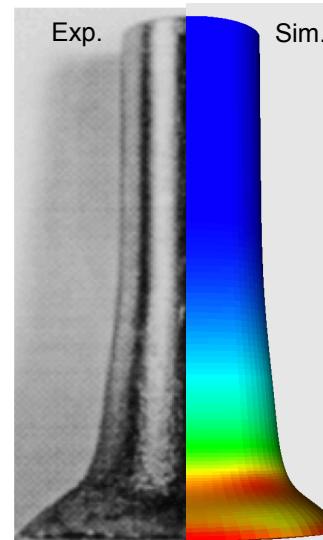
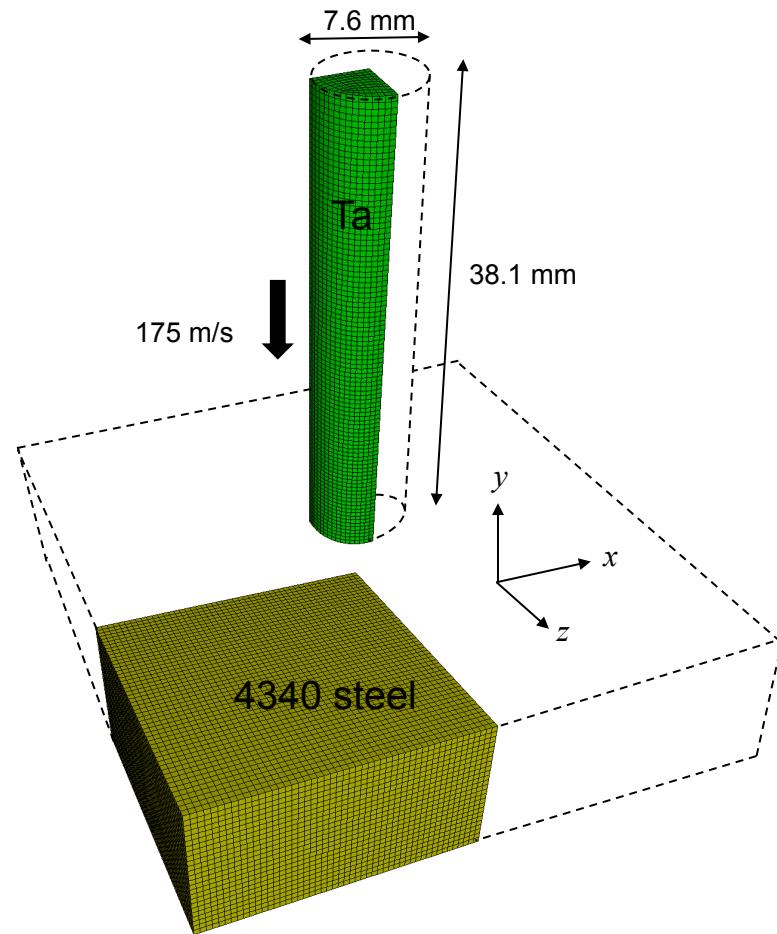
$$\sigma_y^{ZA} = C_0 + C_1 \exp(-C_3 T + C_4 T \ln \dot{\varepsilon})$$

$$\sigma_y^{MTS} = \sigma_0 + \hat{\sigma} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{k_B T}{G_0} \ln \frac{\dot{\varepsilon}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_0} \right)^{1/q} \right)^{1/p}$$



**MTS model** most accurately reproduces temperature & rate dependent polycrystalline behavior

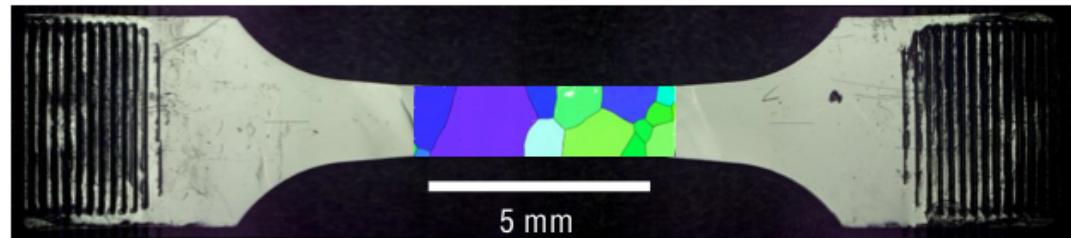
# Hydrodynamics Simulations: Taylor Impact Test



- ALEGRA solid dynamics code (Sandia)
- Kerley Mie-Grüneisen EOS

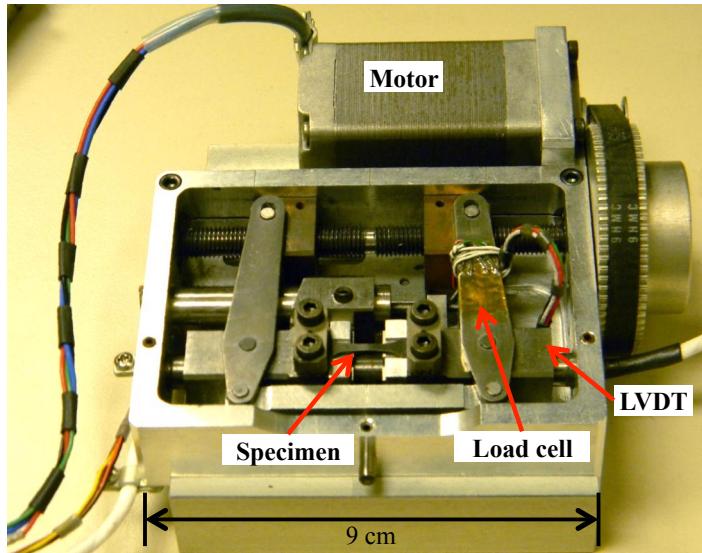
\* Maudline et al., IJP (1999)

# Experimental Validation of CP-FE Simulations of Ta Oligocrystals

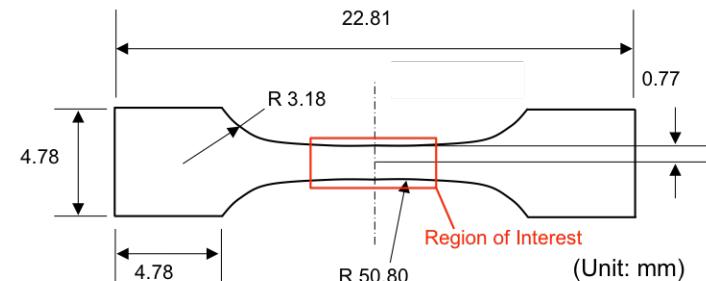


- Lim, H., Carroll, J. D., Battaile, C. C., Weinberger, C. R., Boyce, B. L., 2015. "Quantitative Comparison between Experimental Measurements and CP-FEM Predictions of Plastic Deformation in a Tantalum Oligocrystal", Int. J. Mech. Sci., 92, 98–108.
- Lim, H., Carroll, J. D., Battaile, C. C., Buchheit, T. E., Boyce, B. L., Weinberger, C. R., 2014. "Grain- scale Experimental Validation of Crystal Plasticity Finite Element Simulations of Tantalum Oligocrystals" Int. J. Plasticity, 60, 1–18.

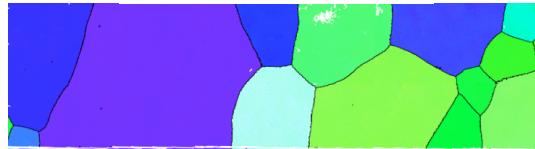
# Experimental Setup



- Tantalum oligocrystals with mostly columnar 2D grain structure eliminate unknown subsurface grain morphology.
- *In-situ* load frame developed at Sandia
- HR-DIC (surface strain fields) and EBSD (crystal orientations) measurements at load inside SEM

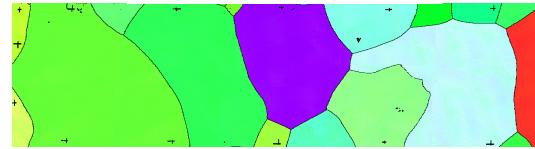


Specimen 1



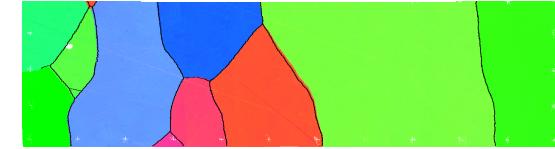
15 grains  
(1,426,650 elements)

Specimen 2

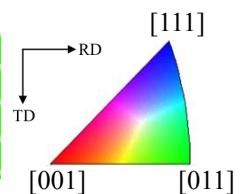


18 grains  
(1,664,150 elements)

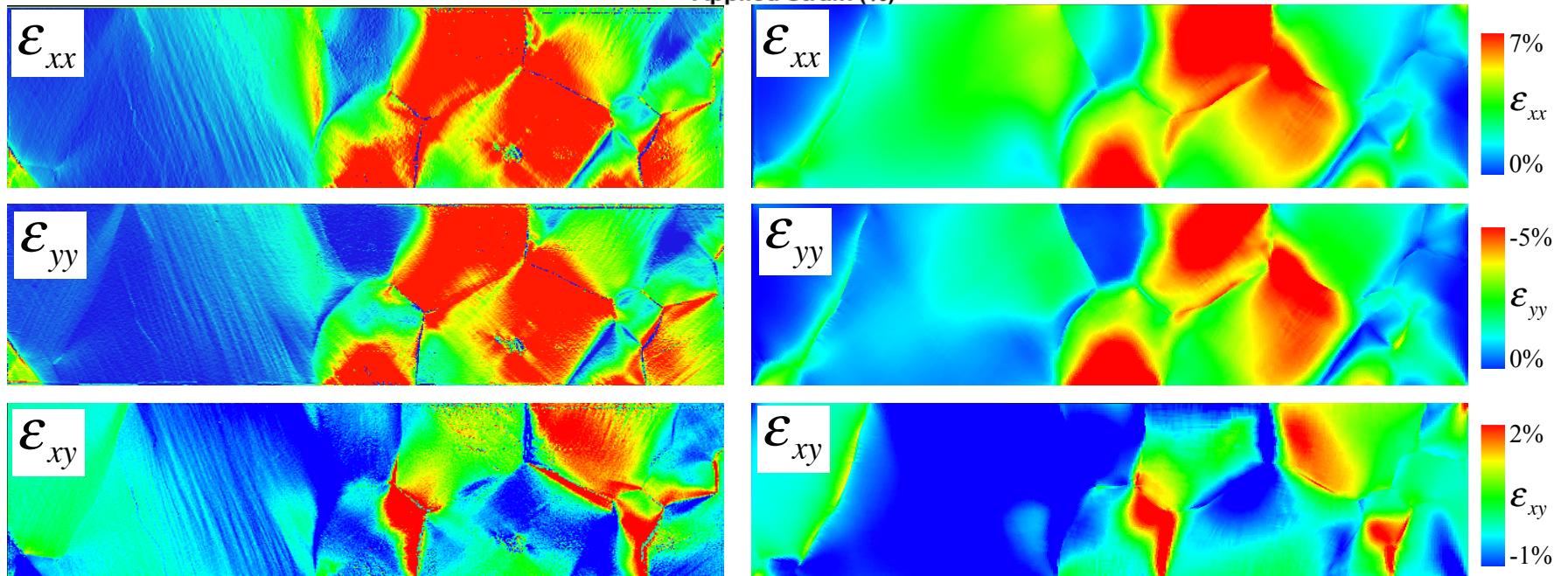
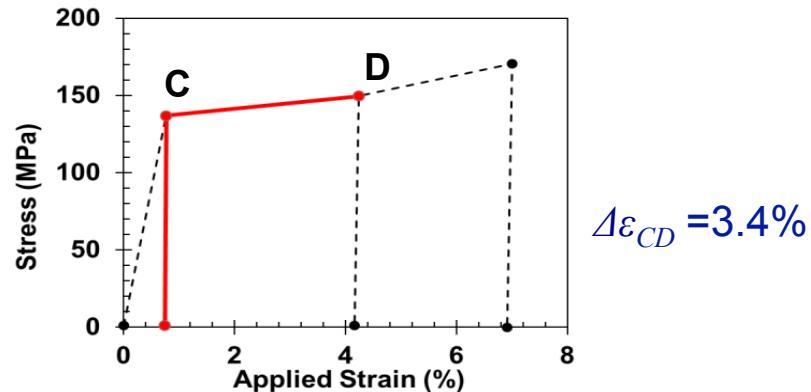
Specimen 3



