



# Investigating mesh sensitivity and polycrystalline RVEs in crystal plasticity finite element simulations

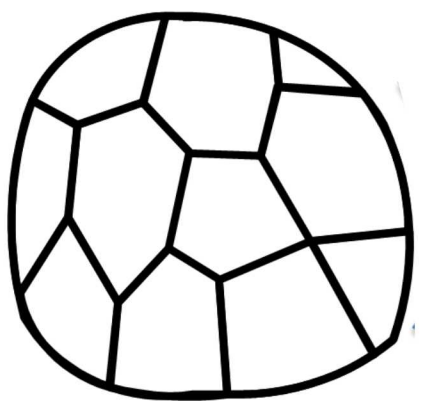
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and James Foulk

Department of Computational Materials and Data Science  
*Sandia National Laboratories*

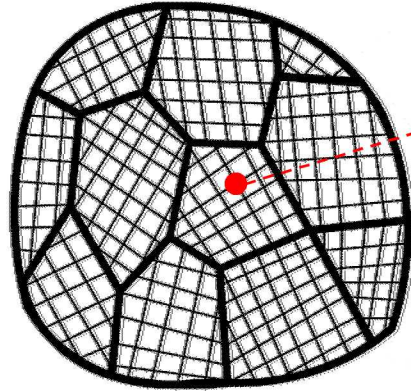
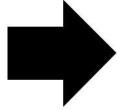
*November 11, 2019*

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# Crystal Plasticity-Finite Element (CP-FE) method



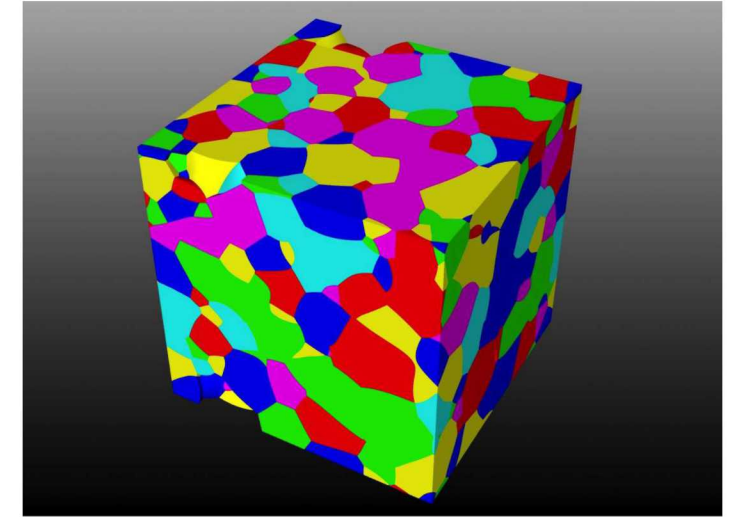
Polycrystalline body



FE discretization

Single crystal  
constitutive equations

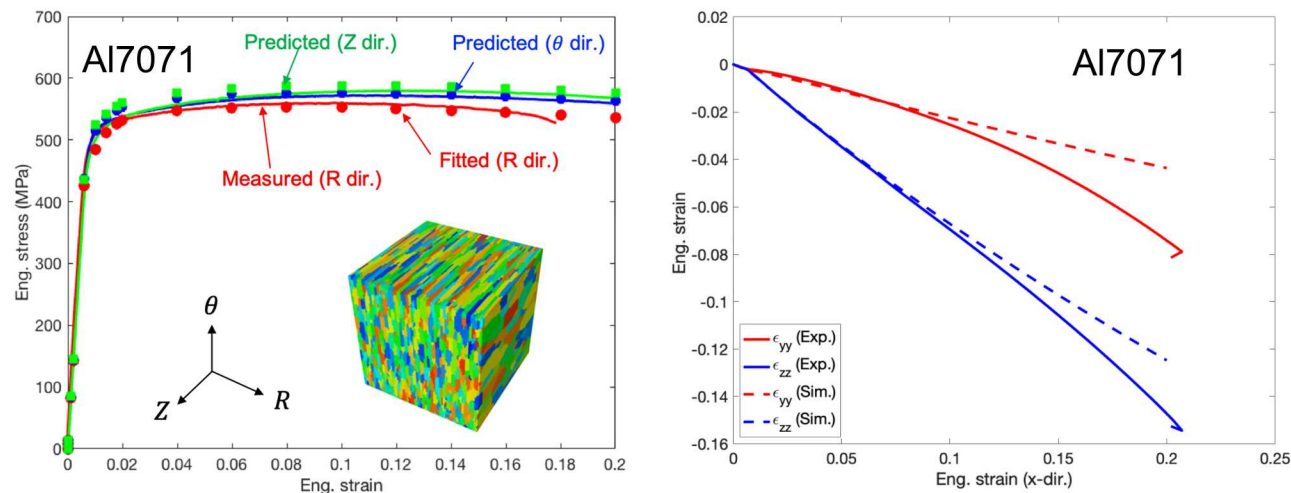
$$\dot{\gamma}^{\alpha} = \dot{\gamma}_0^{\alpha} \left( \frac{\tau^{\alpha}}{g^{\alpha}} \right)^{1/m}$$



- **Grain-level approach** to materials modeling using multiscale strategies – realistic length and time scales
- Explicitly model discrete **grains** and **slip systems** based on dislocation slip
- Predicts **material's heterogeneous local responses** resulting from microstructure.
- **More predictive** than macroscopic plasticity models
  - Texture evolution & plastic anisotropy
  - Damage and Fracture, fatigue, void growth
  - Deformation twinning, martensitic transformation, recrystallization
  - Nonlocal formulations, grain boundary mechanics & grain size effects
  - Metal forming

# CP-FEM predictions

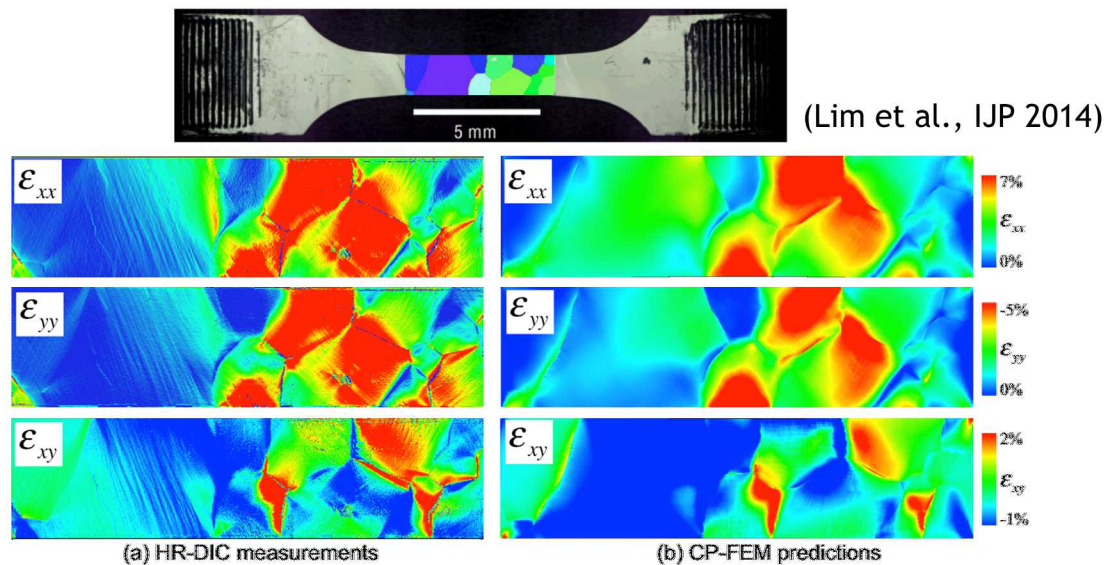
## Plastic anisotropy



## Texture evolution

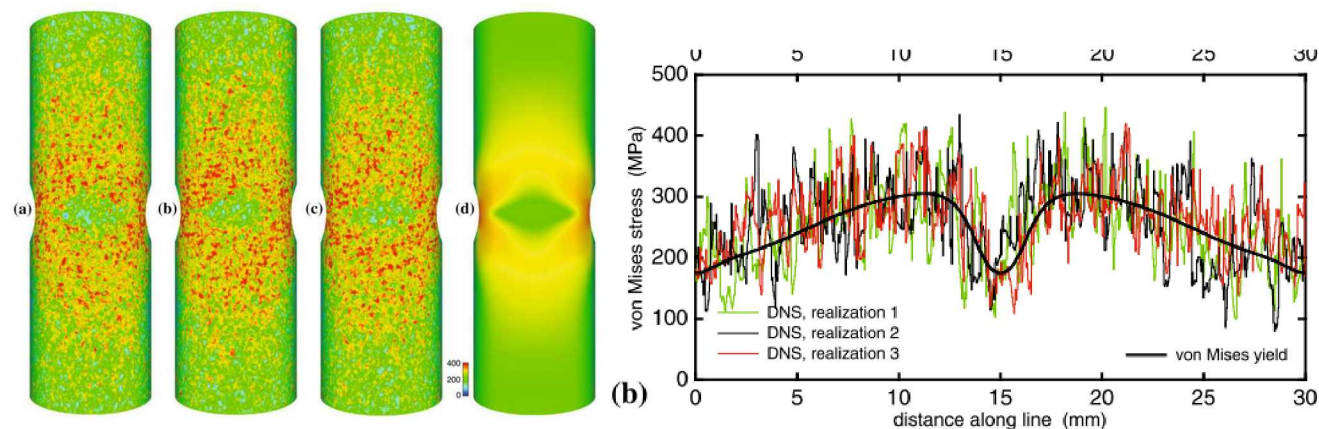


## Local strain fields



## Materials variability

(Bishop et al., JOM, 2016)



- **Mesh sensitivity** in single crystal / polycrystalline CP-FEM simulations
- **Polycrystalline RVEs** in CP-FEM simulations
- **Conclusions**

