

# MESOSCALE MULTIPHYSICS PHASE FIELD SIMULATOR (MEMPHIS)

## RECENT PROGRESSES IN PHASE-FIELD MODELING AT

## SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

*PRESENTED BY*

RÉMI DINGREVILLE



## CHIMAD PHASE-FIELD WORKSHOP X: VIRTUAL

# A TEAM EFFORT

- **Graduate students**

M. Powers (PhD. MSE, U Mich.); E. Herman (Ph.D. Applied Math, NC State); D. Visozo (ME, GT)

- **Postdocs**

J. Stewart, E.Y. Chen, D. Montes de Oca Zapiain, T. O'Connor

- **External collaborators**

A. Misra (U. Mich.), K. Baldwin (LANL), N. Li (LANL), J. Singer (Rutgers)

- **Funding**



# WHY MEMPHIS?



## PHYLOSOPHY

1. **Not a Computer Science Project...**  
A Materials Science Project  
No need to worry about numerical methods, parallelization, etc...
2. **Modularity**  
Being able to re-utilize/combine models  
Rapid prototyping of models
3. **Easy to code**  
Accessible to users with various backgrounds
4. **Open source**

## CURRENT FOCUS

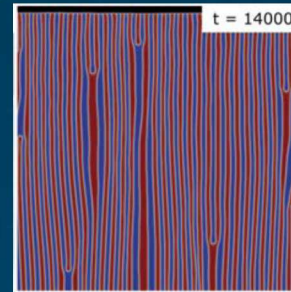
1. **Synthesis of nanostructured materials**  
Physical Vapor Deposition of thin films  
Molecular Beam Epitaxy for quantum dots
2. **Aging and degradation of materials**  
Irradiation-induced segregation  
Localized corrosion