12 grains  
(2,140,020 elements)



# Strain Field Analysis



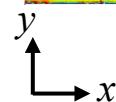
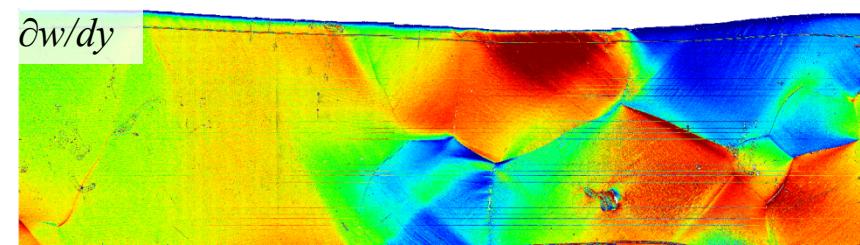
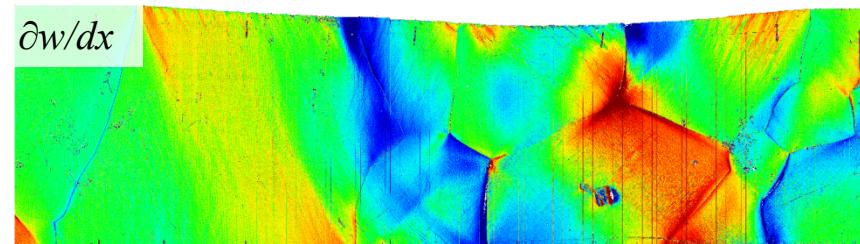
(a) HR-DIC measurements

(b) CP-FEM predictions

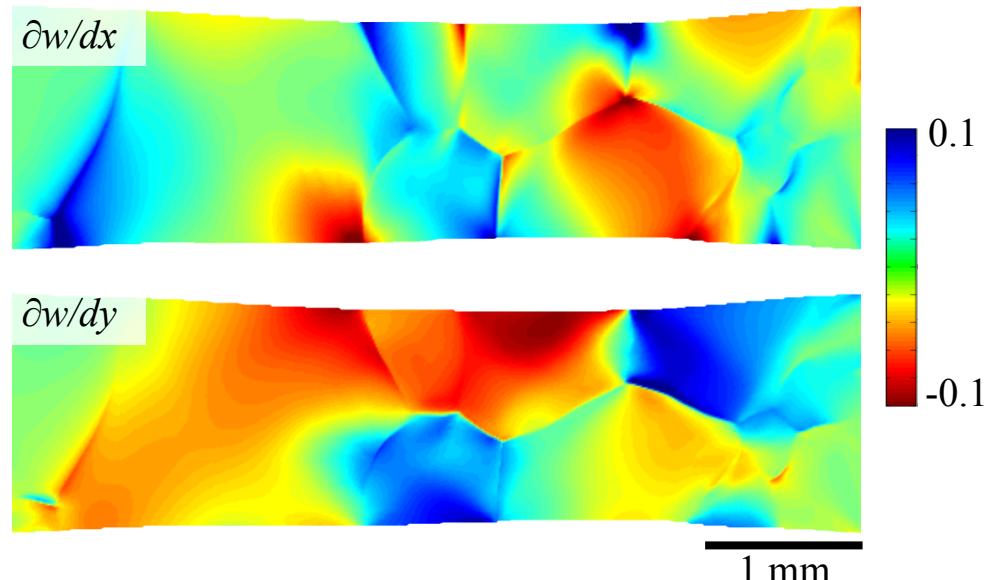
Measured and predicted strain fields agree well quantitatively.

# Out-of-plane Displacement Gradients

Profilometry Measurements



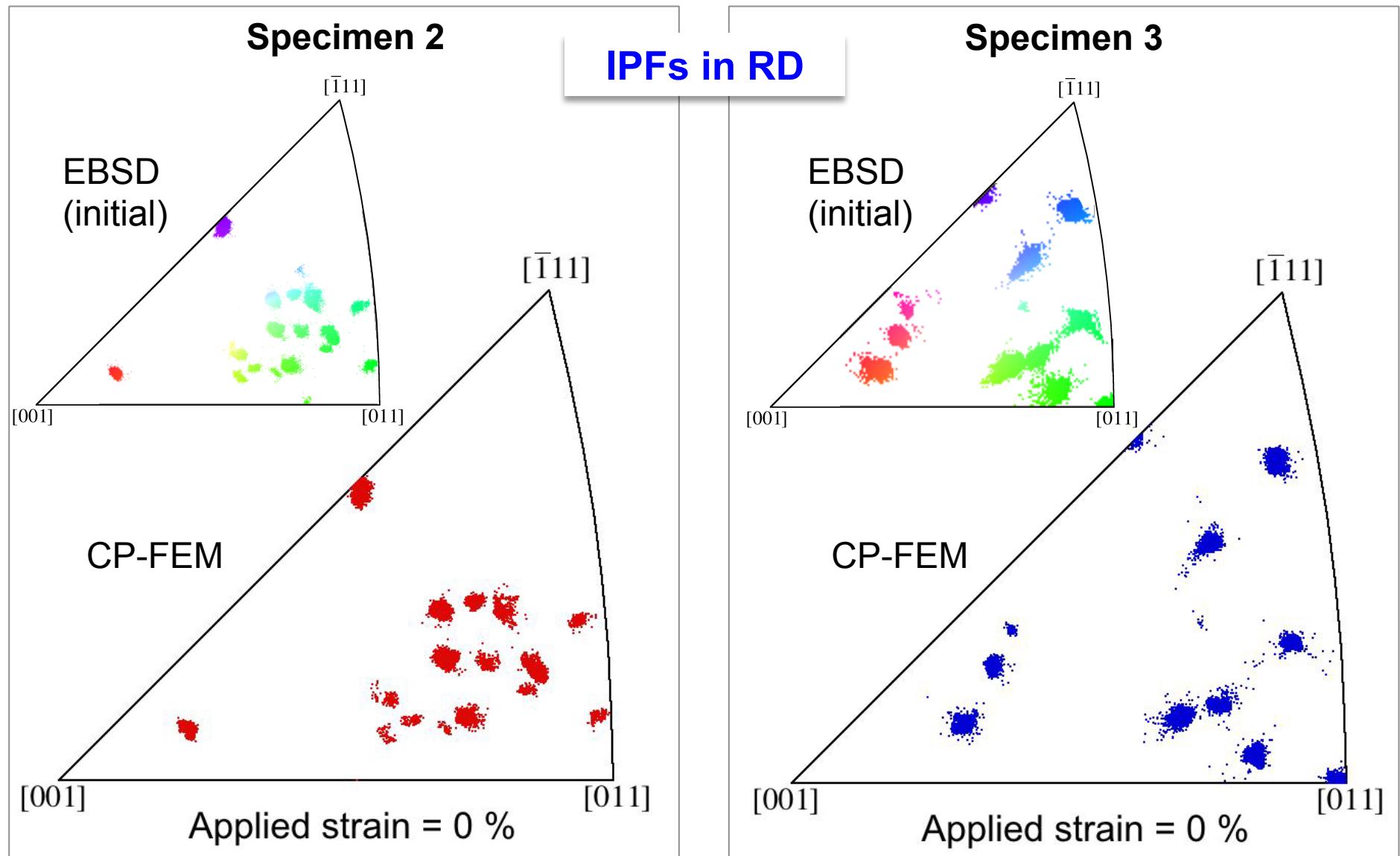
CP-FEM Predictions



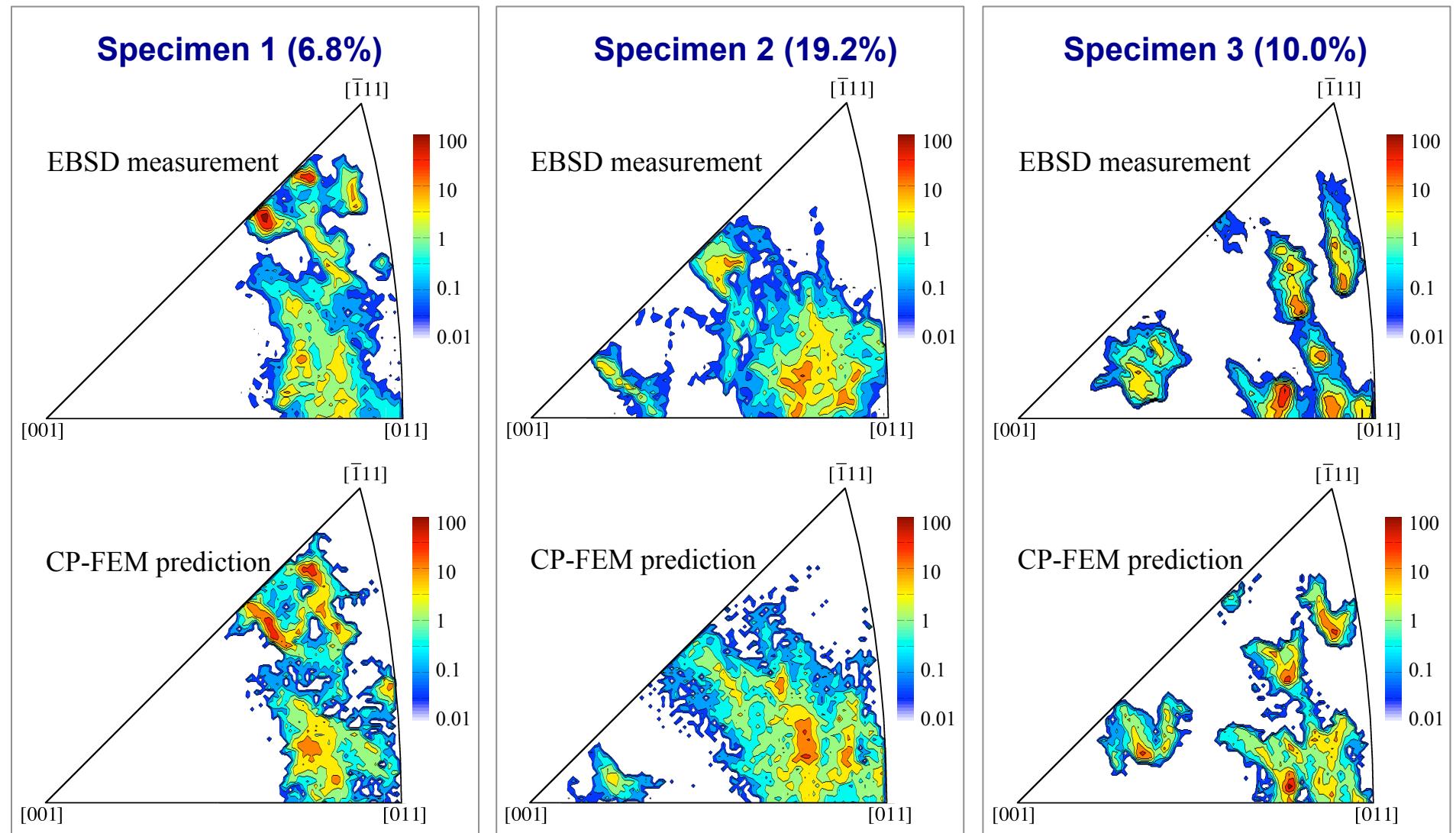
Measured and predicted out-of-plane displacement fields agree reasonably well.