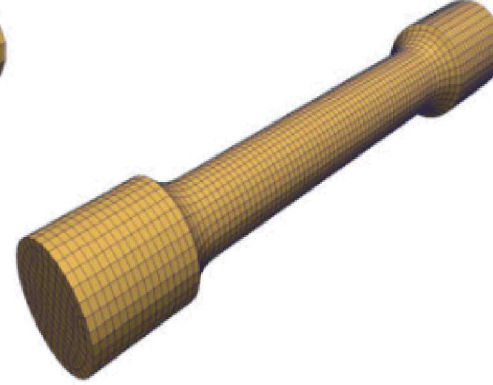
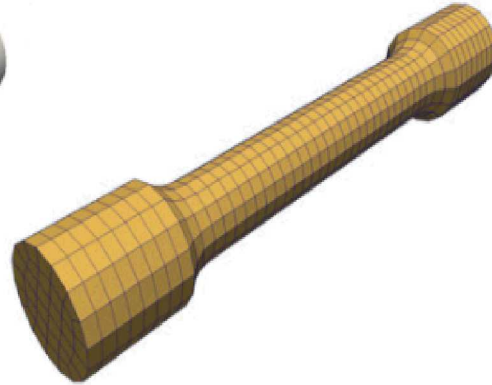
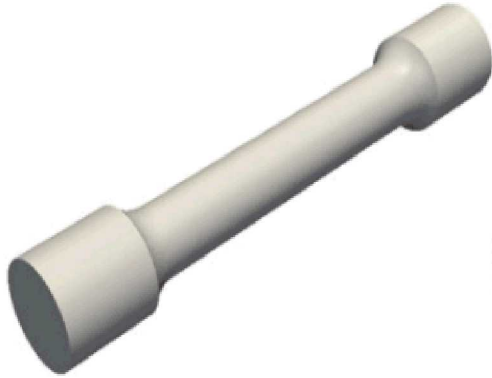
Lim et al., *International Journal of Plasticity* 121 (2019) 101-115.

Bishop et al., *JOM* 68 (2016) 1427-1445.

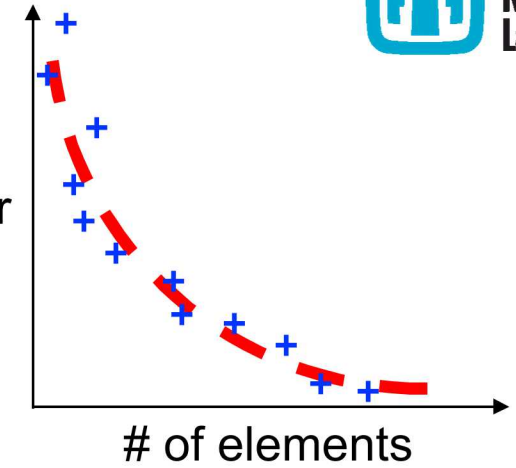
Bishop et al., *Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg.* 287 (2015) 262-289.

# Mesh sensitivity in CP-FEM simulations

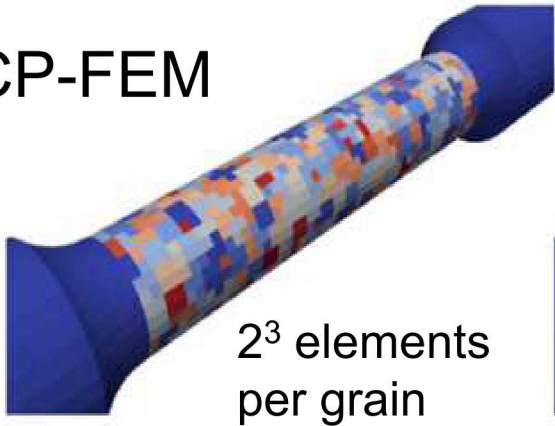
FEM



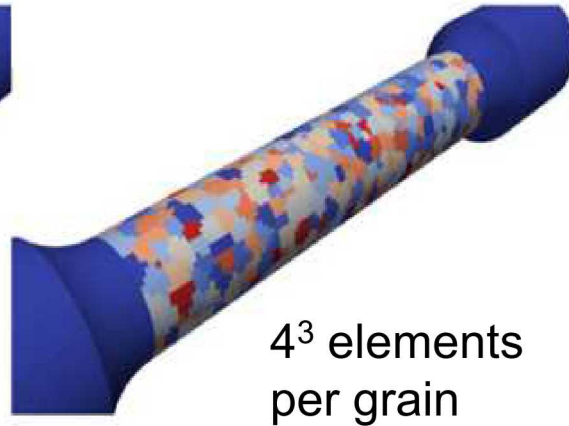
Error



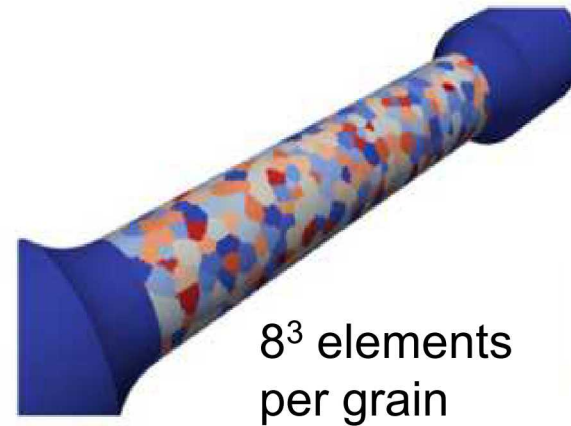
CP-FEM



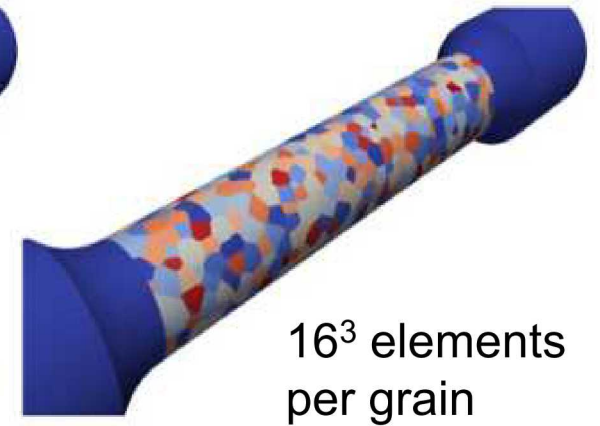
2<sup>3</sup> elements  
per grain



4<sup>3</sup> elements  
per grain



8<sup>3</sup> elements  
per grain



16<sup>3</sup> elements  
per grain

**Mesh sensitivity in CP-FEM:**

**Computationally expensive**  
**Need to consider microstructural effects**

# CP-FEM simulation procedures

- **Slip rate:**  $\dot{\gamma}^\alpha = \dot{\gamma}_0^\alpha \left( \frac{\tau^\alpha}{g^\alpha} \right)^{1/m}$
- **Perfect hexahedral finite element mesh**
- **Single integration point at the center of FE**

Slip resistance:

$$g^\alpha = A\mu b \sqrt{\sum_{\beta=1}^{12} \rho^\beta} \quad \dot{\rho}^\alpha = \left( \kappa_1 \sqrt{\sum_{\beta=1}^{12} \rho^\beta} - \kappa_2 \rho^\alpha \right) |\dot{\gamma}^\alpha| \quad (\text{Dislocation density based hardening})$$

$$\dot{g}^\alpha = \sum_{\beta}^{12} h^{\alpha\beta} |\dot{\gamma}^\beta|. \quad h^{\alpha\beta} = q^{\alpha\beta} h_0 \left( 1 - \frac{g^\beta}{g_s} \right)^a \quad (\text{Slip based hardening})$$

$$g^\alpha = a_1 + a_2 (\bar{\epsilon}_p)^n \quad (\text{Isotropic power-law hardening})$$