# ROADMAP FOR TODAY'S TALK

1. Code architecture



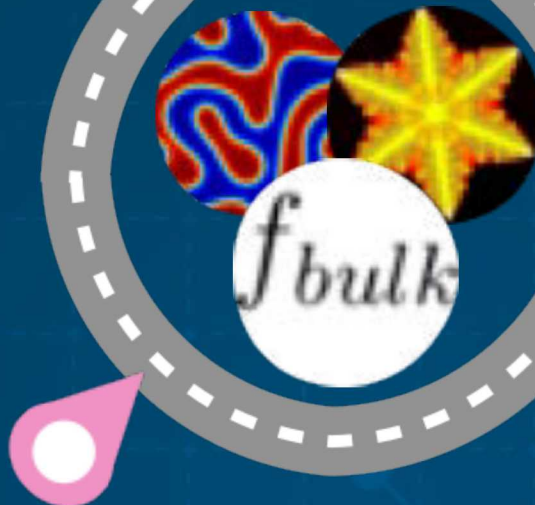
3. Application: PVD



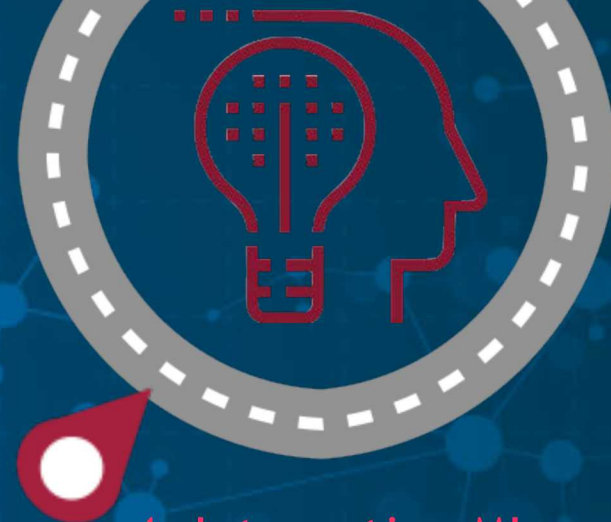
5. Moving forward



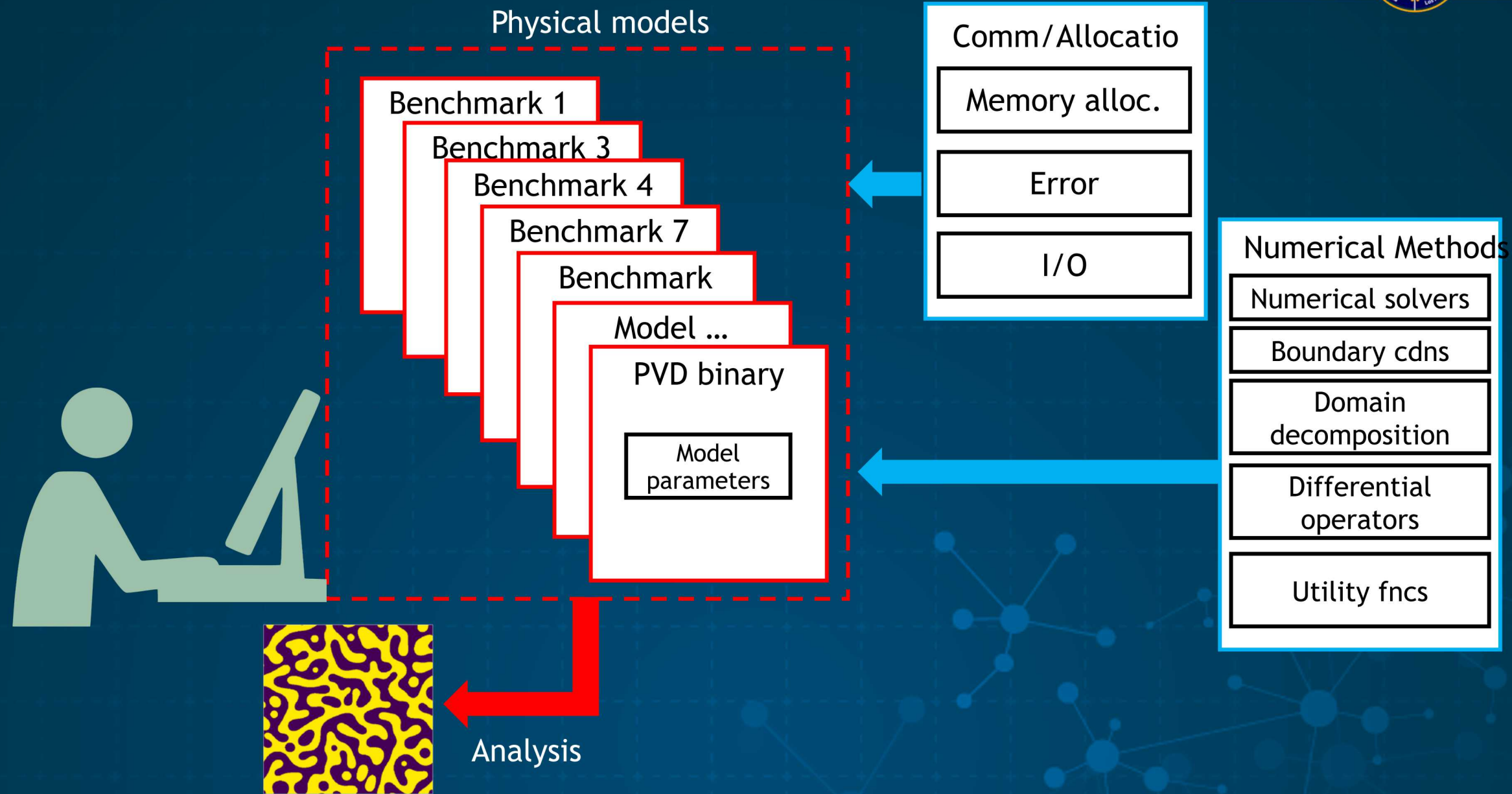
2. Verification & Validation



4. Integrating ML



# CODE ARCHITECTURE



# CODE ARCHITECTURE

```
!*
```

```
function phase_evolution(phi,t) result(rhs_of_eqn)
```

```
real(kindof_double), intent(in) :: t
real(kindof_double), dimension(:,:,:), intent(in) :: phi
real(kindof_double), dimension(size(phi, dim=1), size(phi, dim=2), size(phi, dim=3)) :: rhs_of_eqn
real(kindof_double) :: div0 = 1.0d-16

dphidx = gradient_x(phi)
dphidy = gradient_y(phi)

theta = atan(dphidy/(dphidx + div0)) - theta_0
alpha = 1.0d0 + epsilon_m*cos(mfold_sym*theta)
coeff = -( w_0*w_0*epsilon_m*mfold_sym*sin(mfold_sym*theta)*alpha*gradient_norm(phi)**2 )/(dphidx**2 + dphidy**2 + div0)

df_chem = (phi - lambda*temperature_field*(1.0d0 - phi**2))*(1.0d0 - phi**2)
df_grad = div_a_grad_b((w_0*alpha)**2, phi) - gradient_x( coeff*dphidx ) + gradient_y( coeff*dphidy )

dphidt = (df_chem + df_grad)/(tau_0*(alpha**2) + div0)
rhs_of_eqn = dphidt
```

```
end function phase_evolution
```

```
!*
```

```
function temperature_evolution(temperature,t) result(rhs_of_eqn)
```

```
real(kindof_double), intent(in) :: t
real(kindof_double), dimension(:,:,:), intent(in) :: temperature
real(kindof_double), dimension(size(temperature, dim=1), size(temperature, dim=2), size(temperature, dim=3)) :: rhs_of_eqn

rhs_of_eqn = beta_temp*laplacian(temperature) + 0.5d0*dphidt
```

```
end function temperature_evolution
```

```
!*
```

```
subroutine free_energy()
```

```
f_chem = 0.25d0*phase_field**4 - 0.5d0*phase_field**2 &
+ lambda*phase_field*temperature_field*(1.0d0 - (2.0d0/3.0d0)*phase_field**2 + 0.2d0*phase_field**4)
f_grad = 0.5d0*w_0*w_0*alpha*alpha*gradient_norm(phase_field)**2
```

```
end subroutine free_energy
```

1. MEMPHIS is written in Fortran 90
2. Serial or parallel (using message-passing interface and spatial decomposition of comput. domain)
3. Writing a model is straight forward
4. Set boundary cdns in a variable way (Neuman /Dirichlet)
5. Various numerical integration schemes are available:  
explicit Euler, midpoint, Heun's, Gauss-Seidel
6. Output results in various formats
7. Can read an input microstructure

# VERIFICATION & VALIDATION



## 1. Spinodal Decomposition

Diffusion of a solute in a matrix

Total Uploads: 54

Specification

Results: 1a | 1b | 1c | 1d



## 2. Ostwald Ripening

Coupling of conserved and non-conserved dynamics

Total Uploads: 25

Specification

Results: 2a | 2b | 2c | 2d



## 3. Dendritic Growth

Solidification and dendritic growth in a single-component

Total Uploads: 14

Specification

Results: 3a



## 4. Elastic Precipitate

Linear elasticity via evolution of a constrained precipitate

Total Uploads: 12

Specification

Results: 4a | 4b | 4c | 4d | 4e | 4f | 4g | 4h



## 5. Stokes Flow

Incompressible Stokes flow in 2D

Total Uploads: 0

Specification

Results: 5a | 5b



## 6. Electrostatics

Coupled electrostatics and Cahn-Hilliard dynamics

Total Uploads: 8

Specification

Results: 6a | 6b



## 7. MMS Allen-Cahn

Use the Method of Manufactured Solutions to verify codes

Total Uploads: 9

Specification

Results: 7a | 7b | 7c



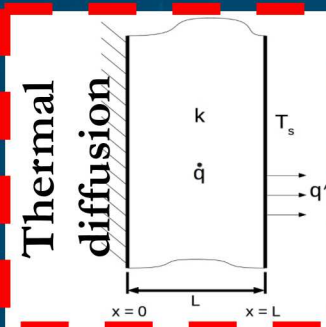
## 8. Nucleation

Nucleation benchmark

Total Uploads: 4

Specification

Results: 8a | 8b | 8c | 8d



## SANDIA REPORT

SAND2020-4015

Printed April 2020



Sandia National Laboratories

## Benchmark problems for the Mesoscale Multiphysics Phase Field Simulator (MEMPHIS)

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Prepared by  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185  
Livermore, California 94550



**Deposition**

**Transport**

**Sputtering**

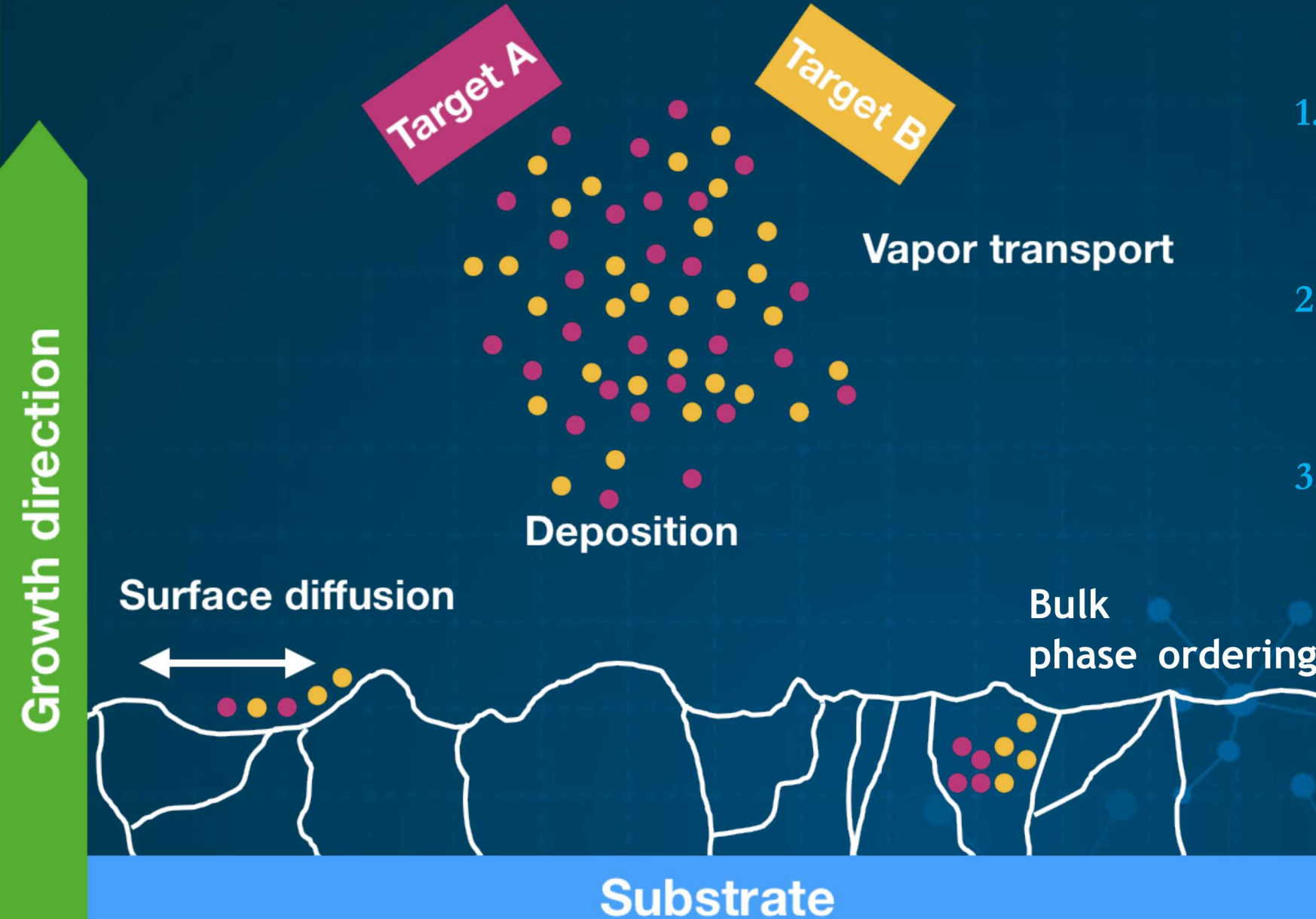
**Heating, rotating stage**

**Substrate**

**Target A**

**Target B**

# MODELING PVD USING PHASE-FIELD



1. Explicitly model vapor transport  
...so we can model multiple PVD processes
2. No artificial deposition of vapor  
...so we can capture hillock formation
3. Account for surface and bulk diffusion into one model  
...so we can account for the composition of surface vs. bulk phenomena