Specimen 1  
Applied strain = 6.8%

# CP-FEM Predictions of Crystal Rotation



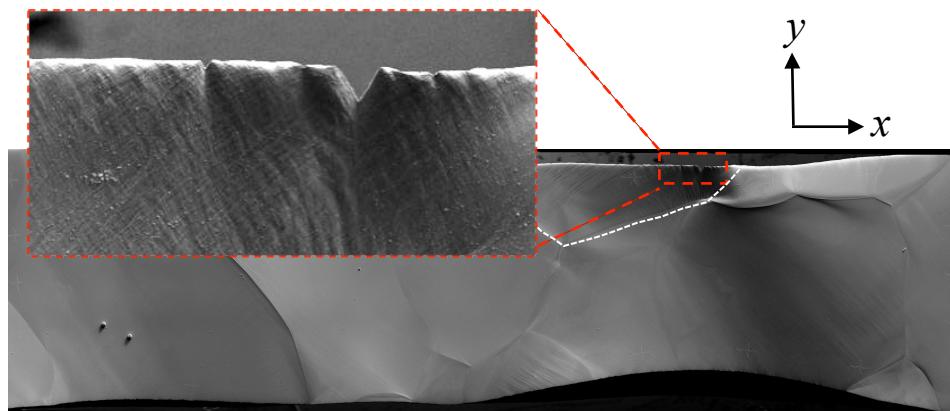
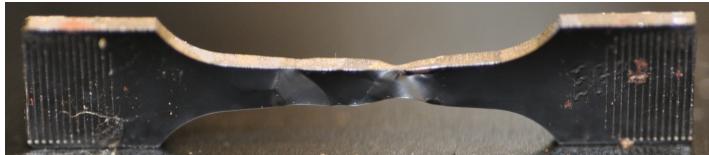
# Texture Predictions



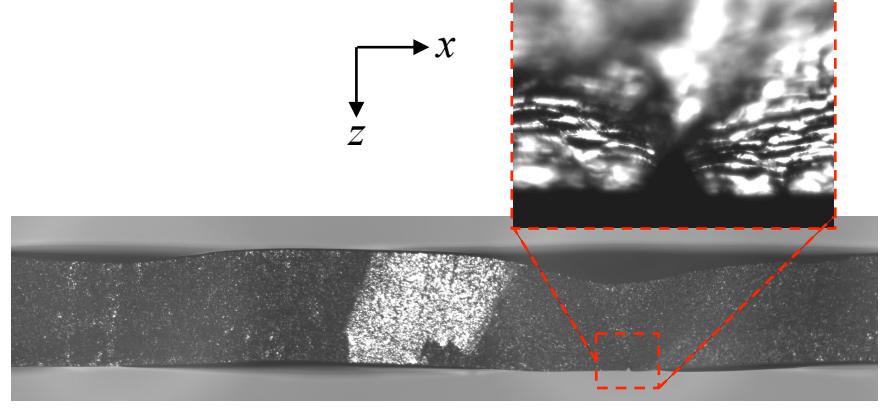
IPF contour plots indicate very good agreement between model and experiment.

# Failure Analysis

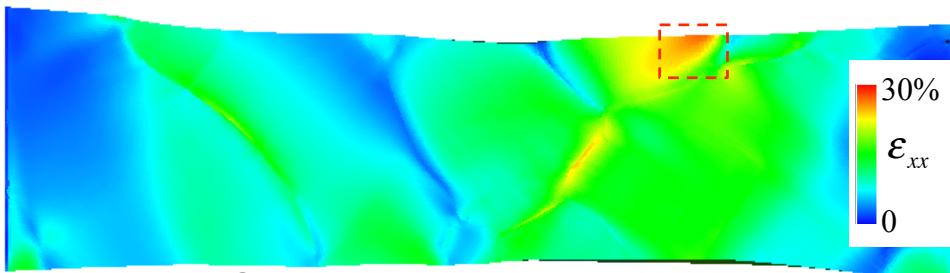
Ta oligocrystal specimen 2 at 19.2% deformation



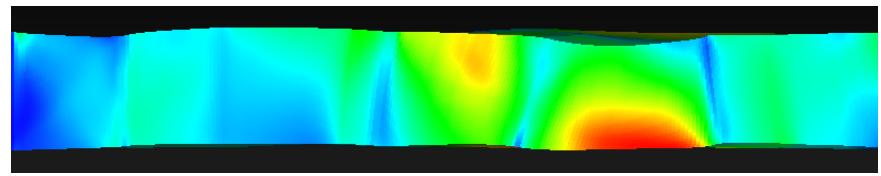
Surface image (side view)



Surface image (top view)



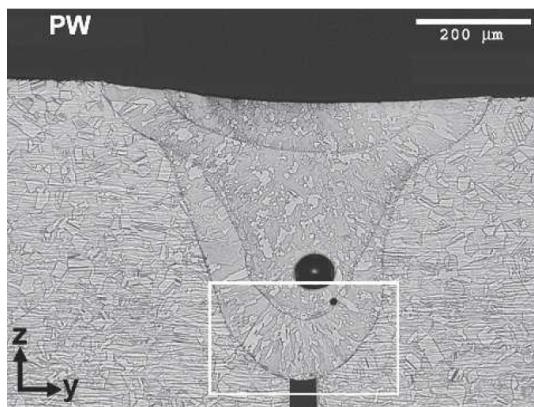
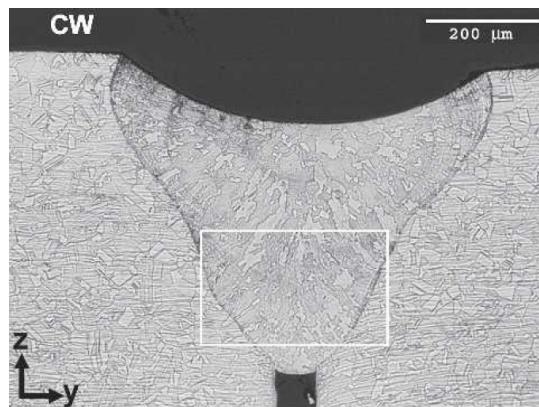
Simulated  $\varepsilon_{xx}$  (side view)



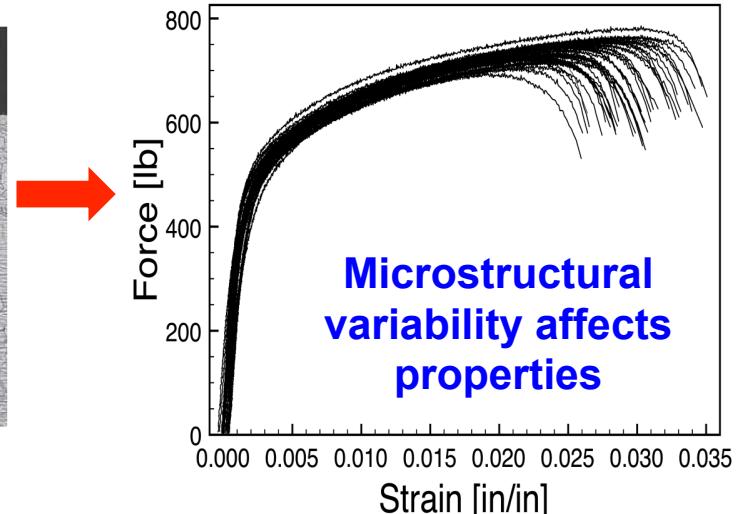
Simulated  $\varepsilon_{xx}$  (top view)

Failure location agrees with location of the highest  $\varepsilon_{xx}$  from the simulation

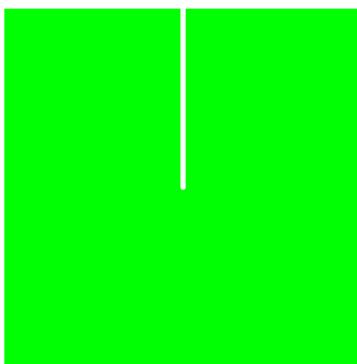
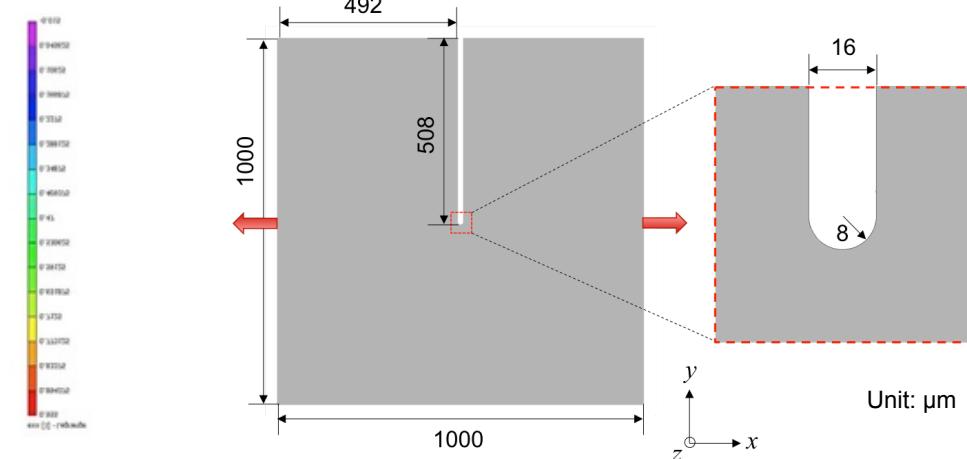
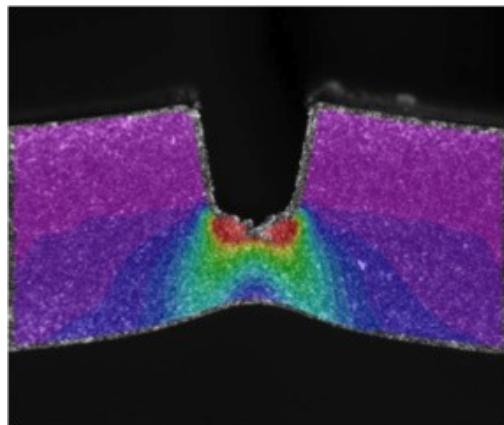
# Grain-scale Microstructural Variability



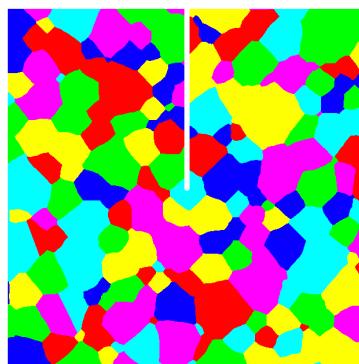
Microstructural details vary  
among 304L stainless steel weldments



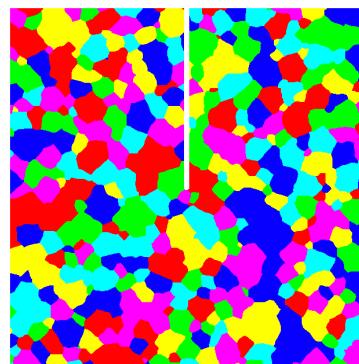
# Simulation of Ta Notch



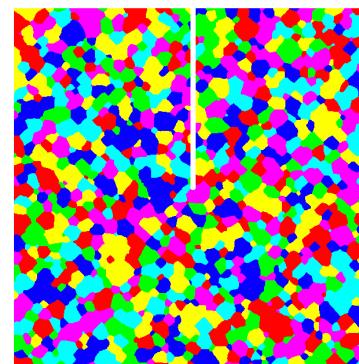
CP-FEM: 1 grain  
(111696 elements)  
Grain size > 1 mm