- **Material parameters for SS304L**

## Hardening constants

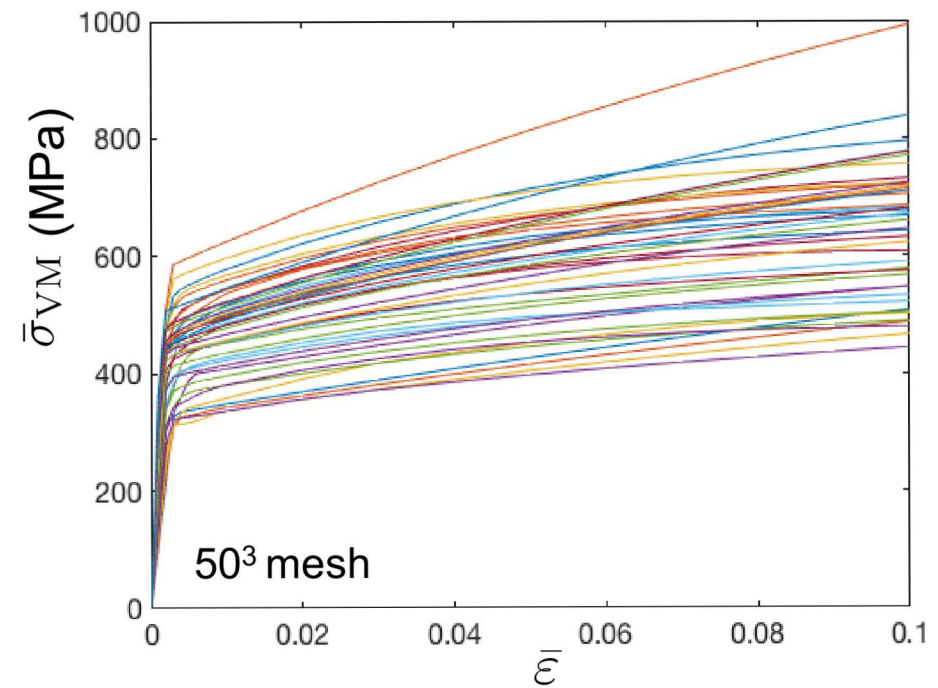
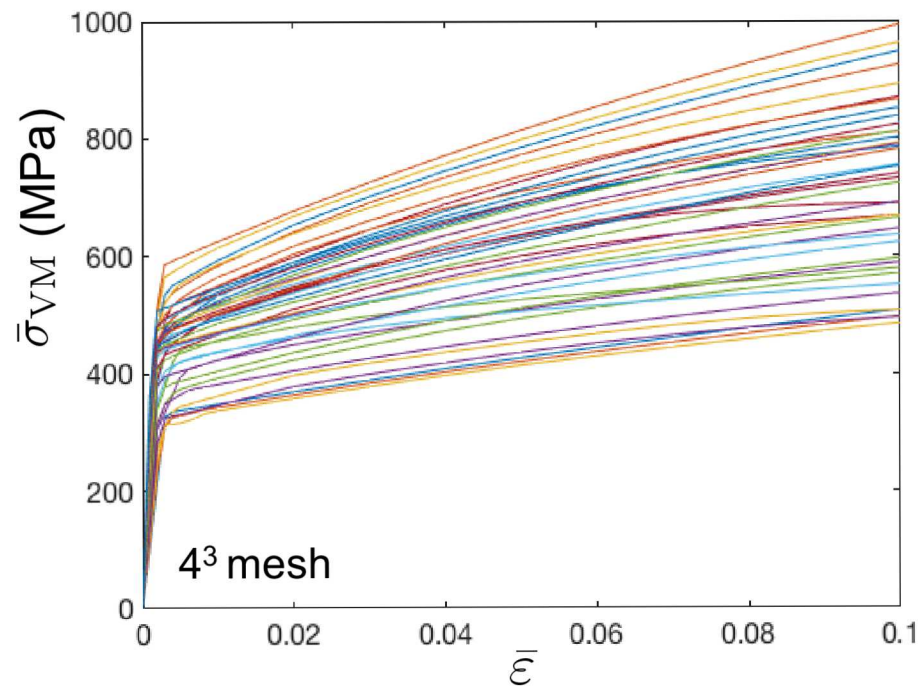
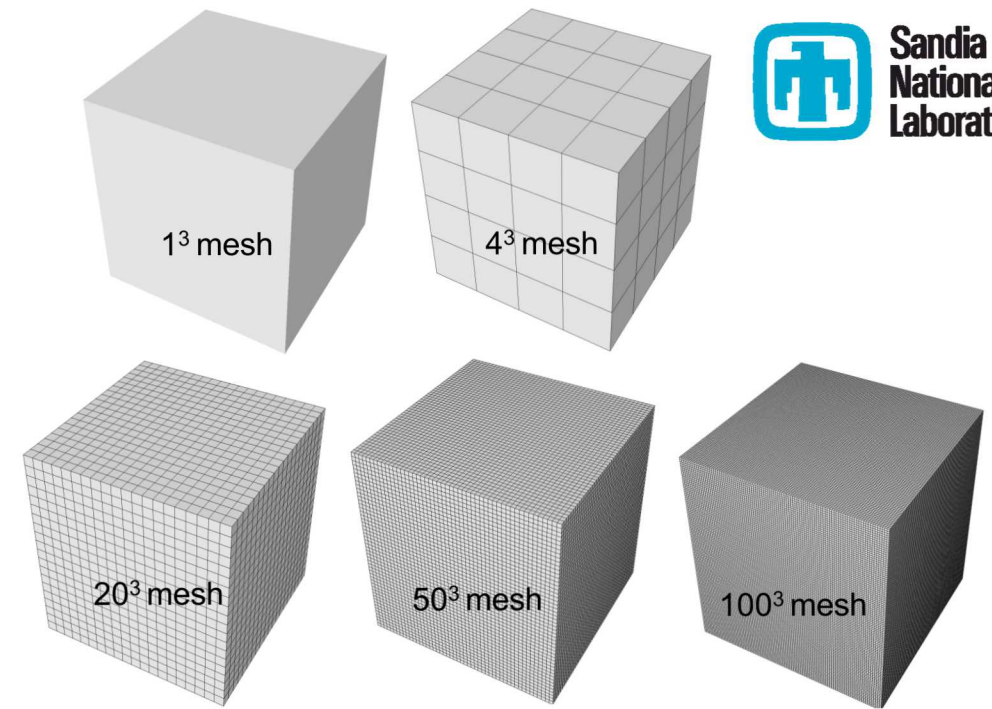
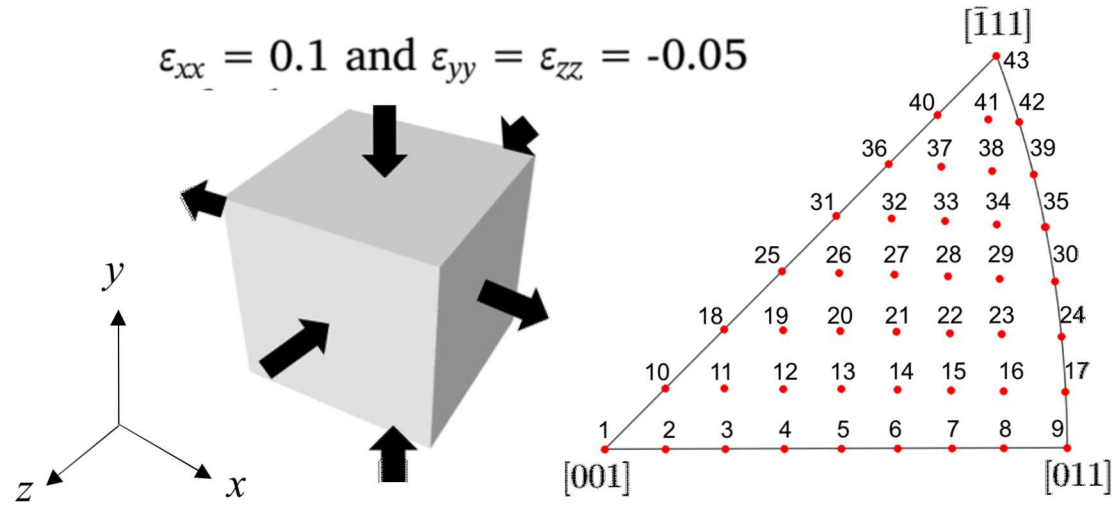
$C_{11} = 197.5 \text{ GPa}$   
 $\dot{\gamma}_0 = 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$   
 $A = 0.4$   
 $g_0 = 150 \text{ MPa}$   
 $a_1 = 150 \text{ MPa}$

$C_{12} = 125.0 \text{ GPa}$   
 $m = 0.012$   
 $\rho_0 = 5.46 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-2}$   
 $g_s = 1100 \text{ MPa}$   
 $a_2 = 500 \text{ MPa}$

$C_{44} = 122.0 \text{ GPa}$   
 $\kappa_1 = 2 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^{-1}$   
 $h_0 = 300 \text{ MPa}$   
 $n = 0.8$

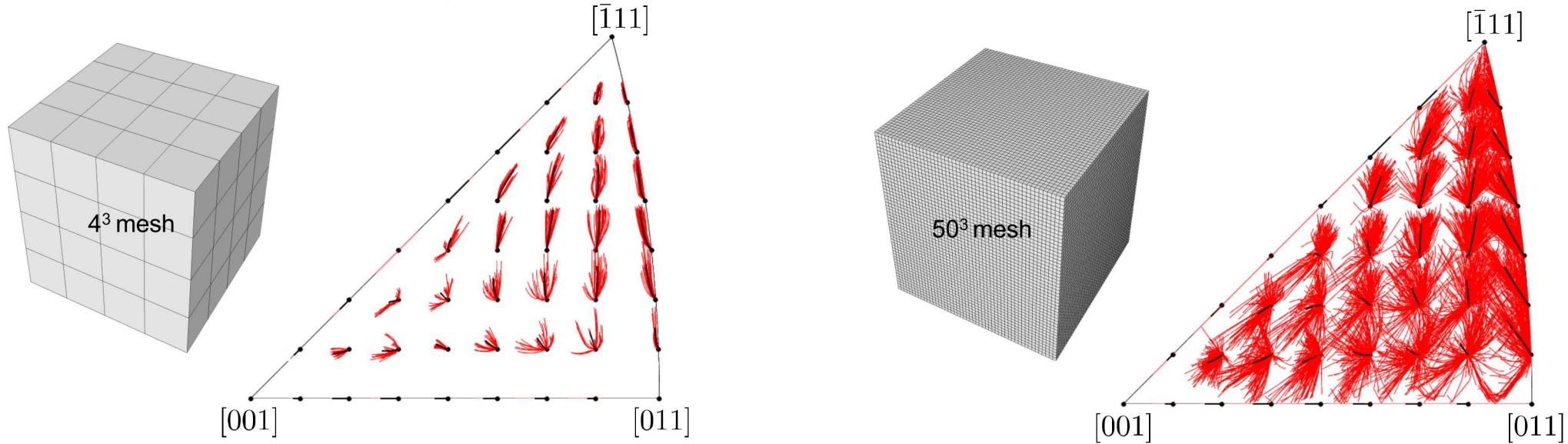
$\mu = 55.9 \text{ GPa}$   
 $\kappa_2 = 20$   
 $a = 3.0$