# MODELING PVD USING PHASE-FIELD

$$F = \int \left[ f_{\phi} + \frac{\kappa_{\phi}^2}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + s(\phi) \left( f_{el} + f_c + \frac{\kappa_c^2}{2} (\nabla c)^2 \right) \right] d\Omega$$

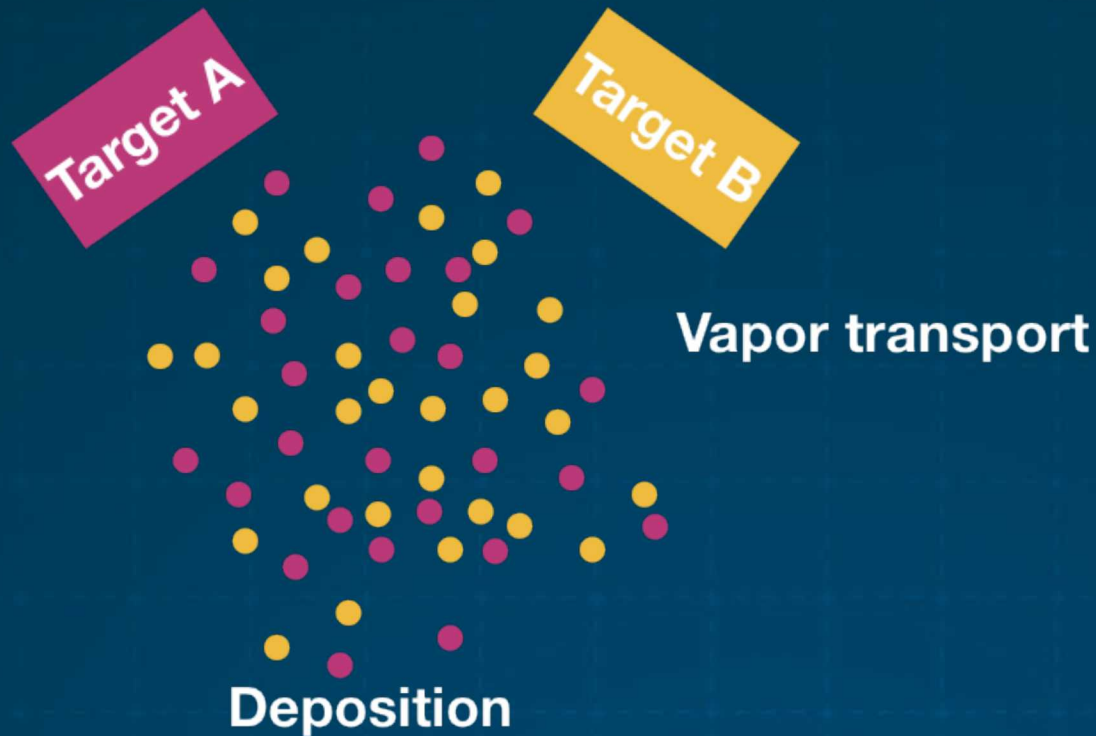
Describing vapor/solid field

Only considered within the solid thin film

Describes concentration field

Describes two-way coupling between elastic and concentration fields (Vegard)

# TRANSPORT & EVOLUTION OF INCIDENT VAPOR



1. Local vapor pressure
2. Sputtering power (velocity)
3. Vapor density and velocity can be adapted to simulated various PVD processes
4. Random distribution of vapor phase initially
5. Source term to allow for removal of vapor that is being converted to solid at thin-film interface
6. Inclusion of LB capability in the future to include hydrodynamic effects (ALD, CVD)

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D(\rho) \nabla \rho) - \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u}) - S(\vec{n})$$

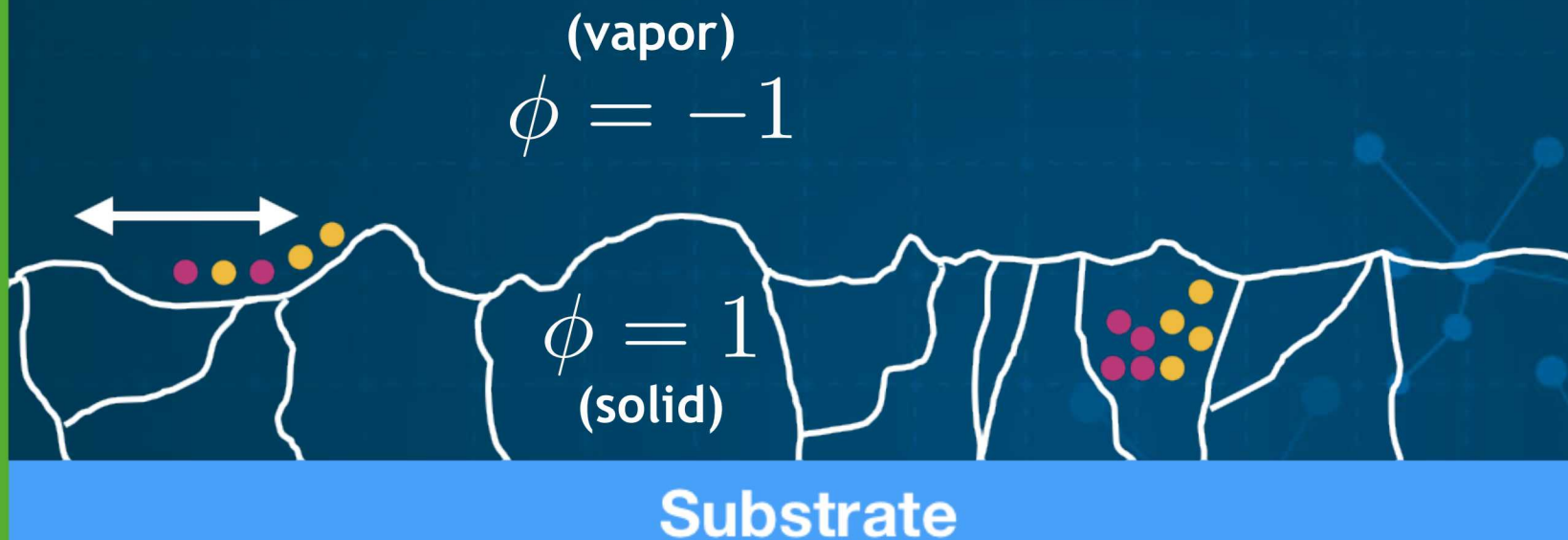
Convection-diffusion

Substrate

# KINETICS OF THIN-FILM GROWTH

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left( M(\phi) \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi} \right) + S(\vec{n})$$

1. Allows for arbitrary surface morphology formation
2. Captures surface-diffusion effects
3. Coupling of thin-film evolution to incident-vapor flux

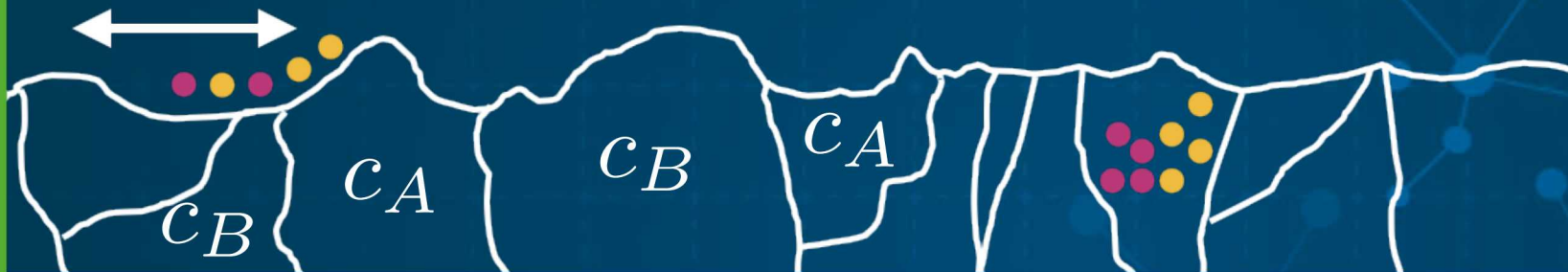


# PHASE ORDERING IN THIN-FILM

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left( M(\phi, c) \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta c} \right)$$

$$M_c(\phi, c) = M^{\text{Bulk}} + M^{\text{Surf}}$$

1. Bulk or surface mobilities are selected through a  $\phi$ -dependent switching function
2. Ensure that surface mobility is localized to vapor-solid interface
3. Explicitly capture both surface and bulk diffusion