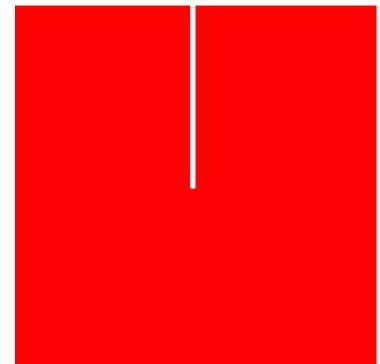
CP-FEM: 204 grains  
(115579 elements)  
Grain size = 70 μm



CP-FEM: 482 grains  
(111696 elements)  
Grain size = 45 μm



CP-FEM: 1184 grains  
(83,657 elements)  
Grain size = 30 μm



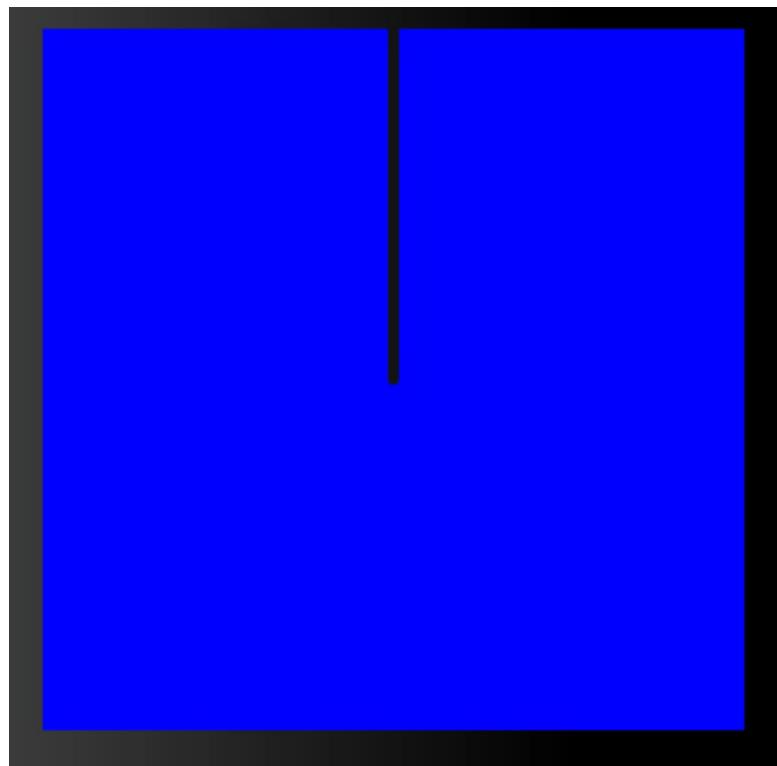
J2 FEM model  
(83,386 elements)

$d$ : grain diameter       $l$ : notch length

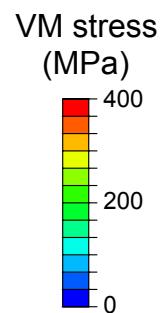
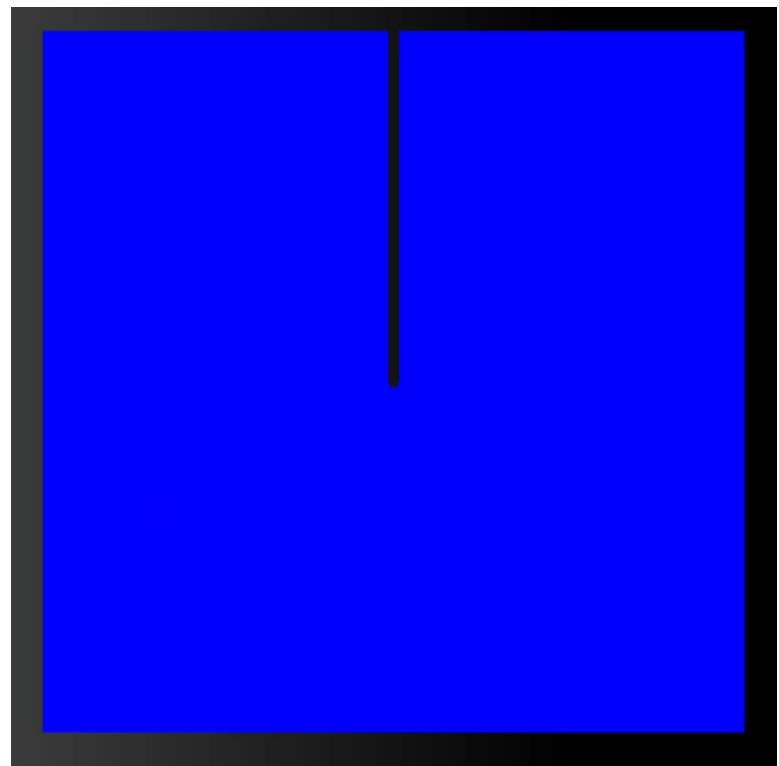
100 CP-FEM simulations with random texture (i.e. 100 microstructural realizations)

# Deformation of Ta Notched Specimen

Single crystal

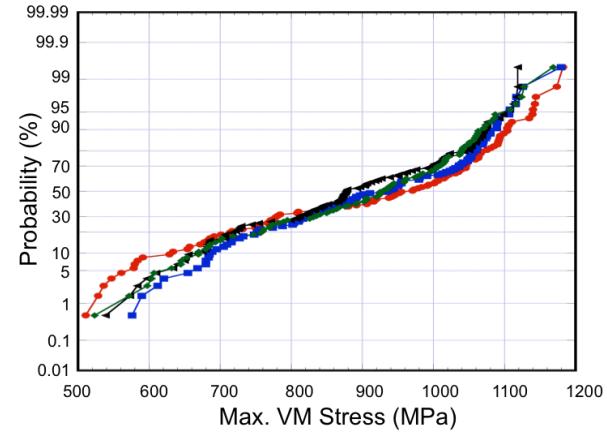
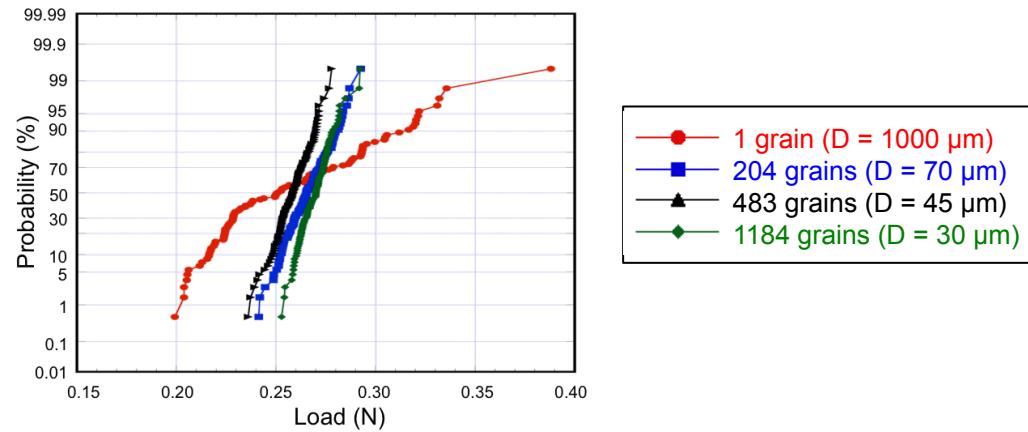
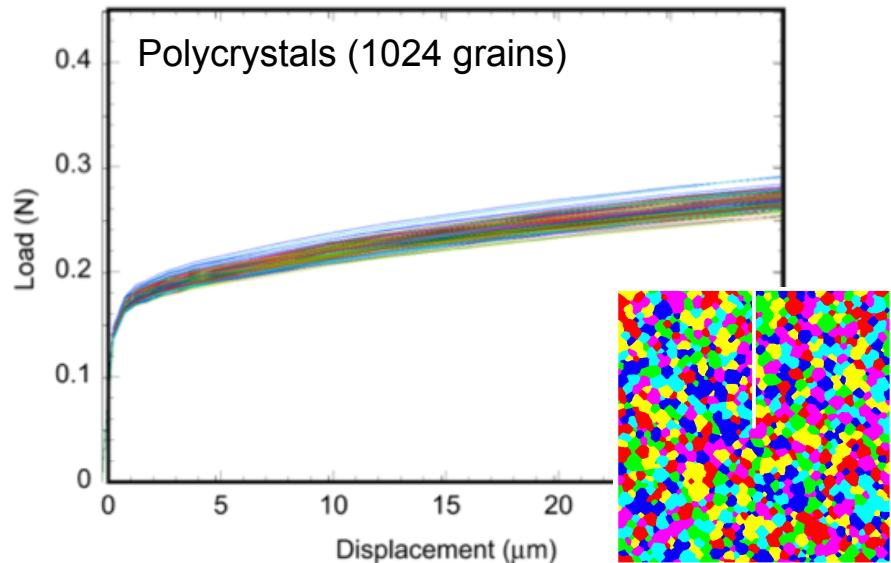
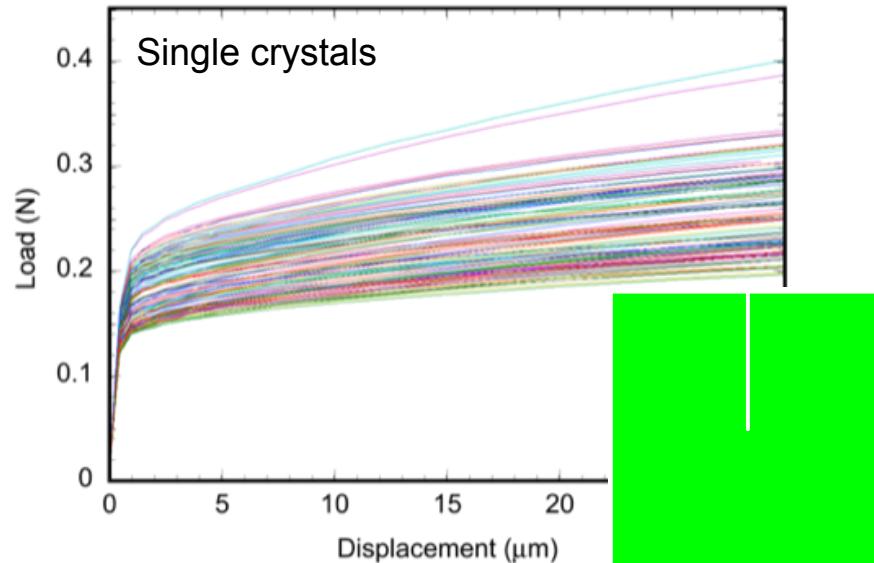


Polycrystal (1184 grains)