# Simulations of single crystals

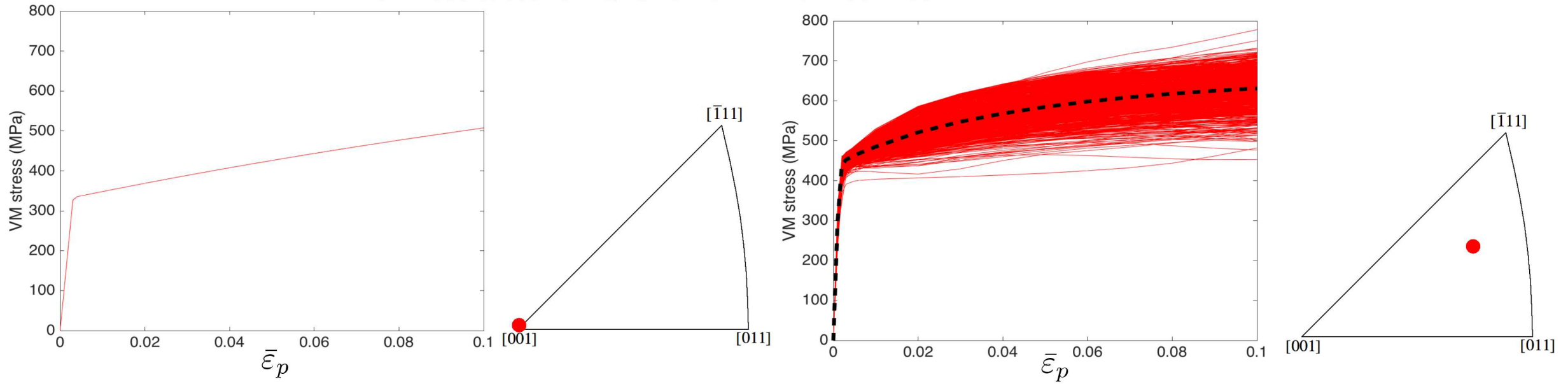


# Effects of crystal orientations

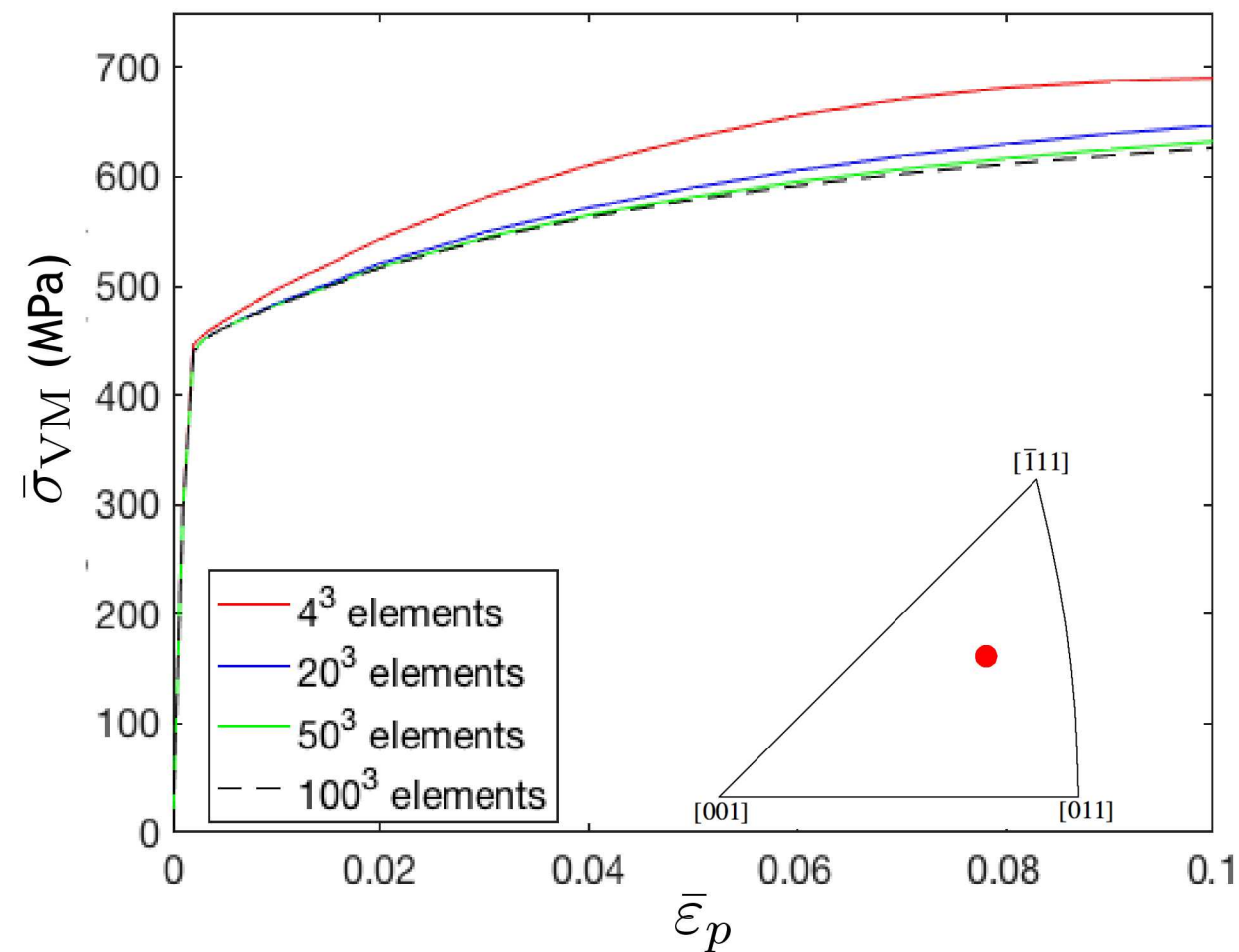
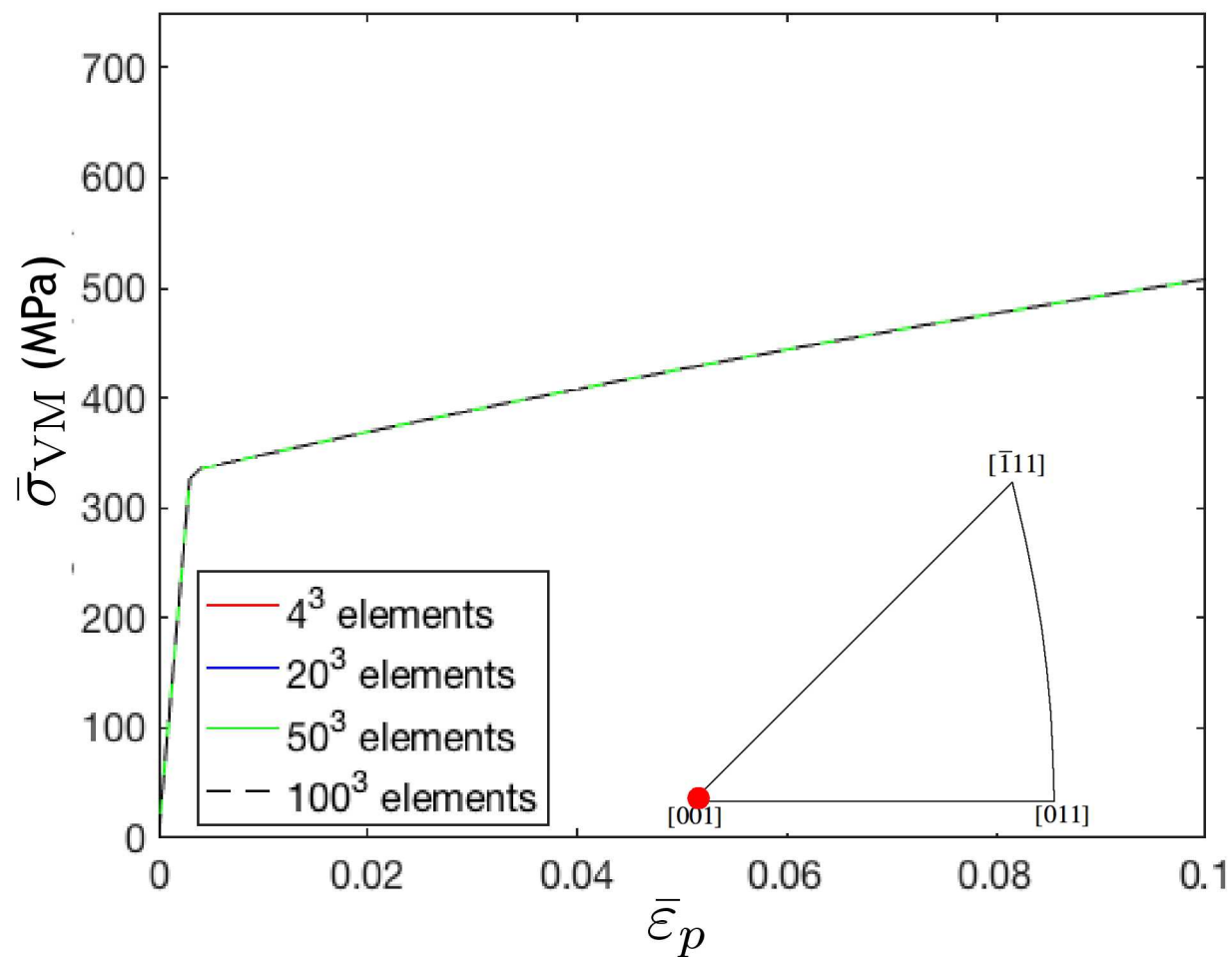
Crystal rotation along x directions after 10% isochoric deformation