Substrate

$$f_{el} = (\epsilon - \epsilon^c) : \mathbb{C} : (\epsilon - \epsilon^c)$$

$$\nabla(\mathbb{C} : (\epsilon - \epsilon^c)) = 0$$

$$\epsilon^c = (c - c^*)\eta$$

1. Elastic stiffness tensor is compositionally dependent
2. Formation and evolution of phase domains give rise to compositional misfit: Thank you Vegard!
3. Two-way chemo-mechanical coupling



Substrate

# MODELING PVD USING PHASE-FIELD

Target A

Lateral

Target B

Target A

Vertical

Target B

Target A

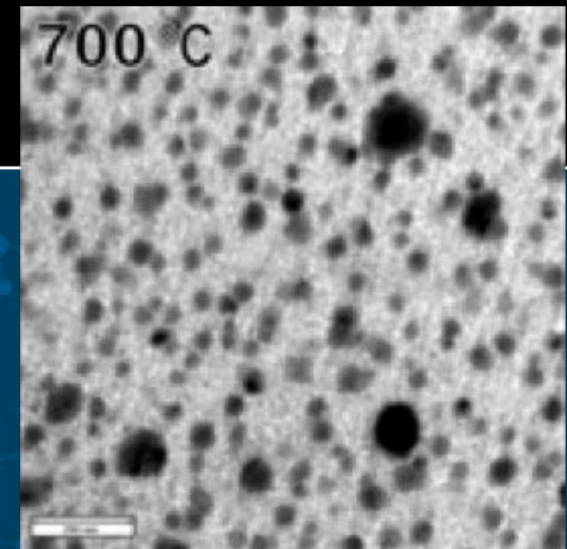
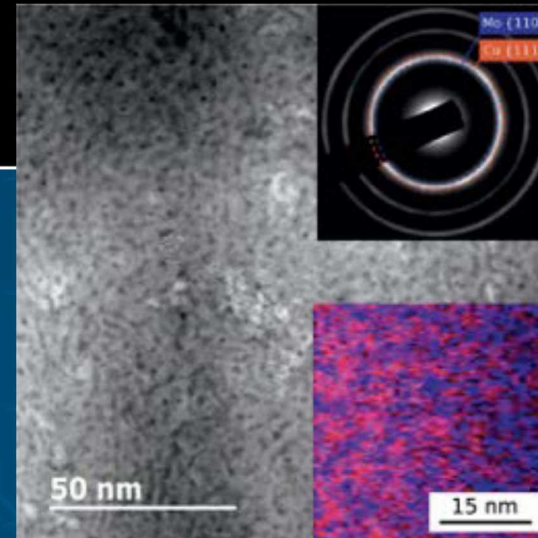
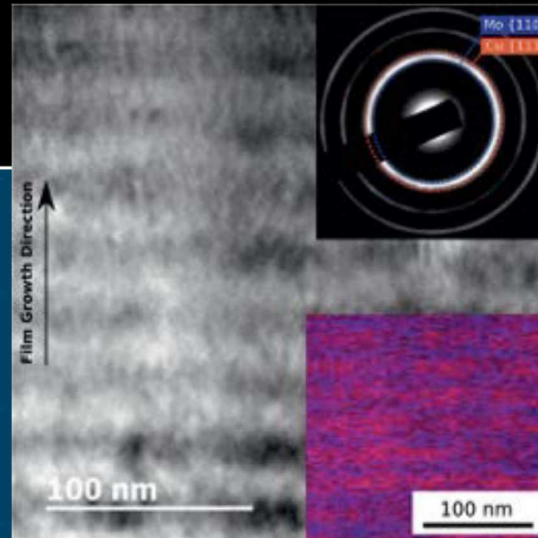
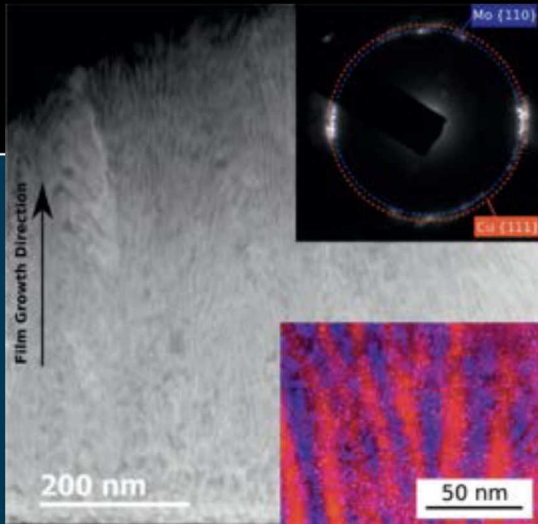
Random