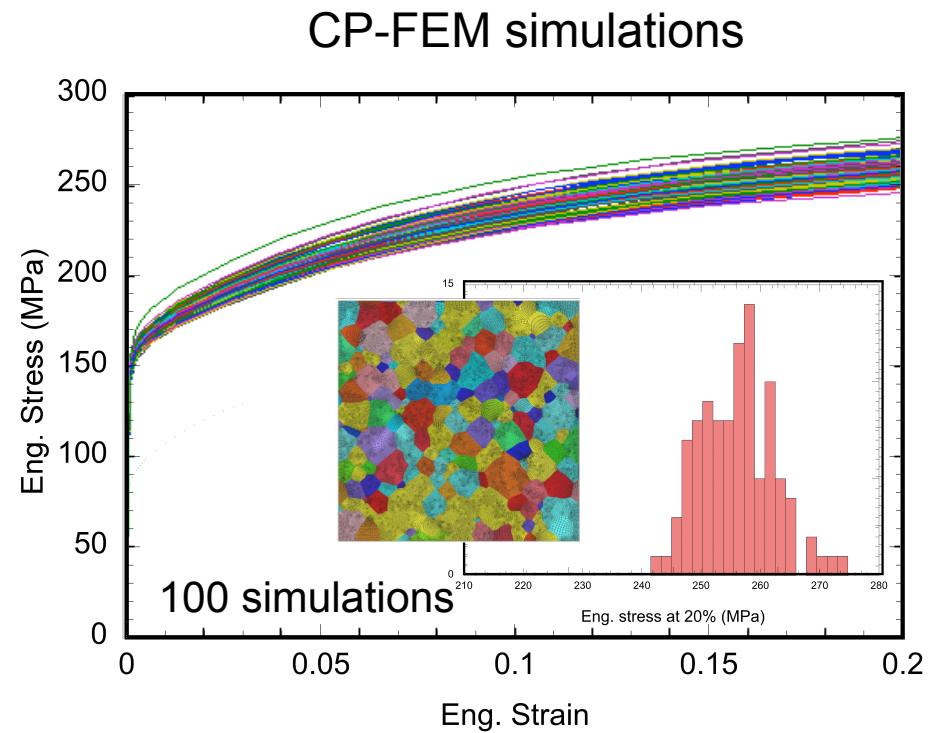
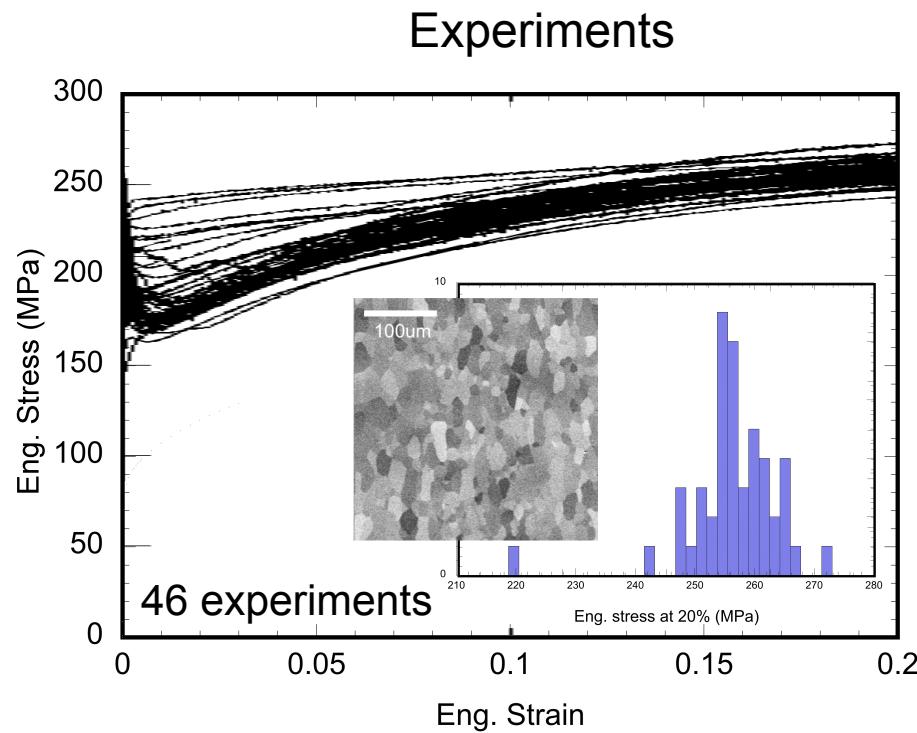
# Simulations of Notched Ta

## Connecting microstructural variability to stochastic performance



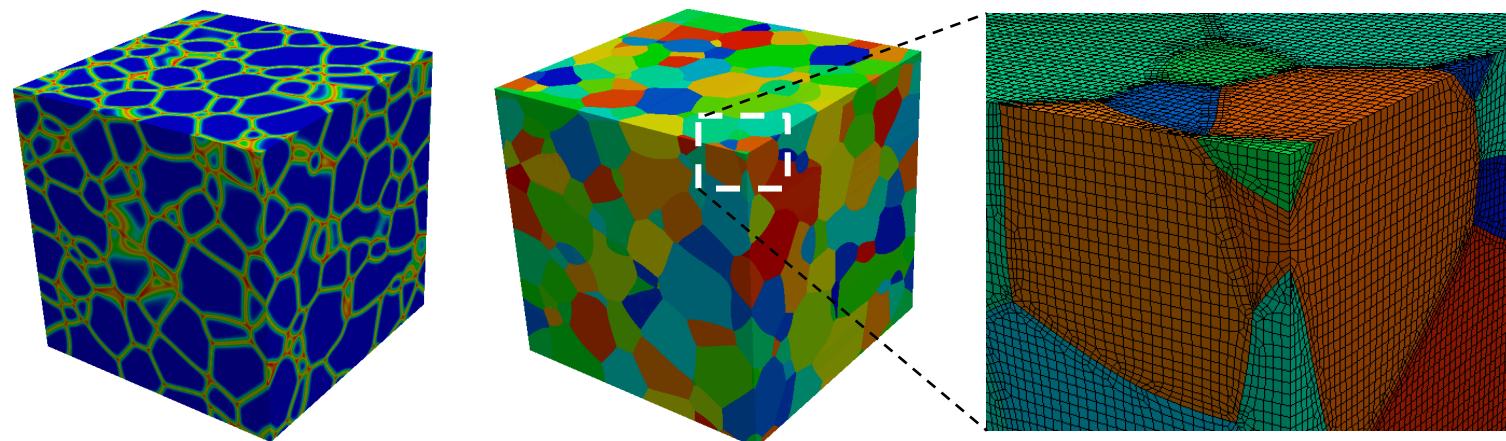
Variability in load-displacement and localized max VM stress from 100 realizations.

# Experiment - Simulation Comparisons



CP-FEM model captures grain-scale variability in mechanical responses of polycrystalline tantalum

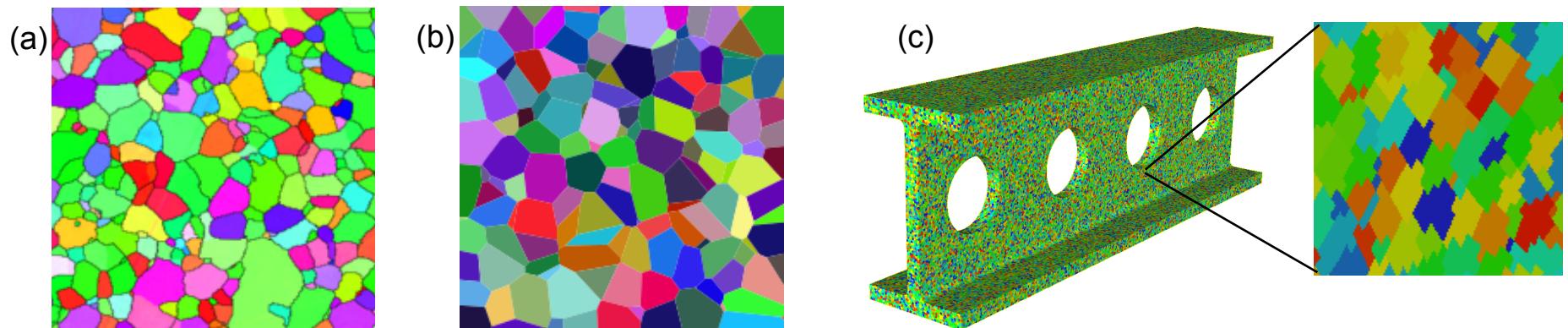
# Microstructure Modeling using Phase Field Grain Growth Model



# Motivation

Large-scale continuum simulations with microstructure fidelity are hindered by limited capabilities to model realistic 3D microstructures (Fig. (a)).

- Most finite element based polycrystalline models use idealized grain shapes or Voronoi tessellations (Fig. (b)).
- 3D microstructures digitized from experiments conform to a uniform grid. (Fig. (c))

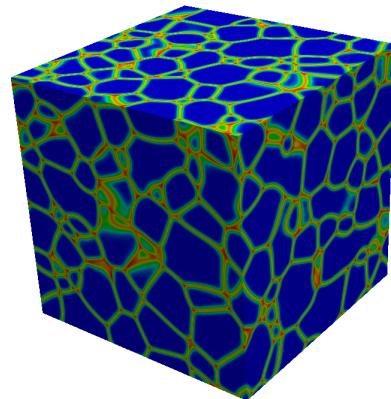


Microstructures from (a) electron back scatter diffraction, (b) Voronoi tessellation and (c) voxelated 3D structure of I-beam [Bishop et al., 2014].

Need a technique to create physically-based three-dimensional microstructures!

# Approach: Phase Field to CP-FEM

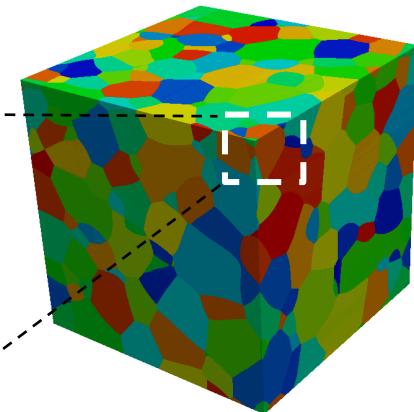
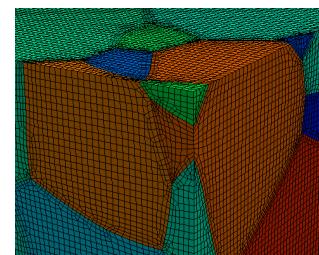
## PHASE FIELD GRAIN GROWTH SIMULATIONS



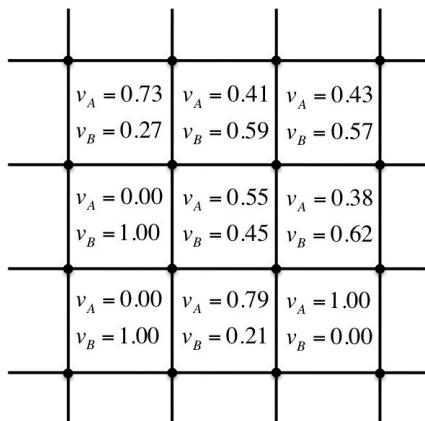
## CRYSTAL PLASTICITY FINITE ELEMENT SIMULATIONS

### CUBIT 'SCULPT' TECHNOLOGY

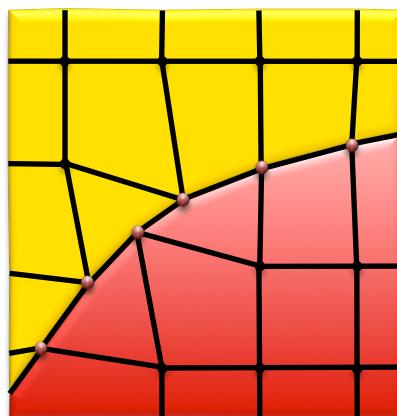
Realistic 3D microstructure  
Conformal grain boundary mesh  
Generates hexahedral elements



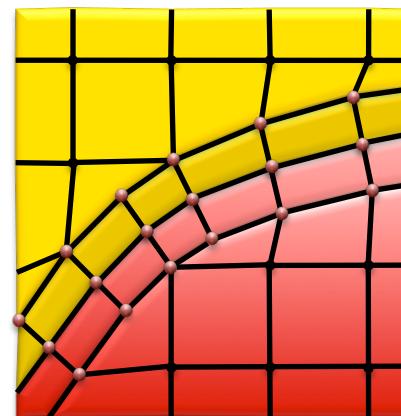
### SCULPT interface reconstruction



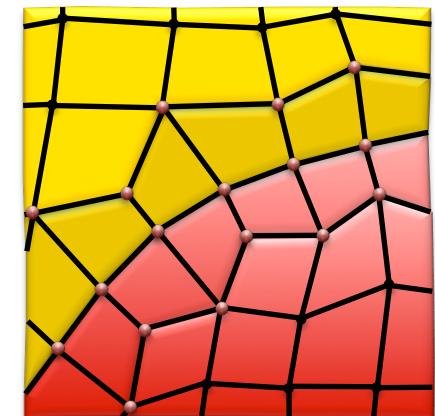
Volume fractions representing percent of grains for each cell