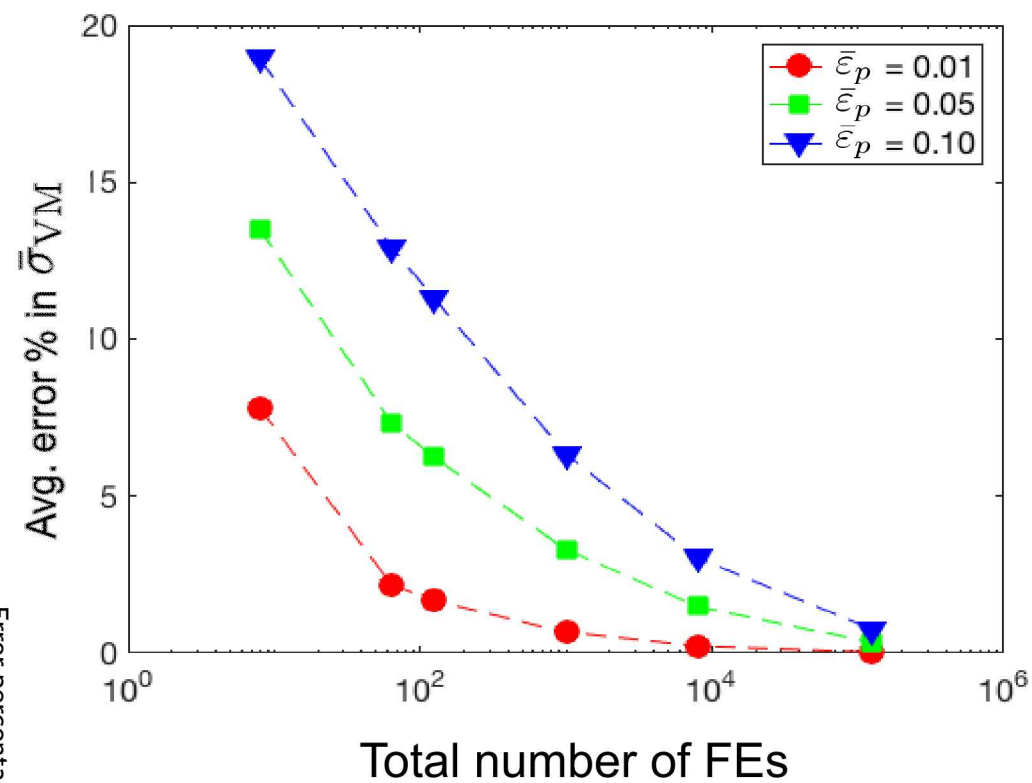
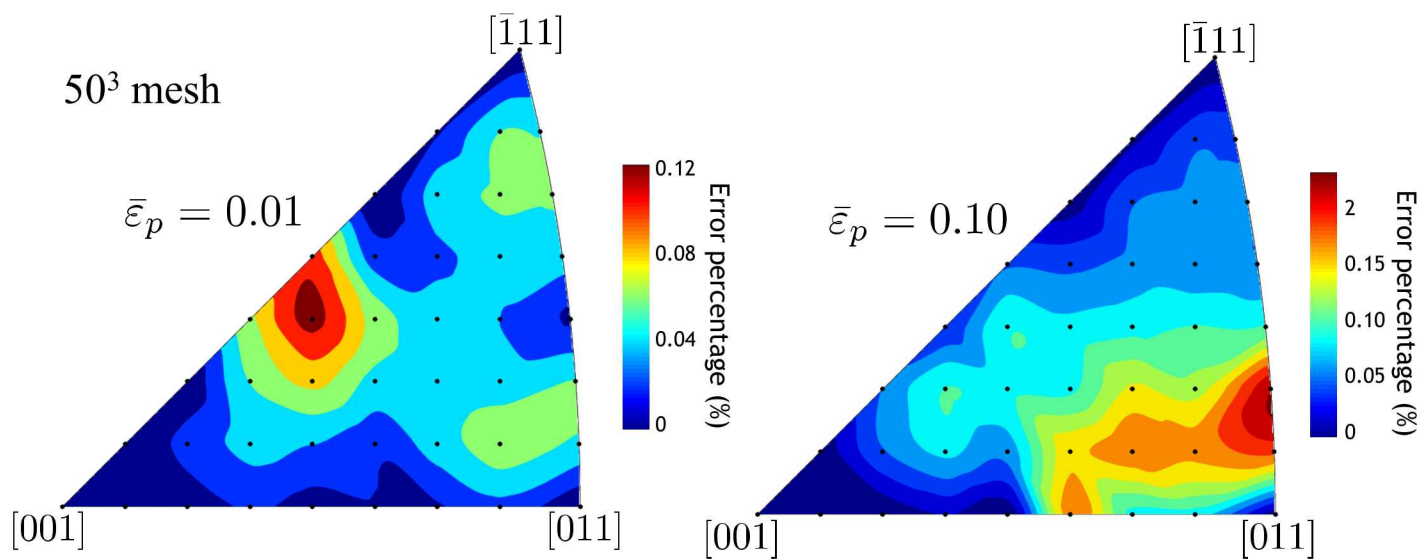
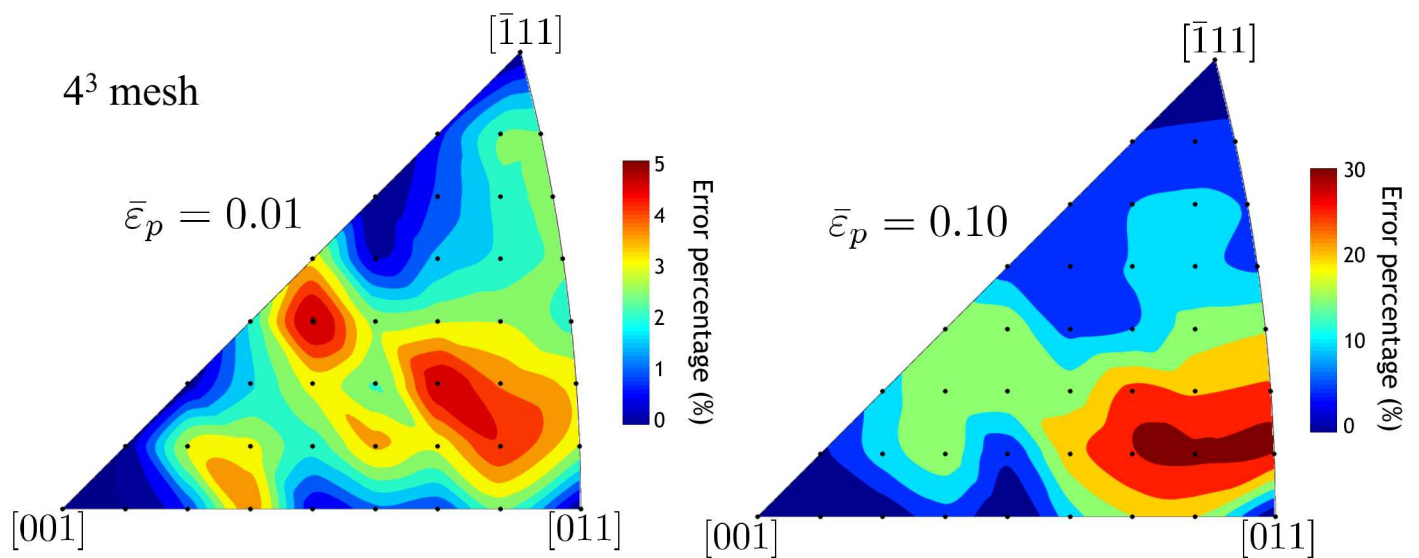
Von Mises stress vs. EQPS from all FE within 50<sup>3</sup> mesh



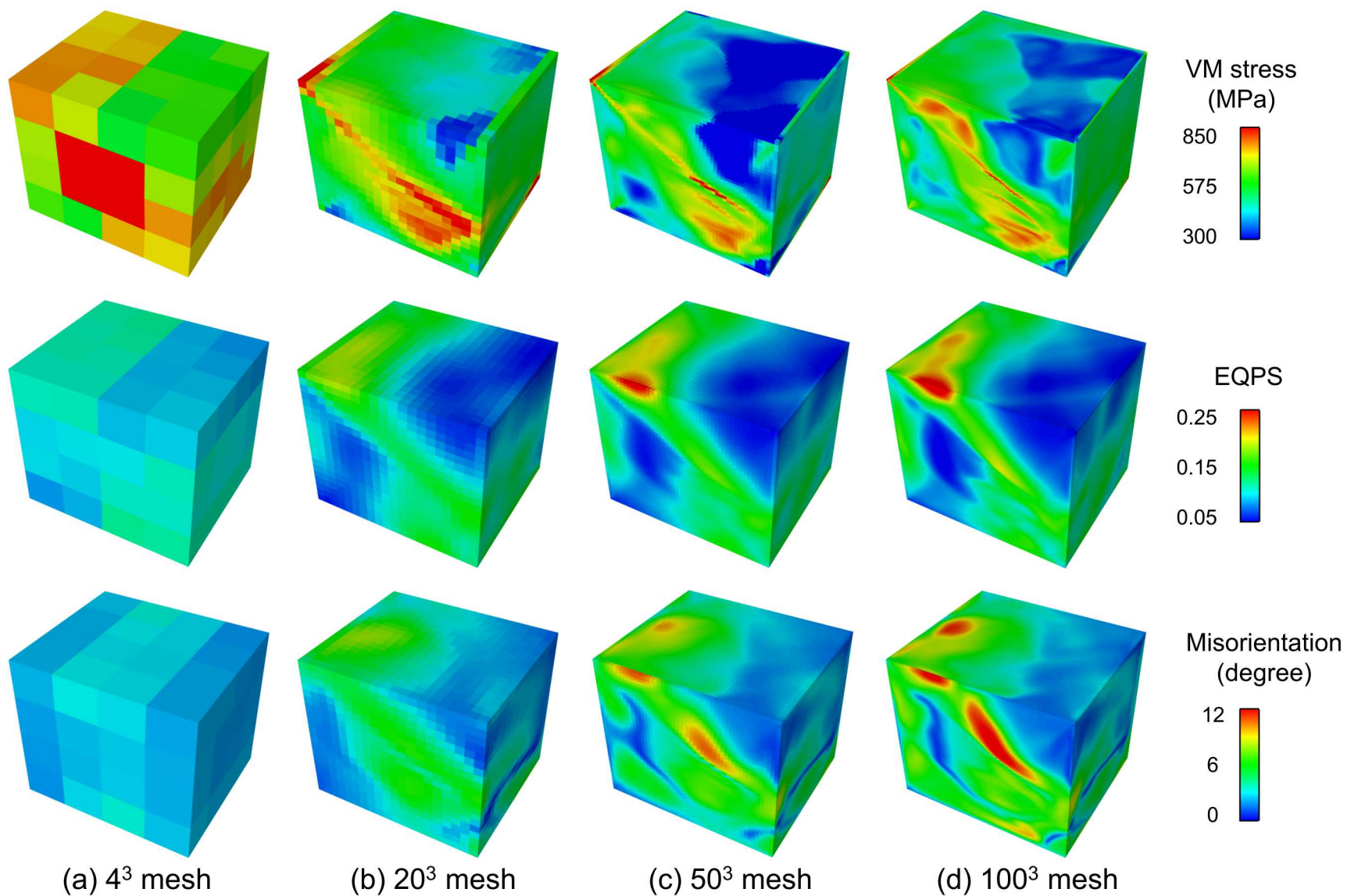
# Mesh sensitivity – crystal orientation effect