Target B

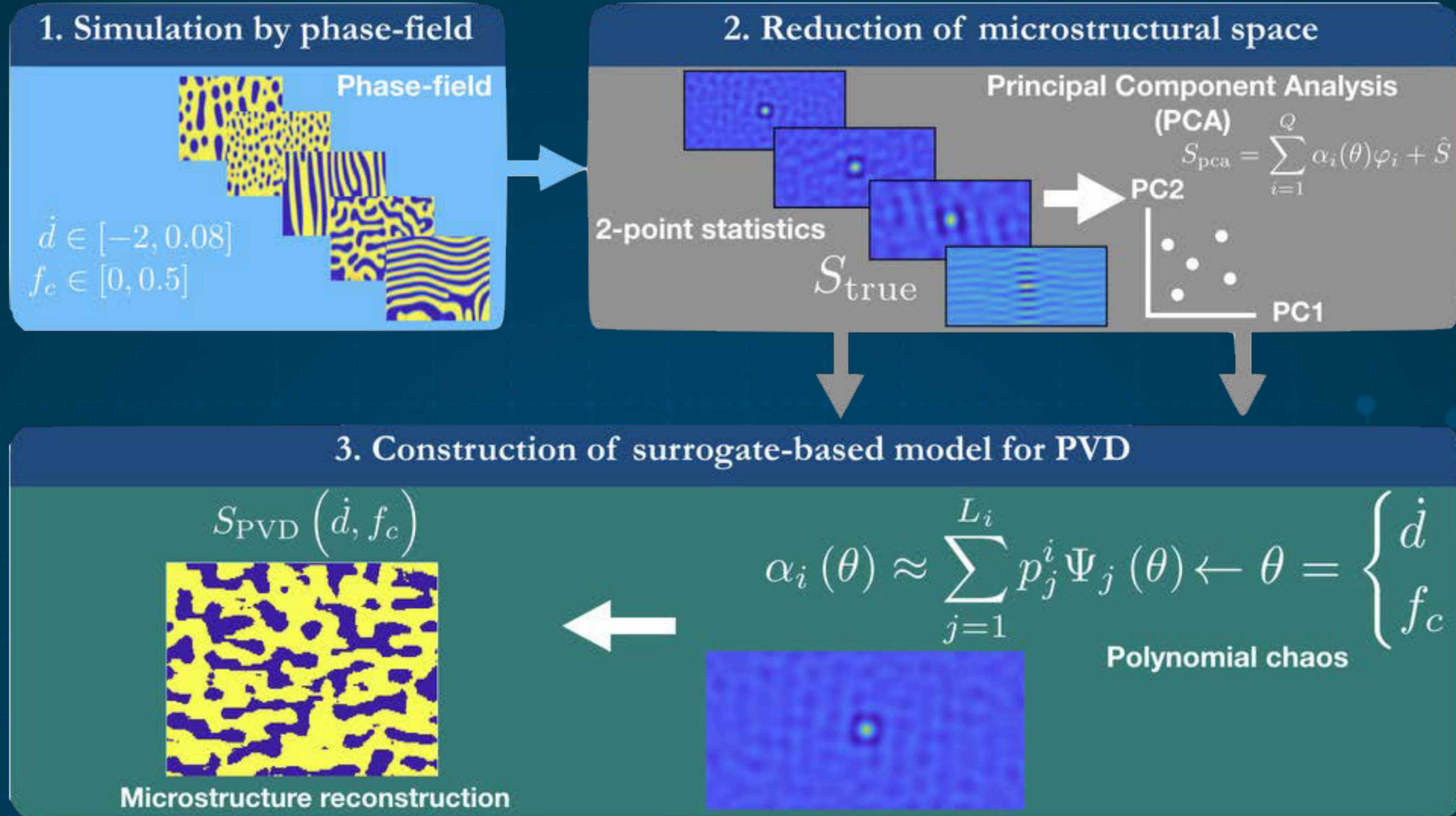
Target A

Nanoprecipitate

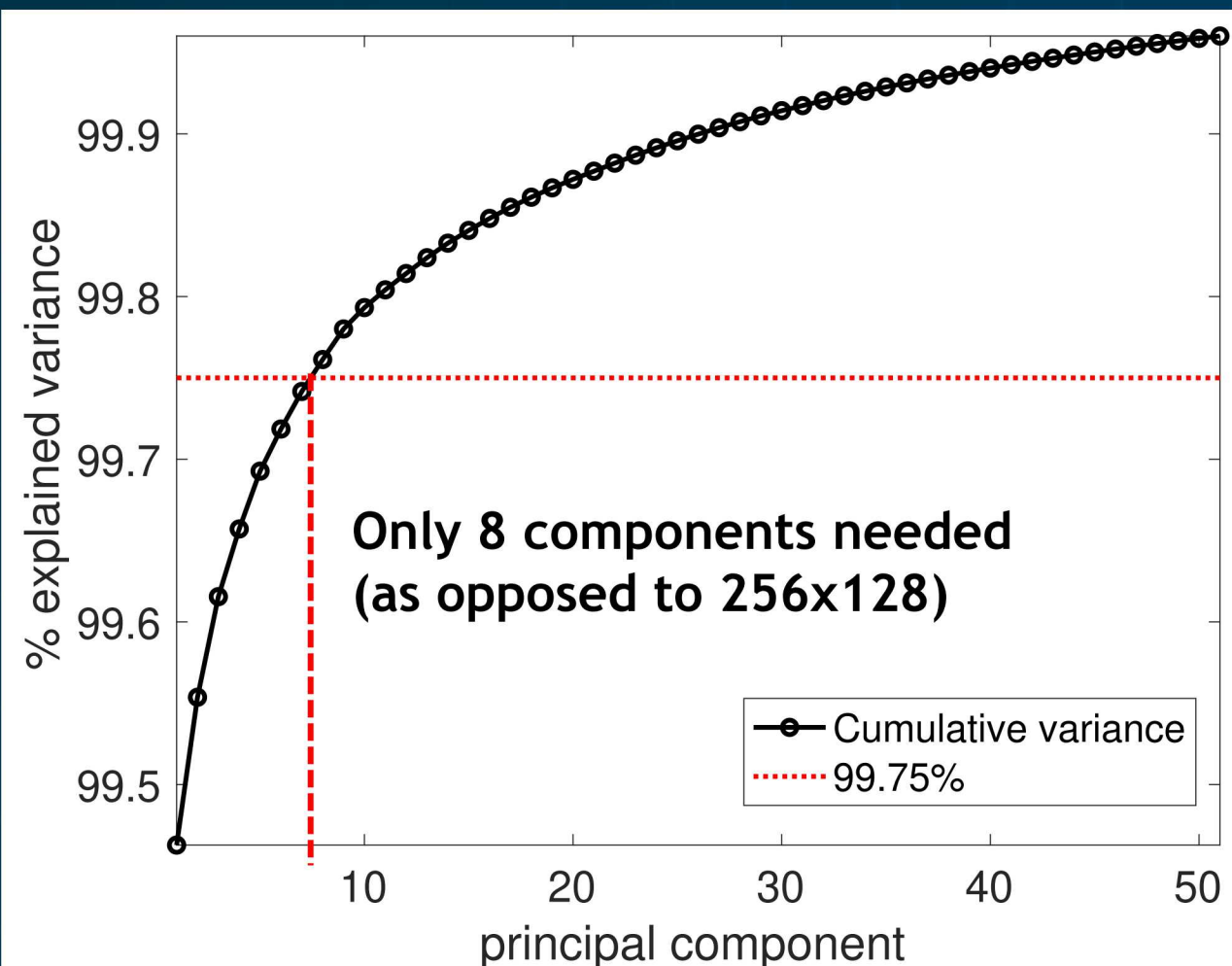
Target B



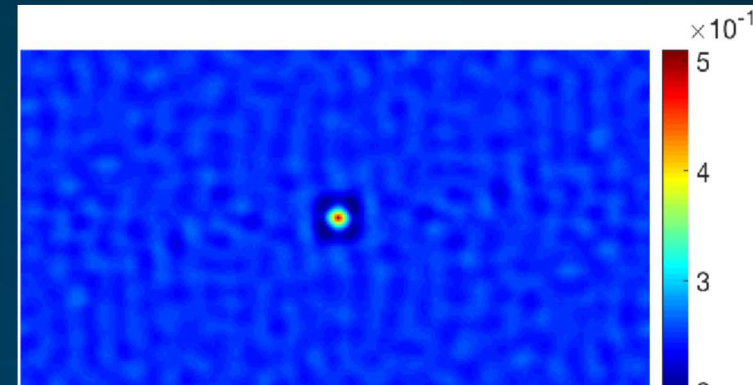
# RAPIDLY PREDICTING MORPHOLOGY?



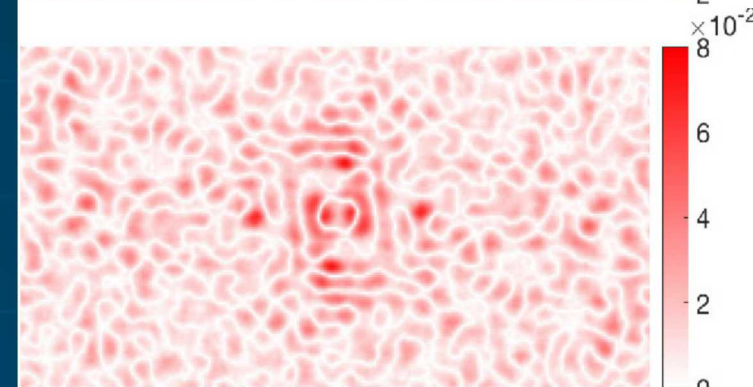
# ROBUST & EFFICIENT PROTOCOL



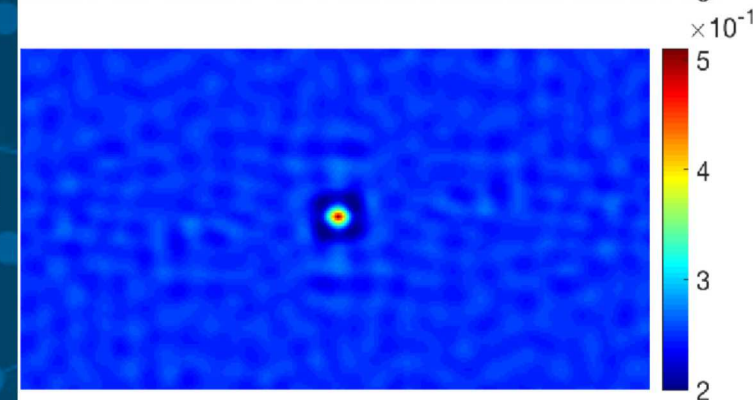
True



Point-wise  
error



Predicted



# SOURCES OF ERRORS

## Error on 2pt-stats

$$\text{err}_1(\theta) = \frac{||S_{\text{true}}(\theta) - S_{\text{pca}}(\theta)||_2}{||S_{\text{true}}(\theta)||_2}$$