Resolve grain interfaces and project nodes to surfaces

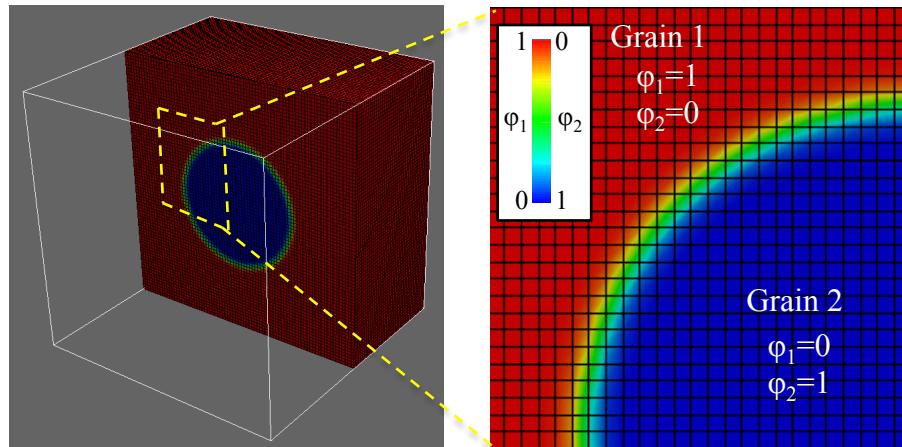


Insert layer of hex elements at interfaces



Perform smoothing

# Spherical Grain within a Cubic Matrix



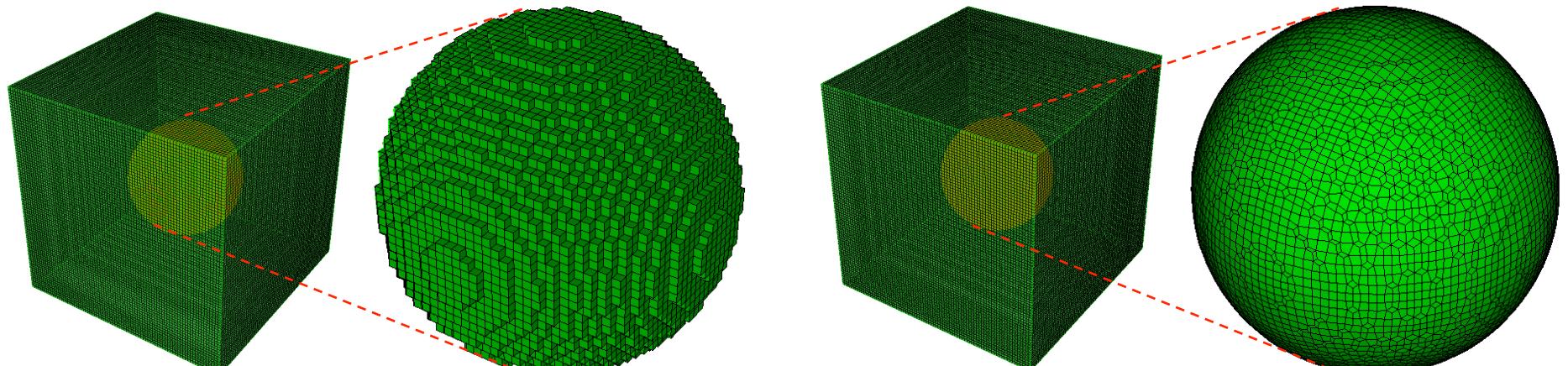
Phase field grain growth

❖ Total free energy

$$\mathcal{F}_{tot} = \int d\mathbf{r} \left\{ \frac{4}{3} \left[ 1 - 4 \sum_{i=1}^{n_\phi} \phi_i^3 + 3 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_\phi} \phi_i^2 \right)^2 \right] + \sum_i \frac{\epsilon_i^2}{2} |\nabla \phi_i|^2 \right\}$$

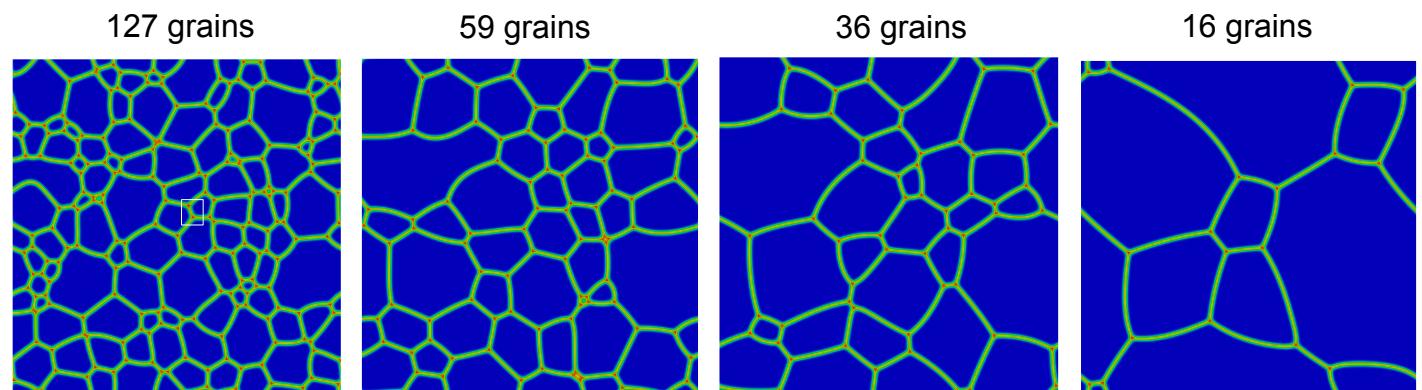
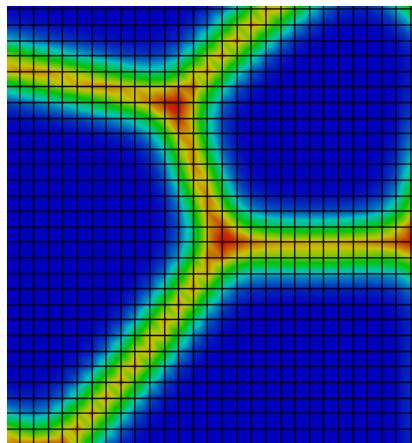
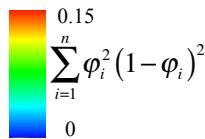
❖ Dynamics

$$\frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial t} = -L_i \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}_{tot}}{\delta \phi_i} \right)$$

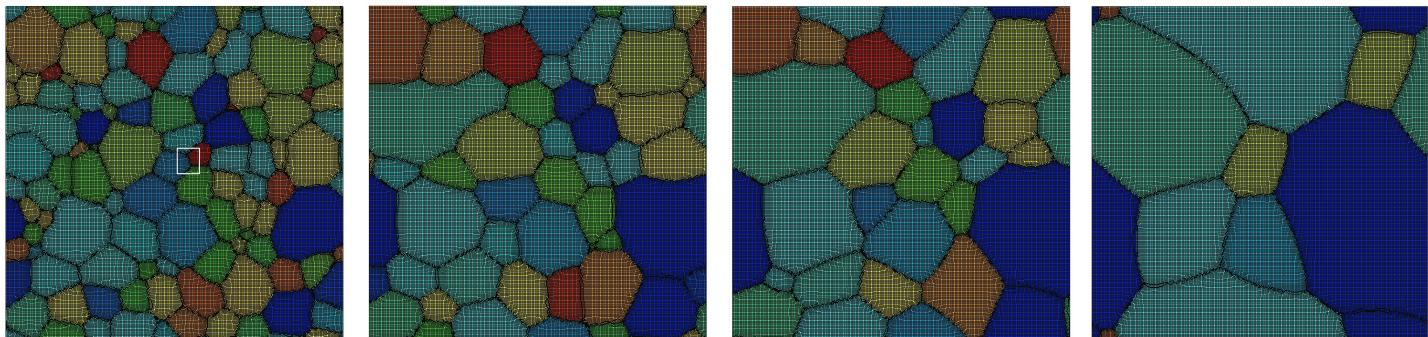
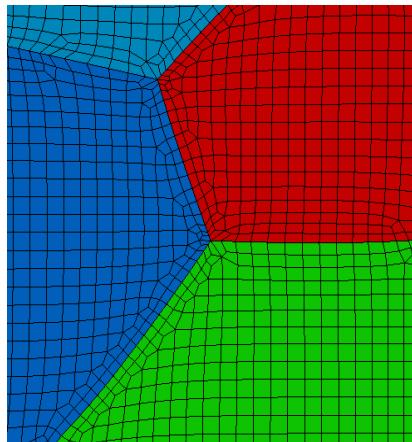


FE mesh

# Phase Field Grain Growth Results to FE Mesh



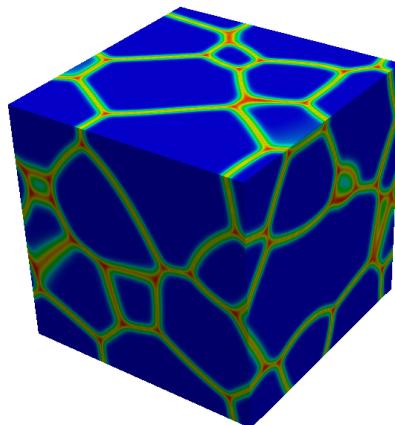
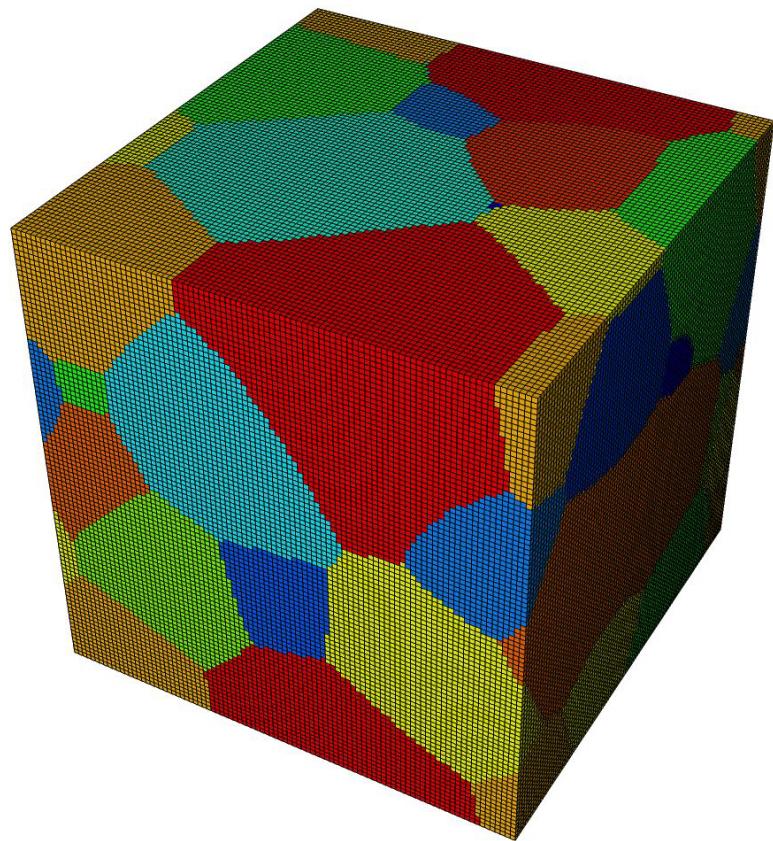
Phase field grain growth