# Error percentages

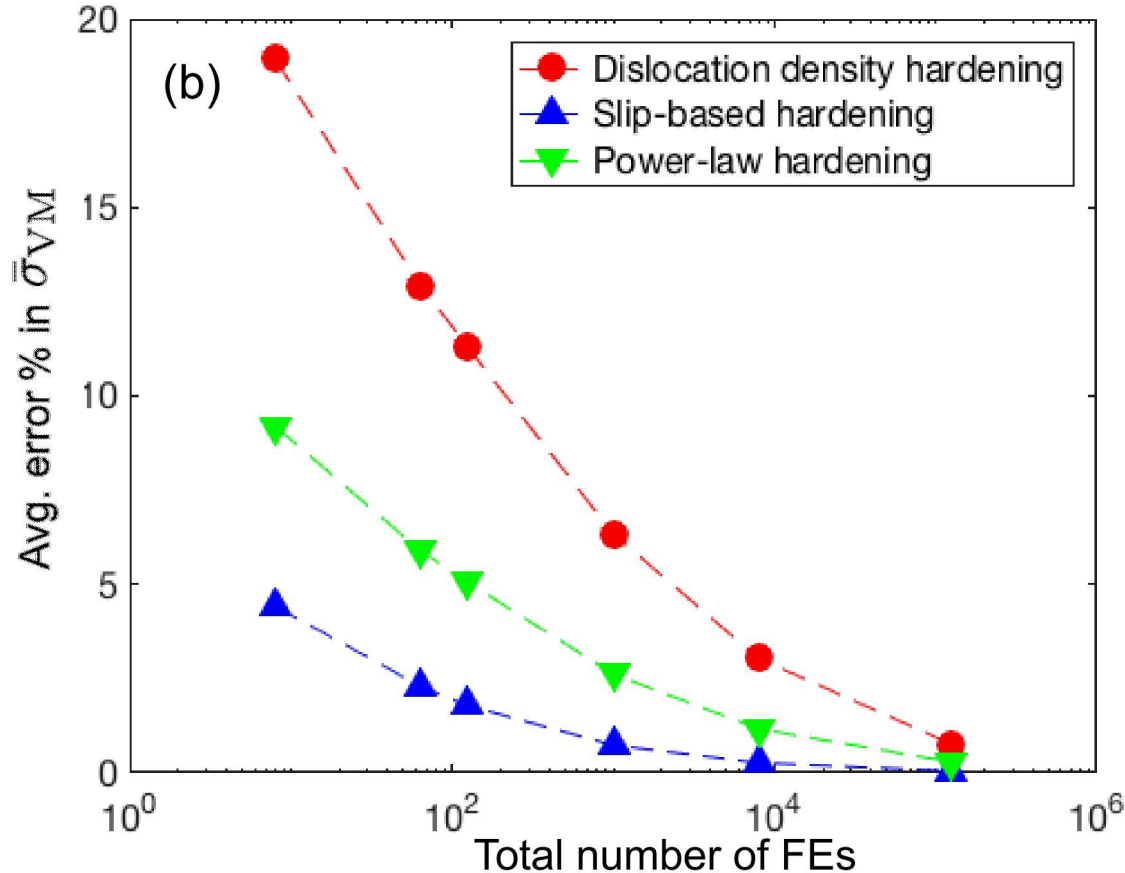


# Mesh sensitivity in local variables

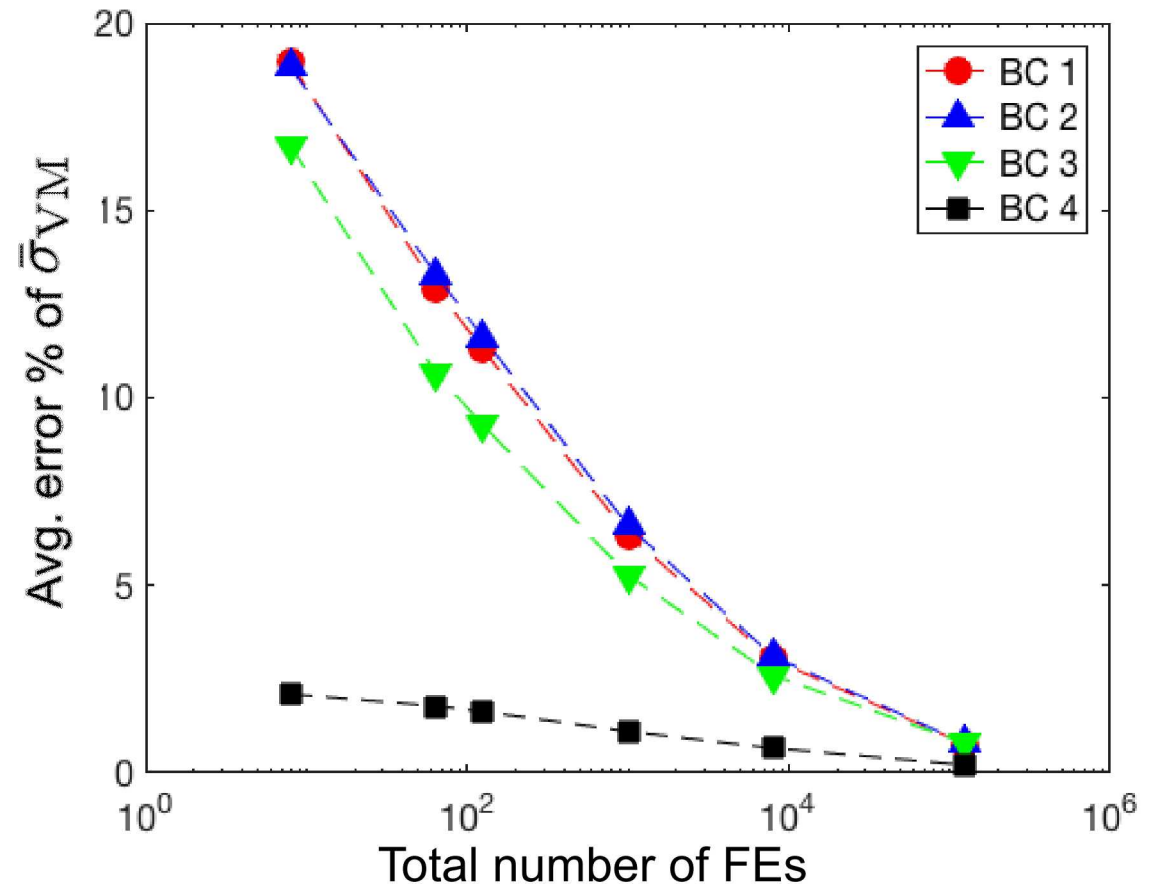


# Other effects

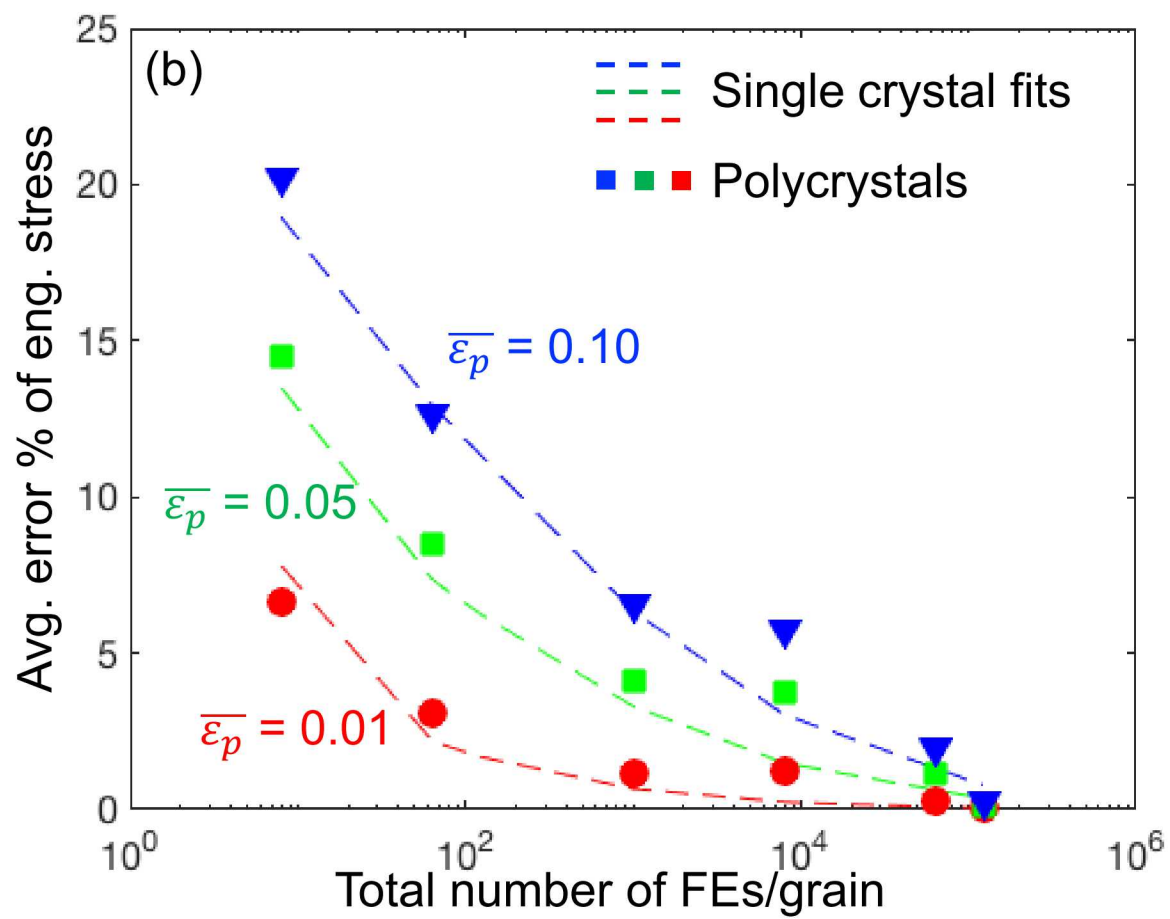
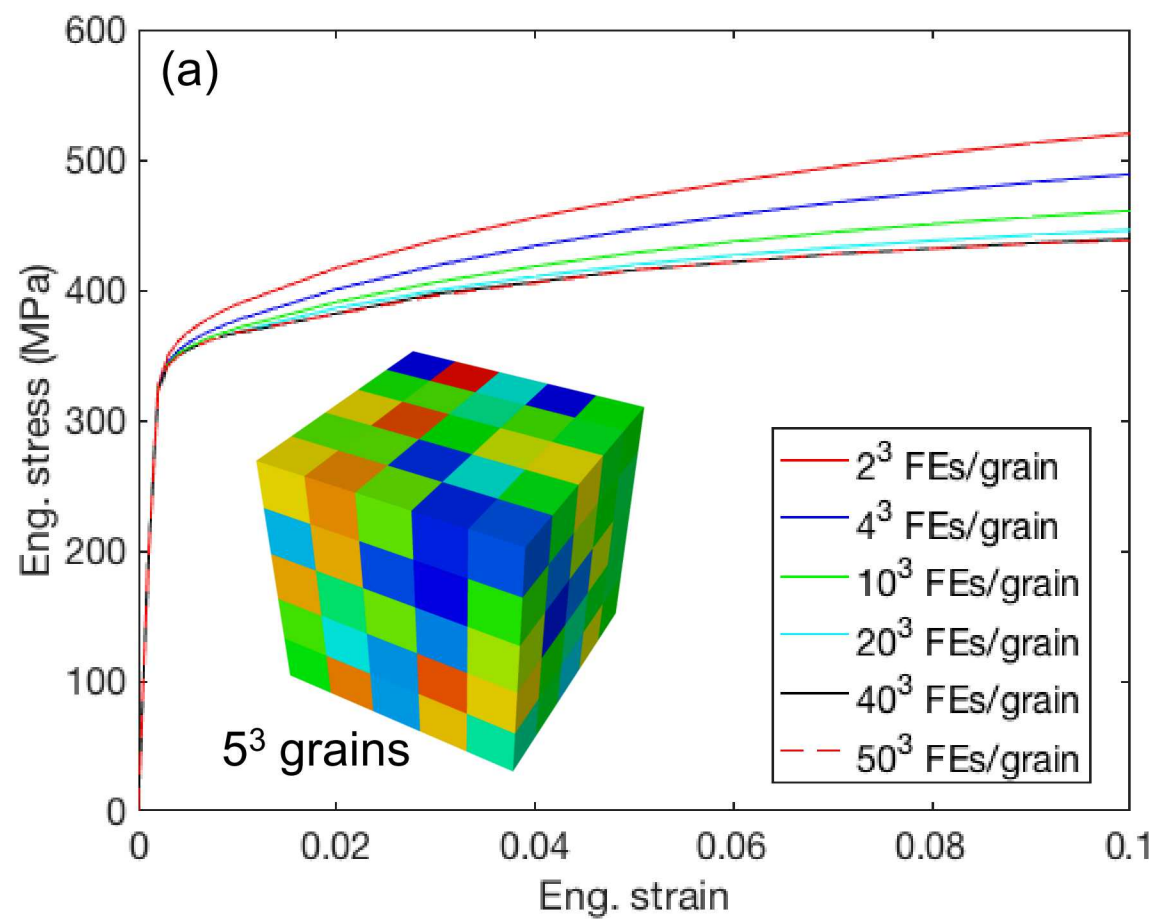
- Dislocation density based hardening:  $g^\alpha = A\mu b \sqrt{\sum_{\beta=1}^{12} \rho^\beta}$
- Slip based hardening:  $\dot{g}^\alpha = \sum_{\beta} h^{\alpha\beta} |\dot{\gamma}^\beta|$
- Isotropic power-law hardening:  $g^\alpha = a_1 + a_2 (\bar{\epsilon}_p)^n$