## Error on mapping process to structure

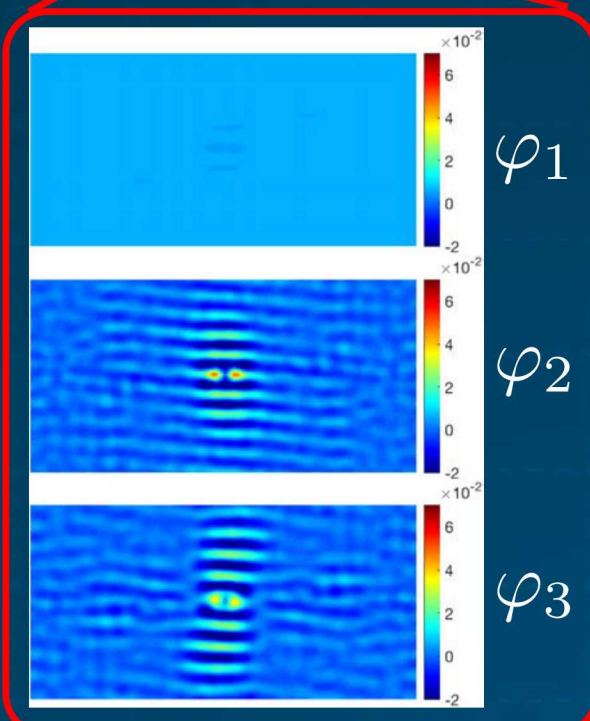
$$\text{err}_3(\theta) = \frac{||S_{\text{true}}(\theta) - S_{\text{predicted}}(\theta)||_2}{||S_{\text{true}}(\theta)||_2}$$

1. Overall the error is less than 2% for both training and test sets
2. Error values confirm predictiveness and robustness of overall protocol
3. Largest source of error propagation in protocol stems from PCE

| Error                                 | min    | max    | mean   | standard deviation |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| $\text{err}_1(\theta_{\text{train}})$ | 0.0030 | 0.0690 | 0.0146 | 0.0123             |
| $\text{err}_1(\theta_{\text{test}})$  | 0.0030 | 0.0441 | 0.0123 | 0.0091             |
| $\text{err}_3(\theta_{\text{train}})$ | 0.0032 | 0.1197 | 0.0206 | 0.0223             |
| $\text{err}_3(\theta_{\text{test}})$  | 0.0032 | 0.0771 | 0.0154 | 0.0139             |

# SOURCES OF ERRORS

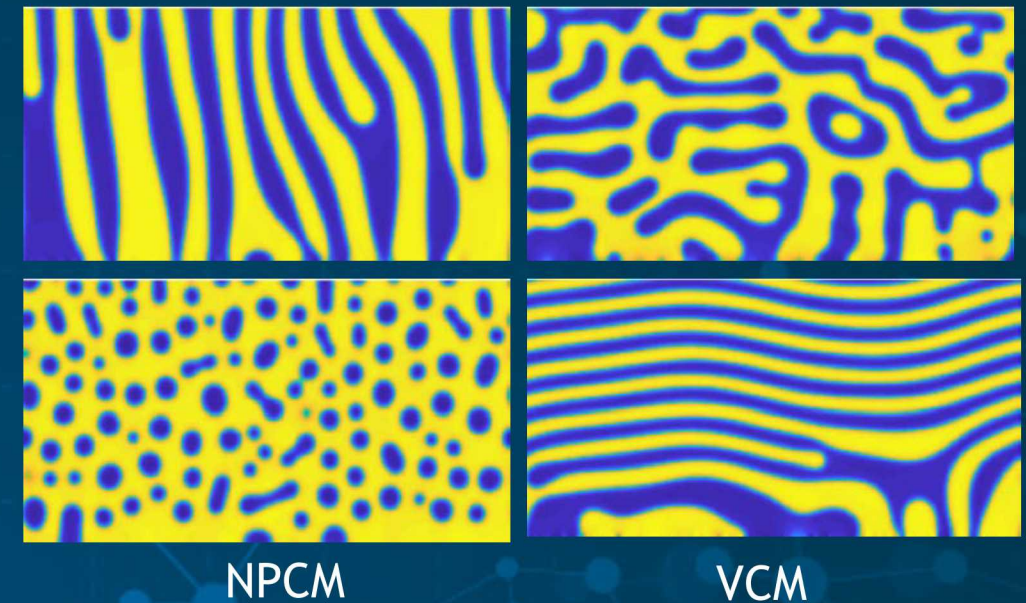
PCA reduces the dimensionality

$$S_{\text{pca}} = \sum_{i=1}^Q \alpha_i(\theta) \varphi_i + \hat{S}$$


Basis elements capture complexity of morphology and long-range correlation

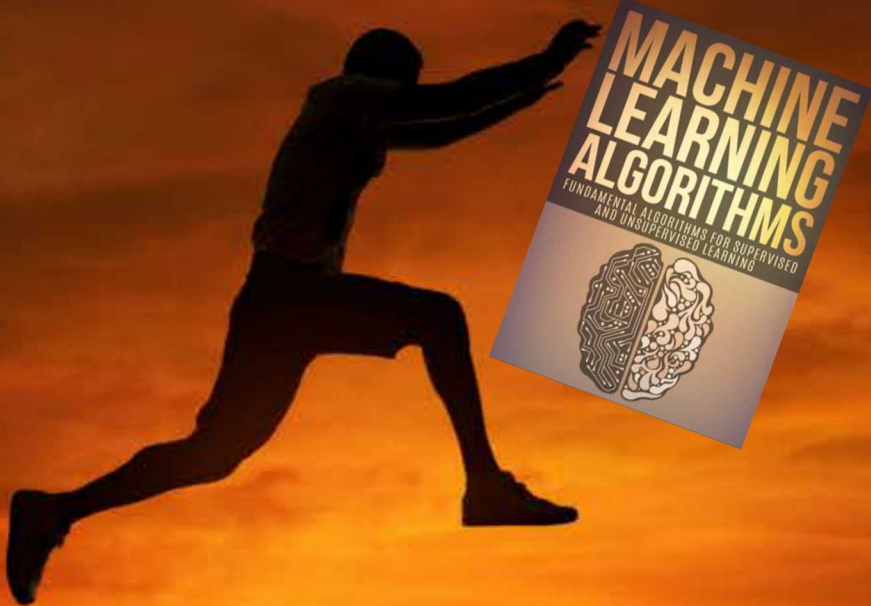
PCE maps back to processing parameters

$$S_{\text{predicted}} = \sum_{i=1}^Q \sum_{j=1}^{Li} p_j^i \Psi(\theta) \varphi_i + \hat{S}$$



Small changes in processing input space results in drastic change in morphology: but...Legendre polynomial in PCE are continuous polynomials

# ACCELERATING MICROSTRUCTURE EVOLUTION

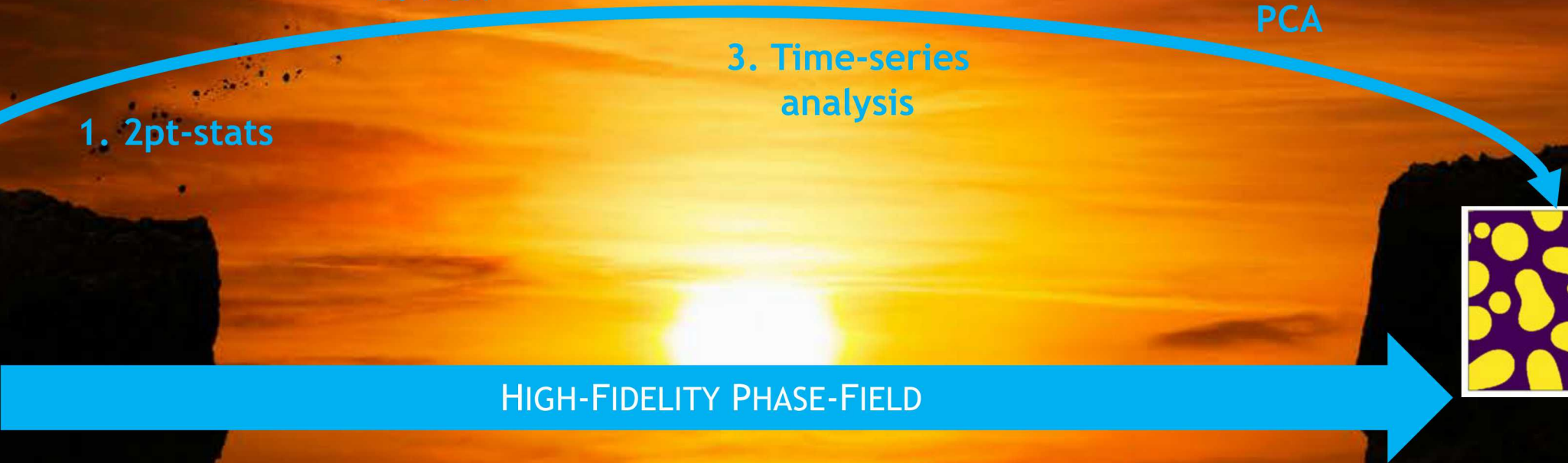
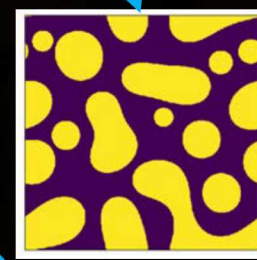
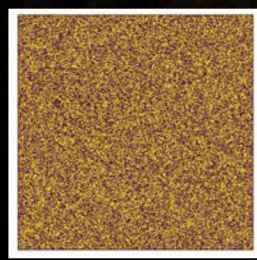