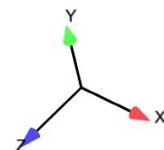
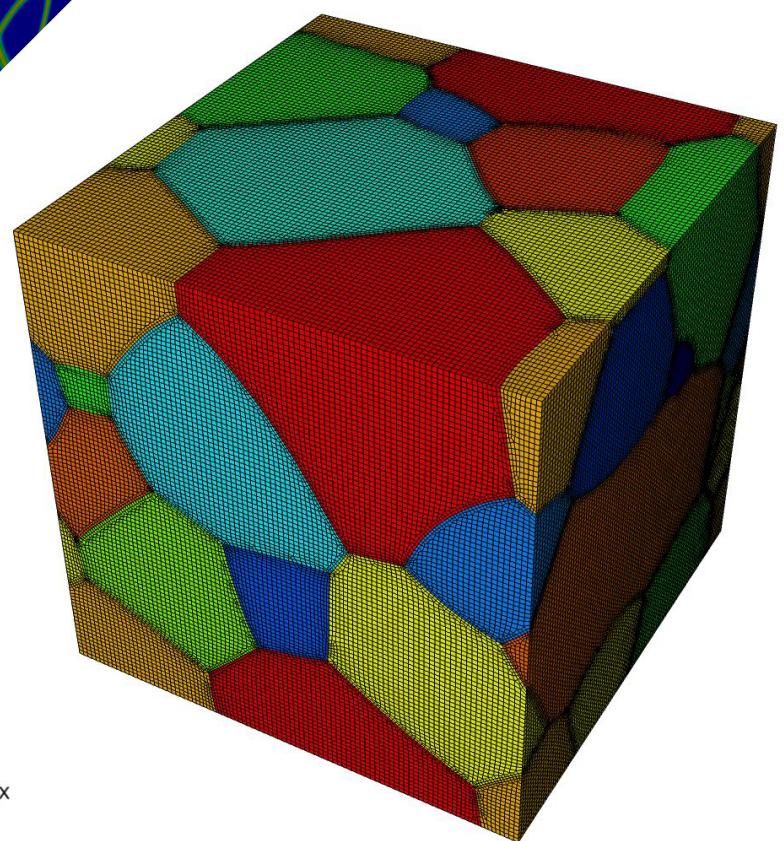
FE mesh

# FE mesh of 3D Polycrystalline Microstructure

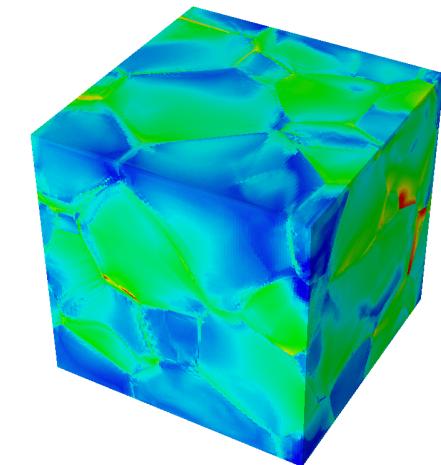
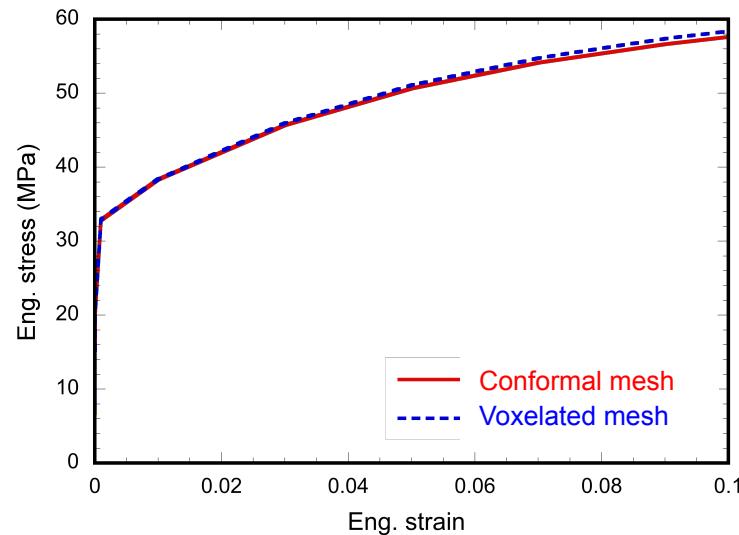
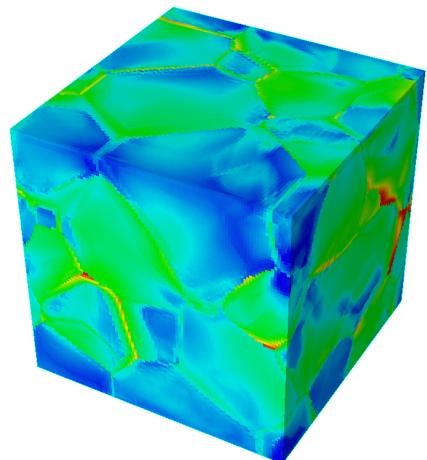
Voxelated FE mesh



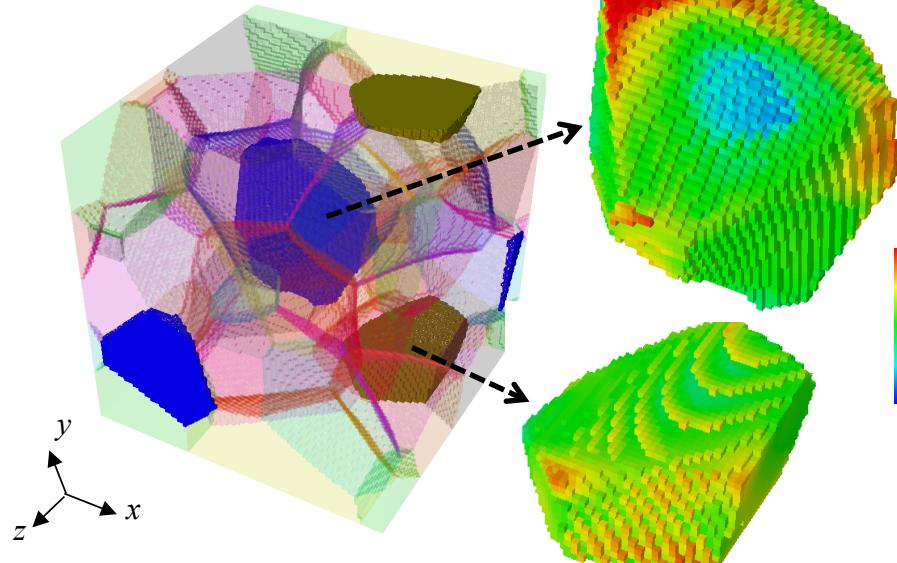
Conformal FE mesh



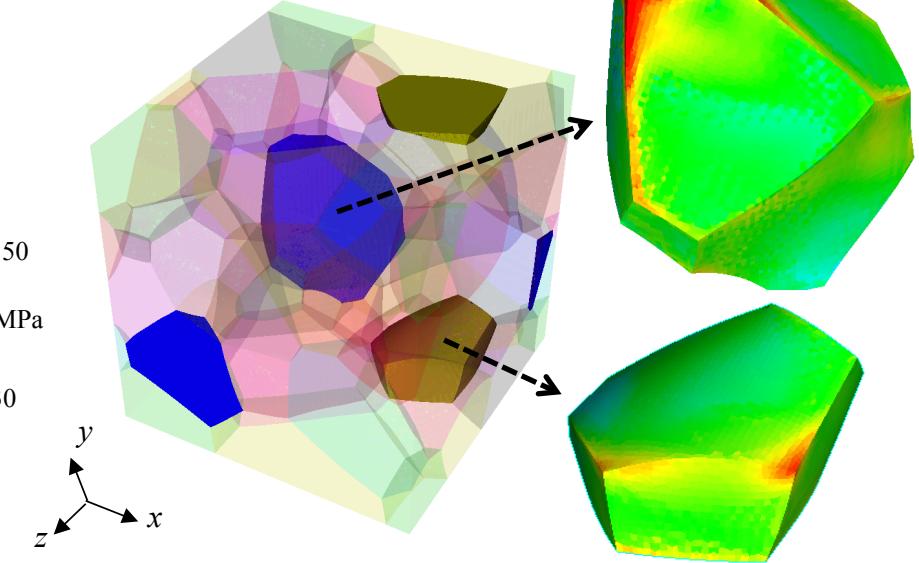
# Stress Distributions at 10% Deformation