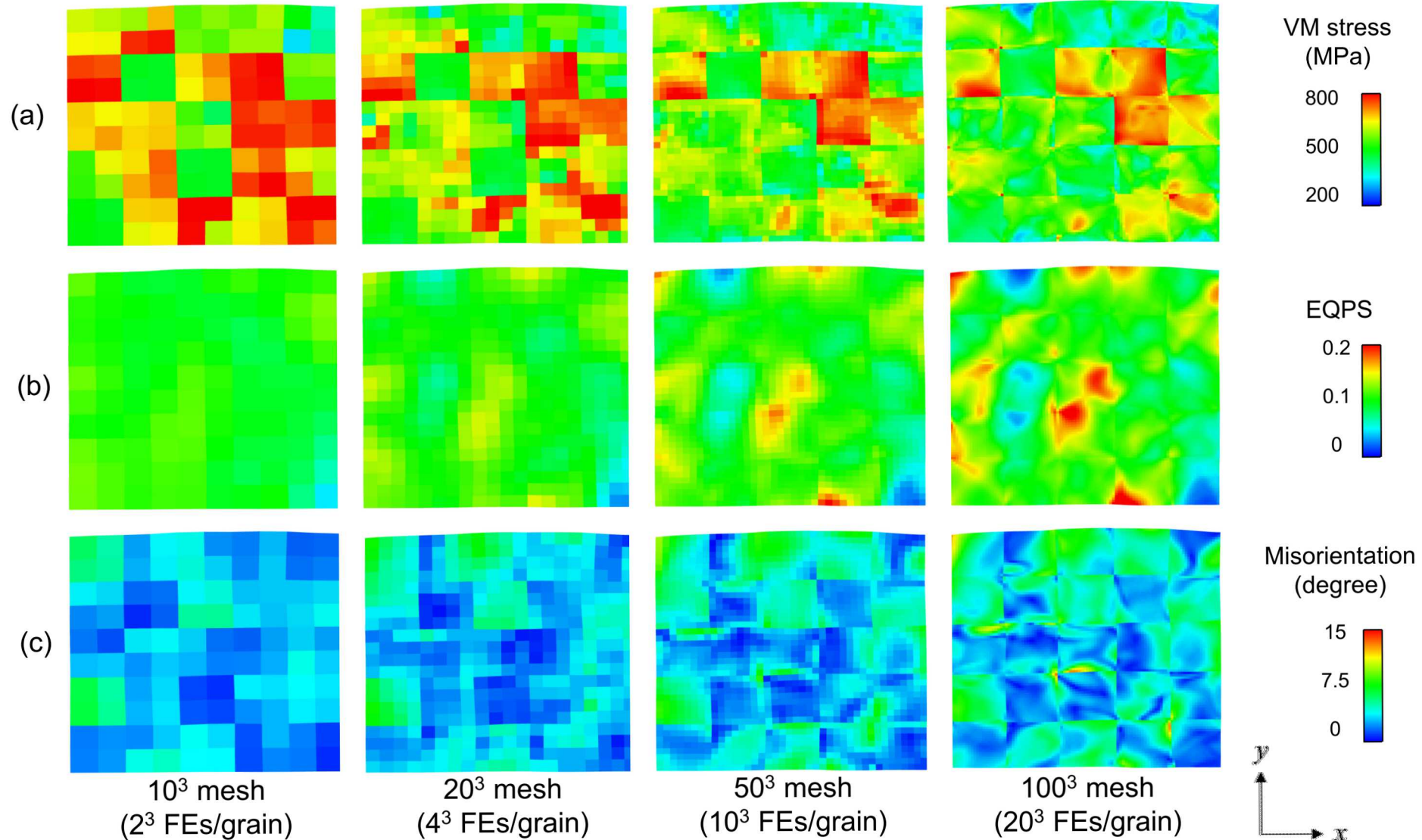
- BC1:  $\epsilon_{xx} = 0.1$  and  $\epsilon_{yy} = \epsilon_{zz} = -0.05$
- BC2:  $\epsilon_{yy} = 0.1$  and  $\epsilon_{xx} = \epsilon_{zz} = -0.05$
- BC3:  $\epsilon_{xx} = 0.122$  and  $\epsilon_{yy} = \epsilon_{zz} = 0$
- BC4:  $\epsilon_{xx} = 0.122$



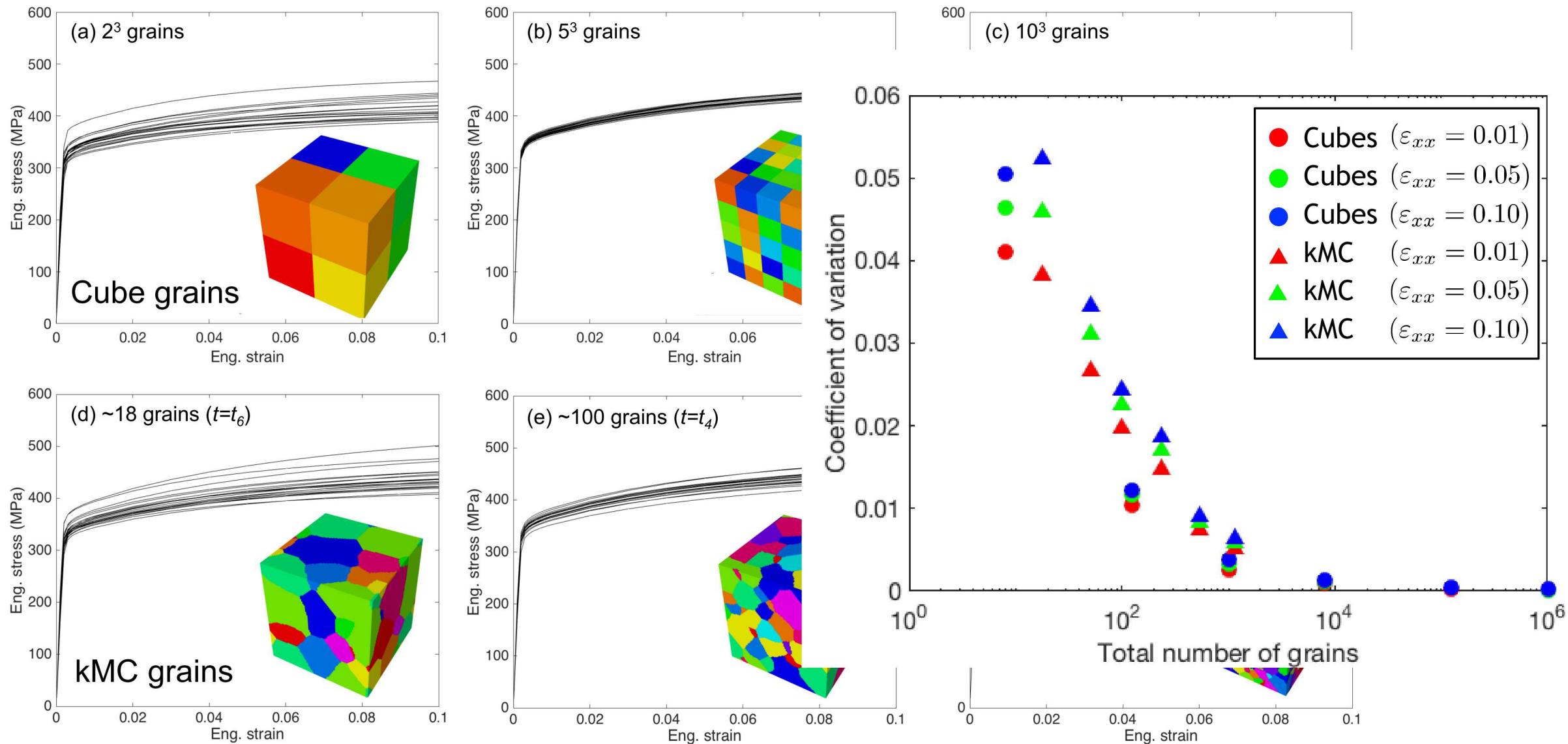
# Mesh sensitivity in polycrystalline CP-FEM simulations