2. PCA

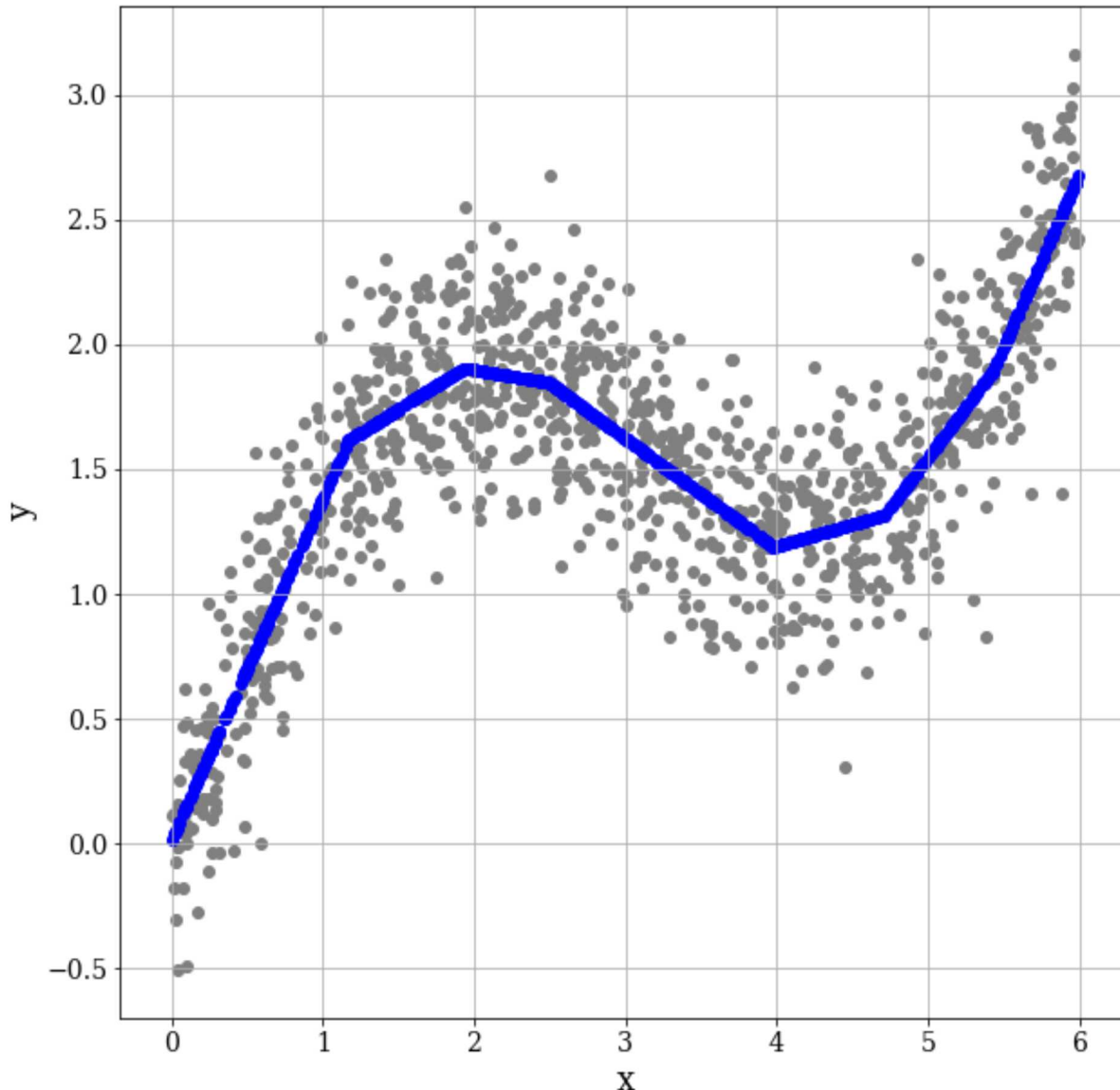
4. Predicted PCA

3. Time-series analysis

1. 2pt-stats



HIGH-FIDELITY PHASE-FIELD



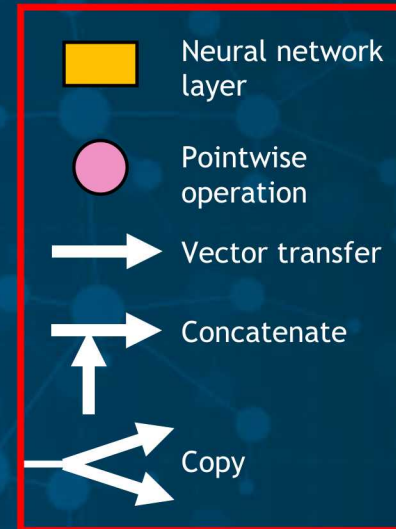
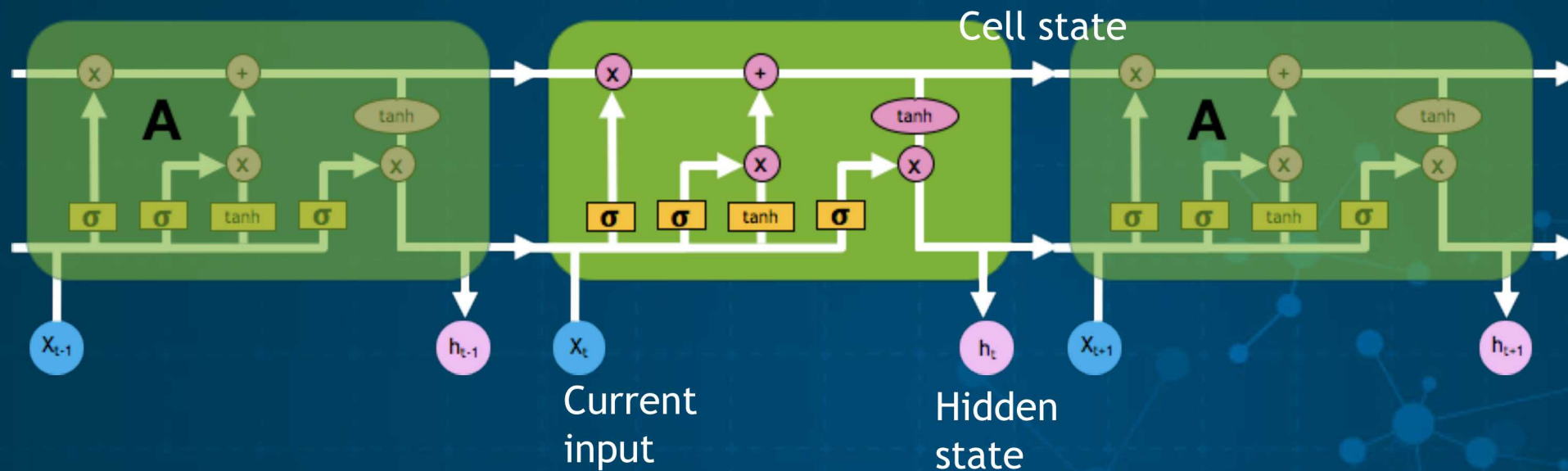
## TIME-SERIES MULTIVARIATE ADAPTIVE REGRESSION SPLINES (TSMARS)