Voxelated FE mesh

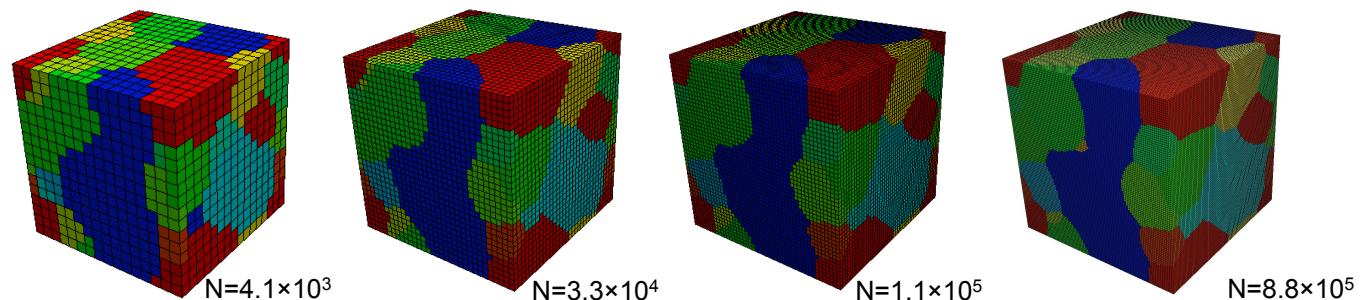


Conformal FE mesh

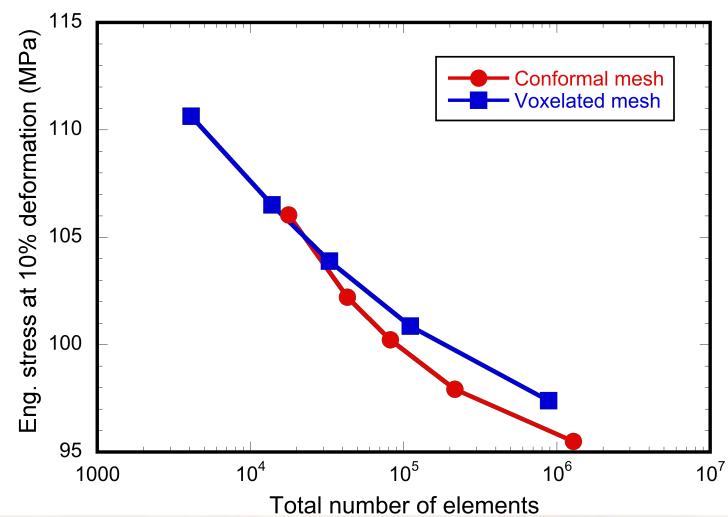
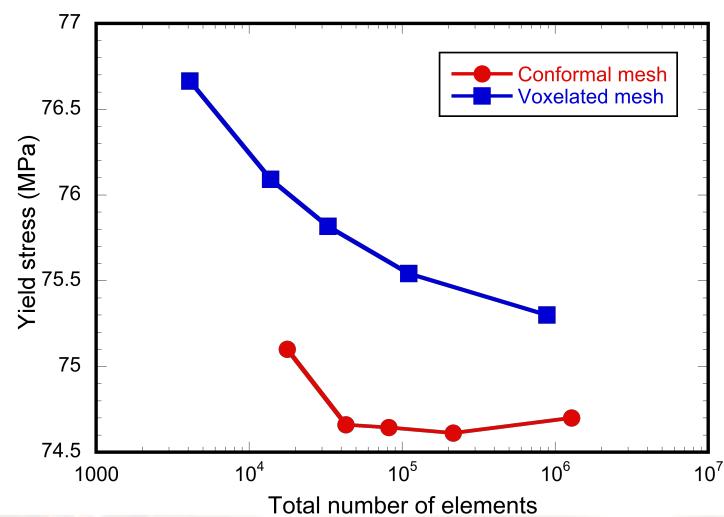
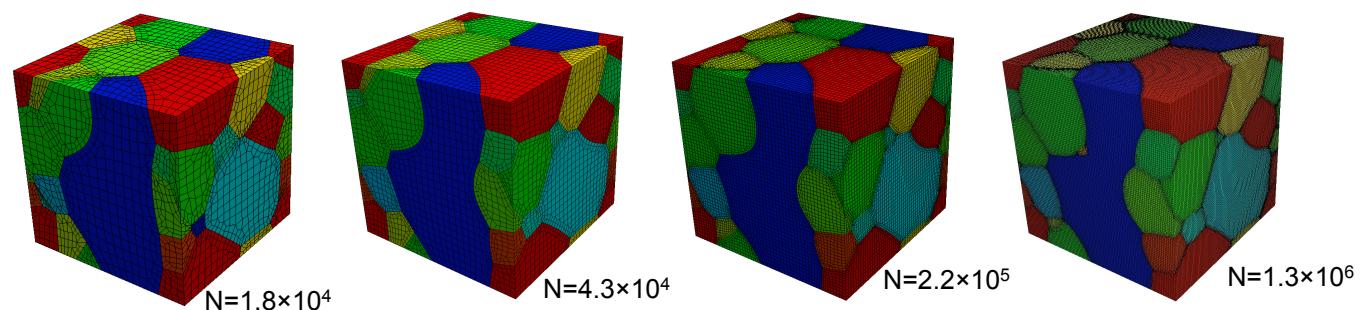


# Mesh Sensitivity Tests

Voxelated FE mesh

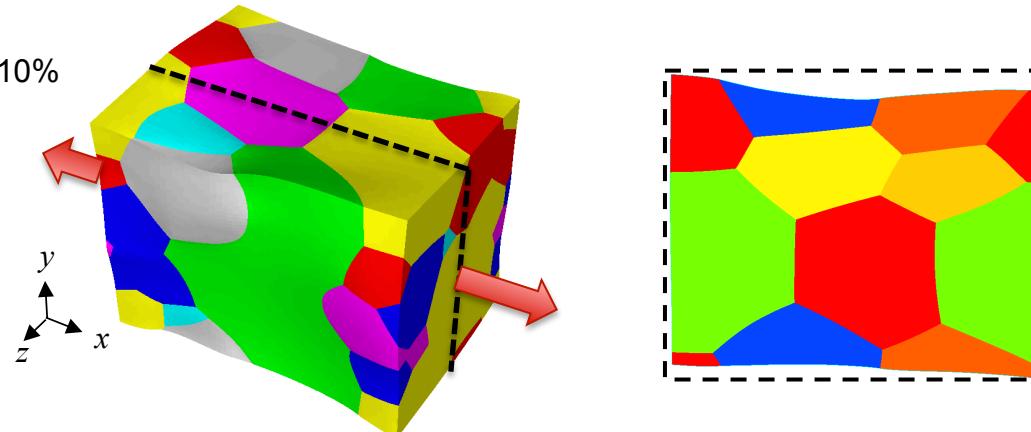


Conformal FE mesh

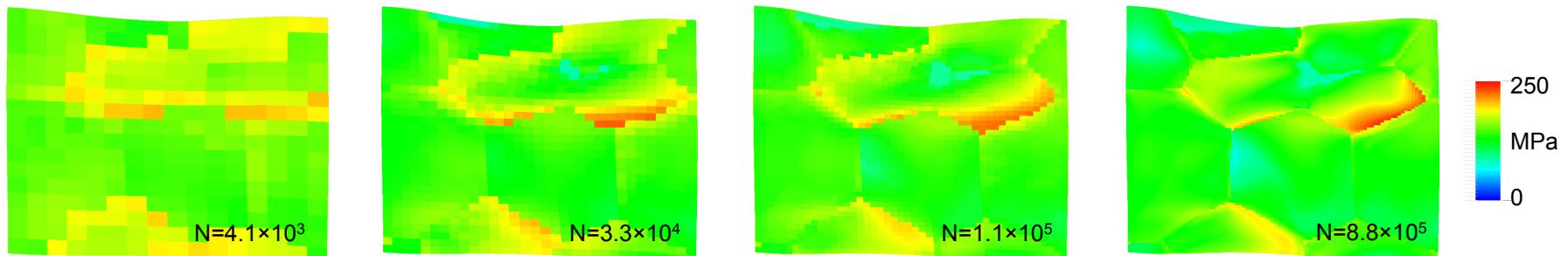


# Stress Distributions at 10% Deformation

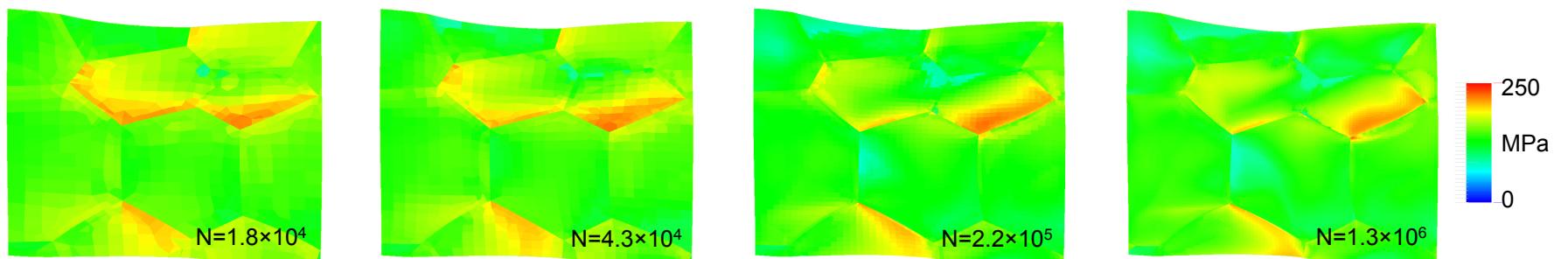
Uniaxial tension 10%



Voxelated mesh

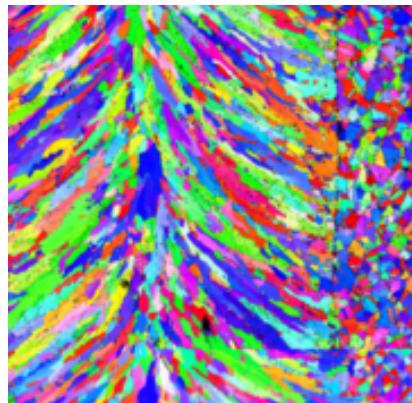


Conformal mesh

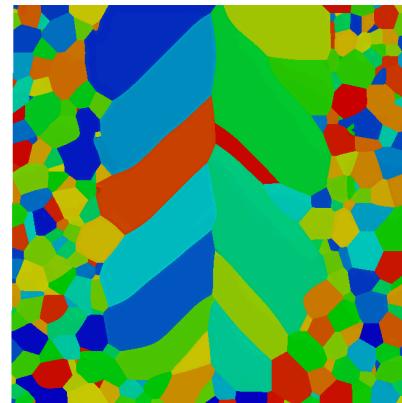


# Further application of the technique

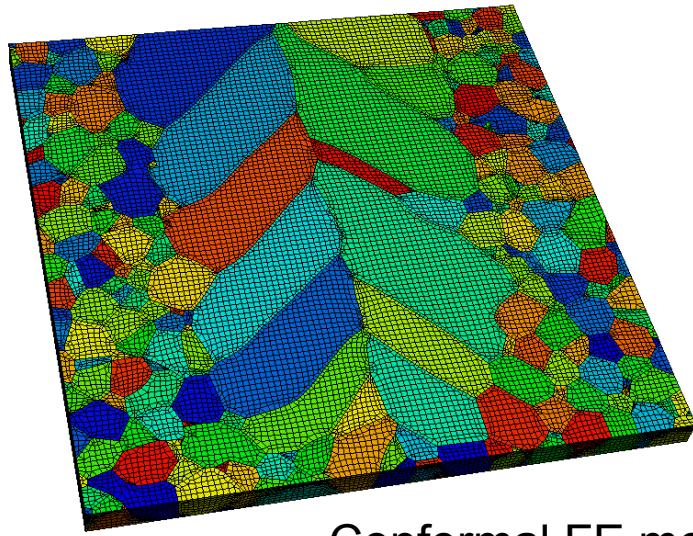
Laser weld on SS 304 L



EBSD

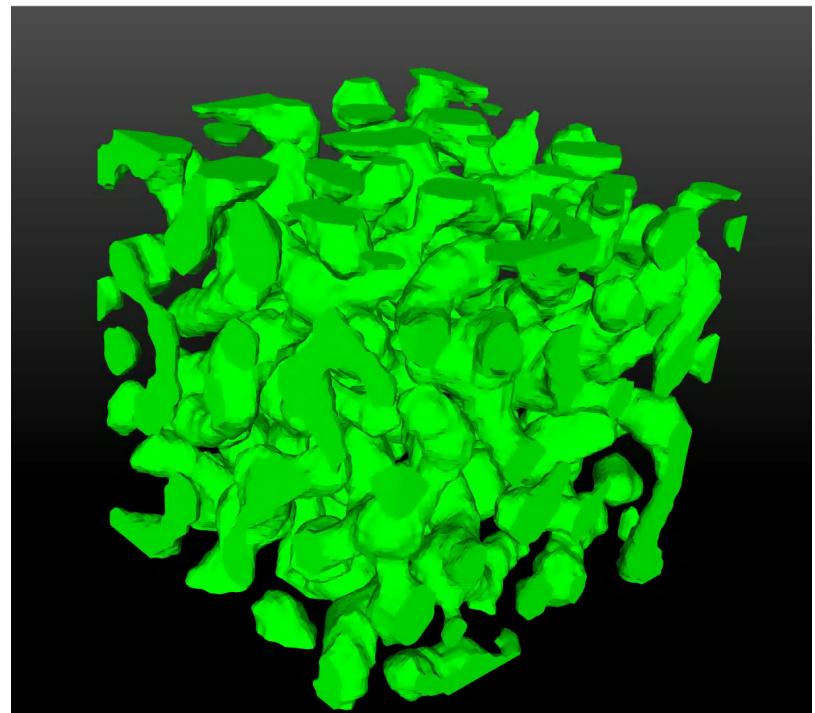


SPPARKS



Conformal FE mesh

Monte Carlo Potts Simulations



# Summary

- Developed T and  $\dot{\epsilon}$  dependent flow rule based on dislocation kink-pair theory for Mo, Ta, W and Nb.
- CP-FEM predictions showed good agreement with experiments (HR-DIC, profilometry and EBSD) and capture grain-scale variability in mechanical responses.
- Developed conformal, hexahedral finite element meshing technology for three-dimensional polycrystalline microstructures
- Proposed computational method provides a convenient and direct link from the fundamental dislocation physics to the continuum-scale plastic deformation of Ta at the grain scale.

*Thank you!*



#### Acknowledgements

Predicting Performance Margins (PPM)

Campaign 2 (C2) Dynamic Materials Properties

Advanced Simulation and Computing – Physics and Engineering Models (ASC-P & EM)