# Mesh sensitivity in polycrystalline CP-FEM simulations

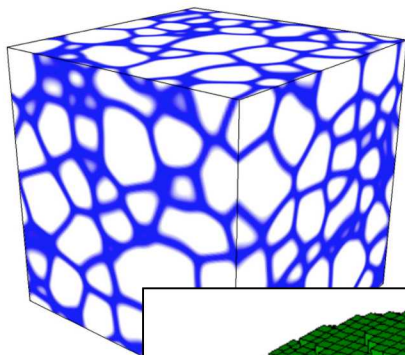


# RVE size in CP-FEM simulations

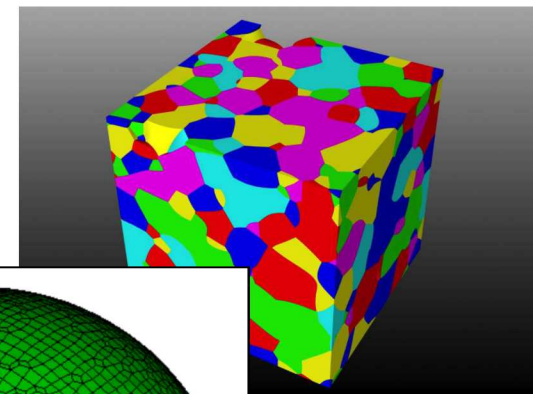


# Constructing interface-conformal polycrystal FE mesh

Computational/Experimental  
Voxelated 3D microstructure



Interface-conformal  
hexahedral FE mesh

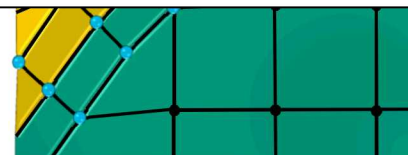
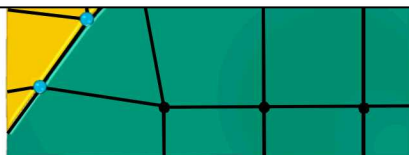
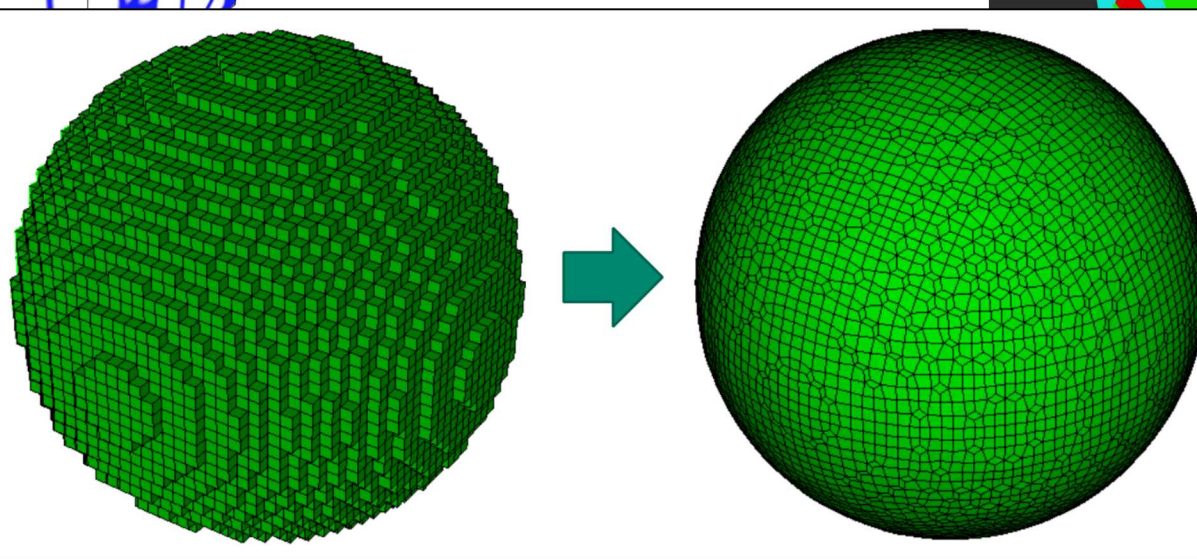


Cubit 'Sculpt'

[www.cubit.sandia.gov](http://www.cubit.sandia.gov)

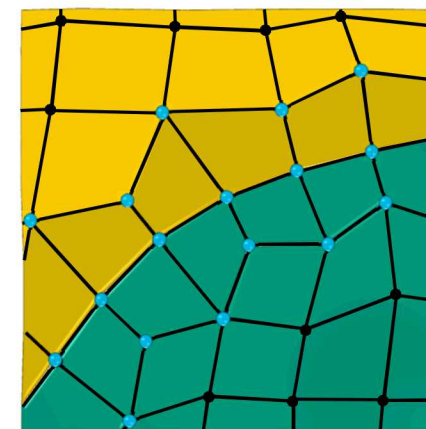
Volume fractions represent  
percent of grains for each

|              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| $v_A = 0.73$ | $v_A = 0.41$ | $v_A = 0.43$ |
| $v_B = 0.27$ | $v_B = 0.59$ | $v_B = 0.57$ |
| $v_A = 0.00$ | $v_A = 0.55$ | $v_A = 0.38$ |
| $v_B = 1.00$ | $v_B = 0.45$ | $v_B = 0.62$ |
| $v_A = 0.00$ | $v_A = 0.79$ | $v_A = 1.00$ |
| $v_B = 1.00$ | $v_B = 0.21$ | $v_B = 0.00$ |

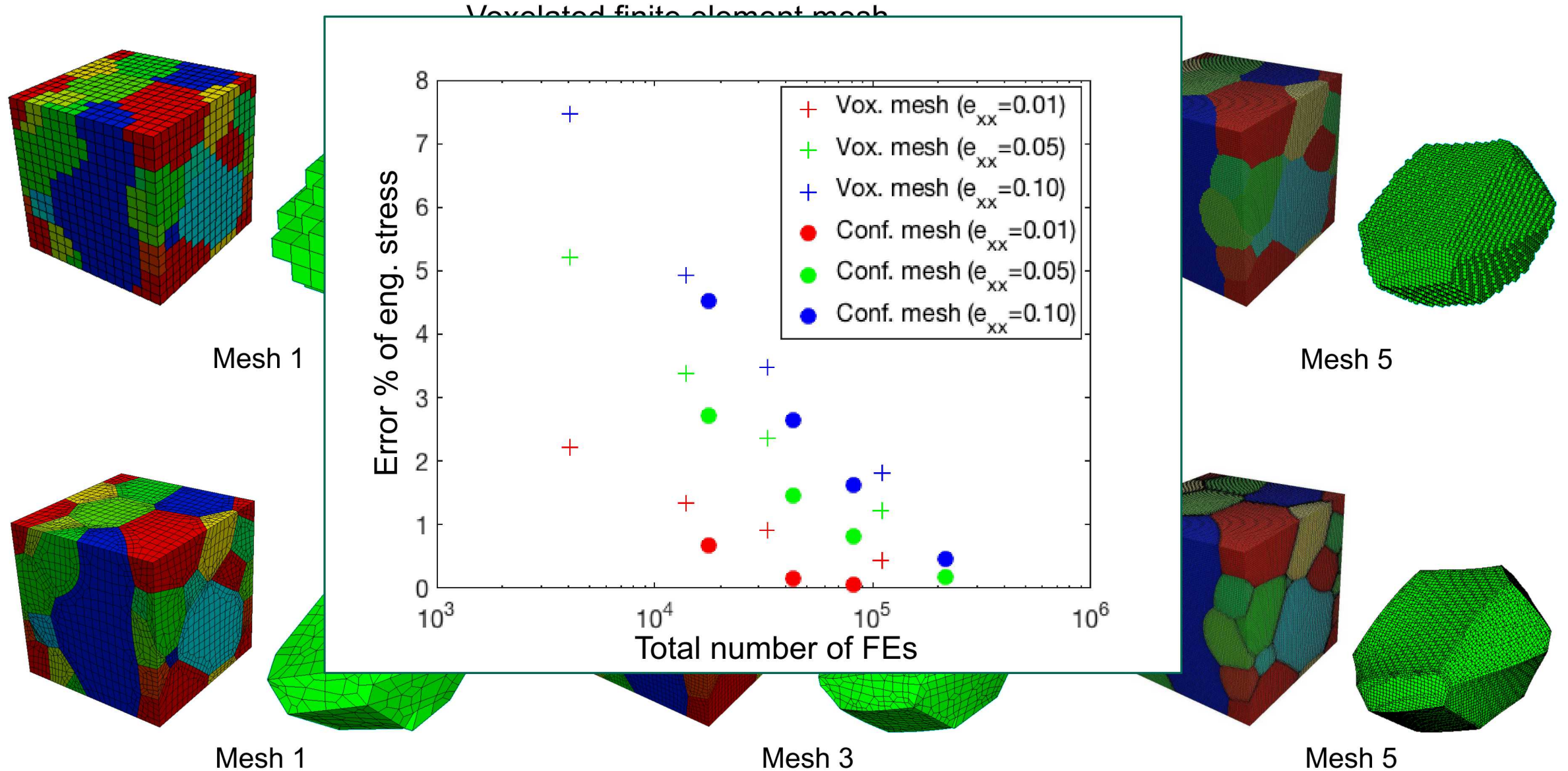


ts

Perform smoothing and pillowing  
to improve the mesh quality.



# Interface conformal mesh



# Conclusions

- Mesh convergence in CP-FEM is very sensitive to the crystal orientation, hardening model and applied boundary conditions.
- Approximately  $10^4$  finite elements per grain are required to reasonably achieve mesh convergence in CP-FEM simulations.
- Approximately  $10^3$  grains are required to adequately reproduce polycrystalline RVEs.
- Interface conformal mesh reduces error compared to voxelated mesh.

***THANK YOU !***