1. Useful for identifying nonlinear structure in time series
2. Non-parametric
3. Autoregressive: divide time-series into optimal subdomains to fit splines
4. Predicting microstructure evolution trajectories in PC space
5. Training is done for  $N$  previous time steps, predicting  $N+1, N+2, \dots$

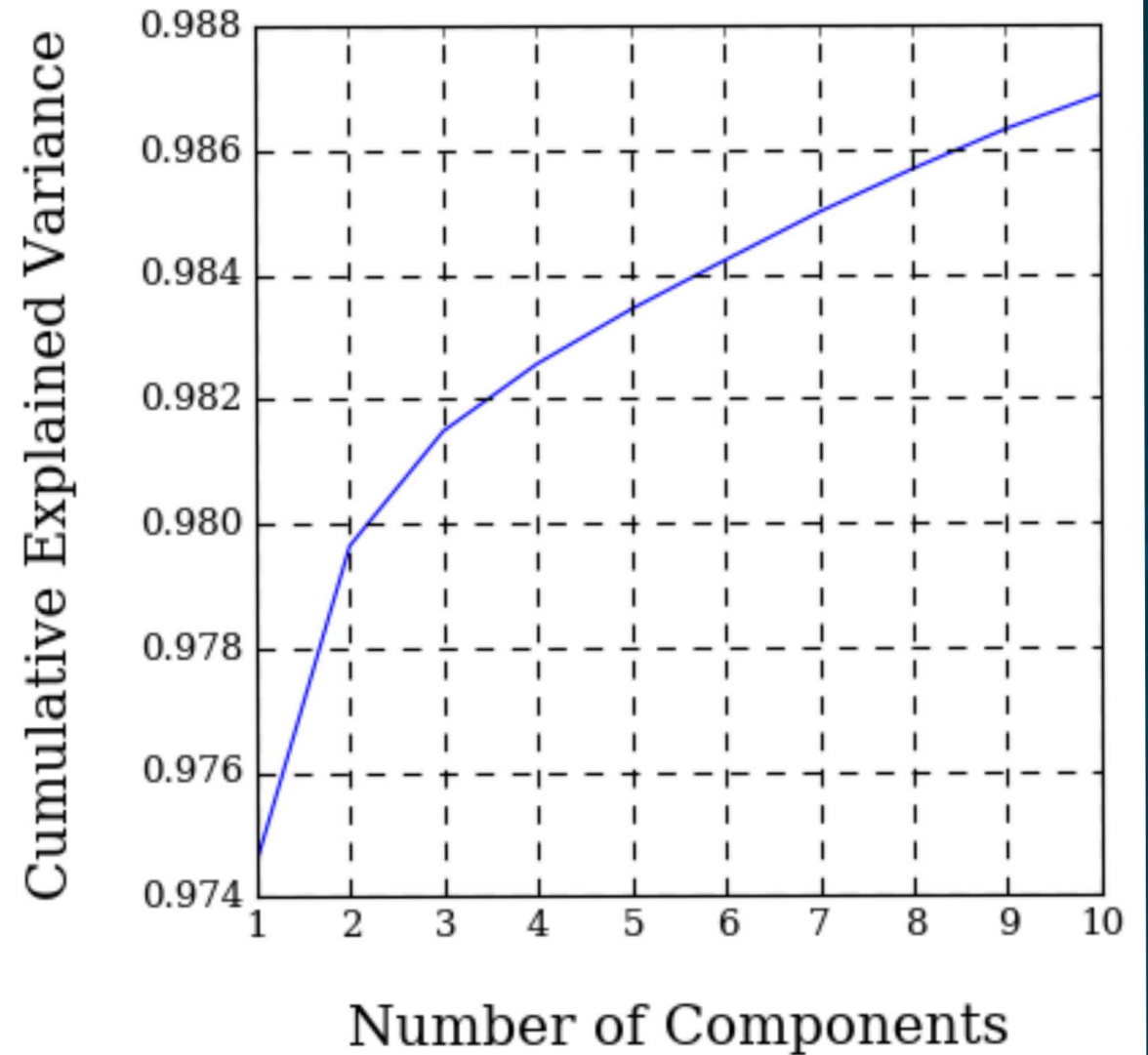
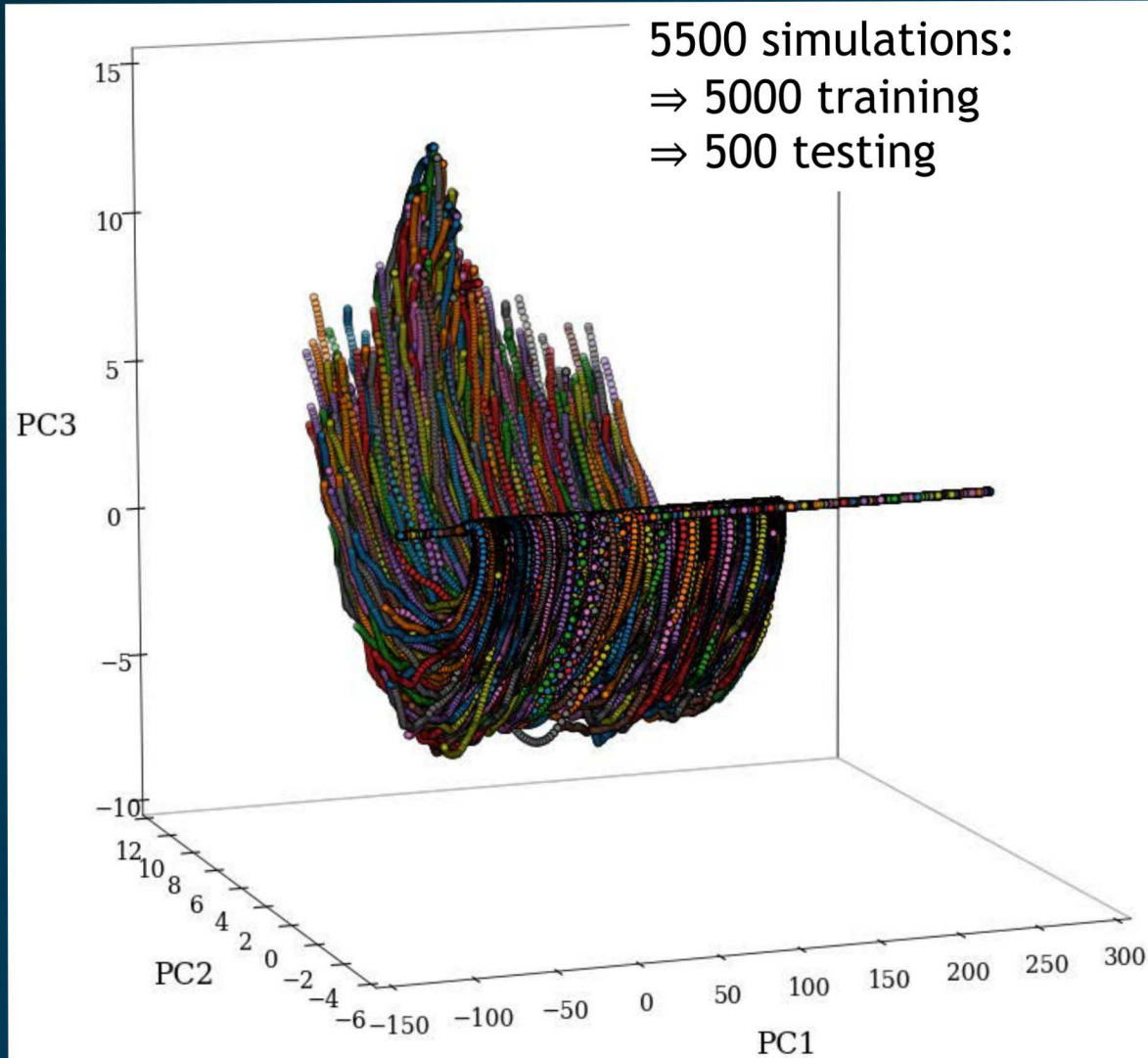
# TIME-SERIES FORECASTING

## LONG SHORT TERM MEMORY NETWORK (LSTM)

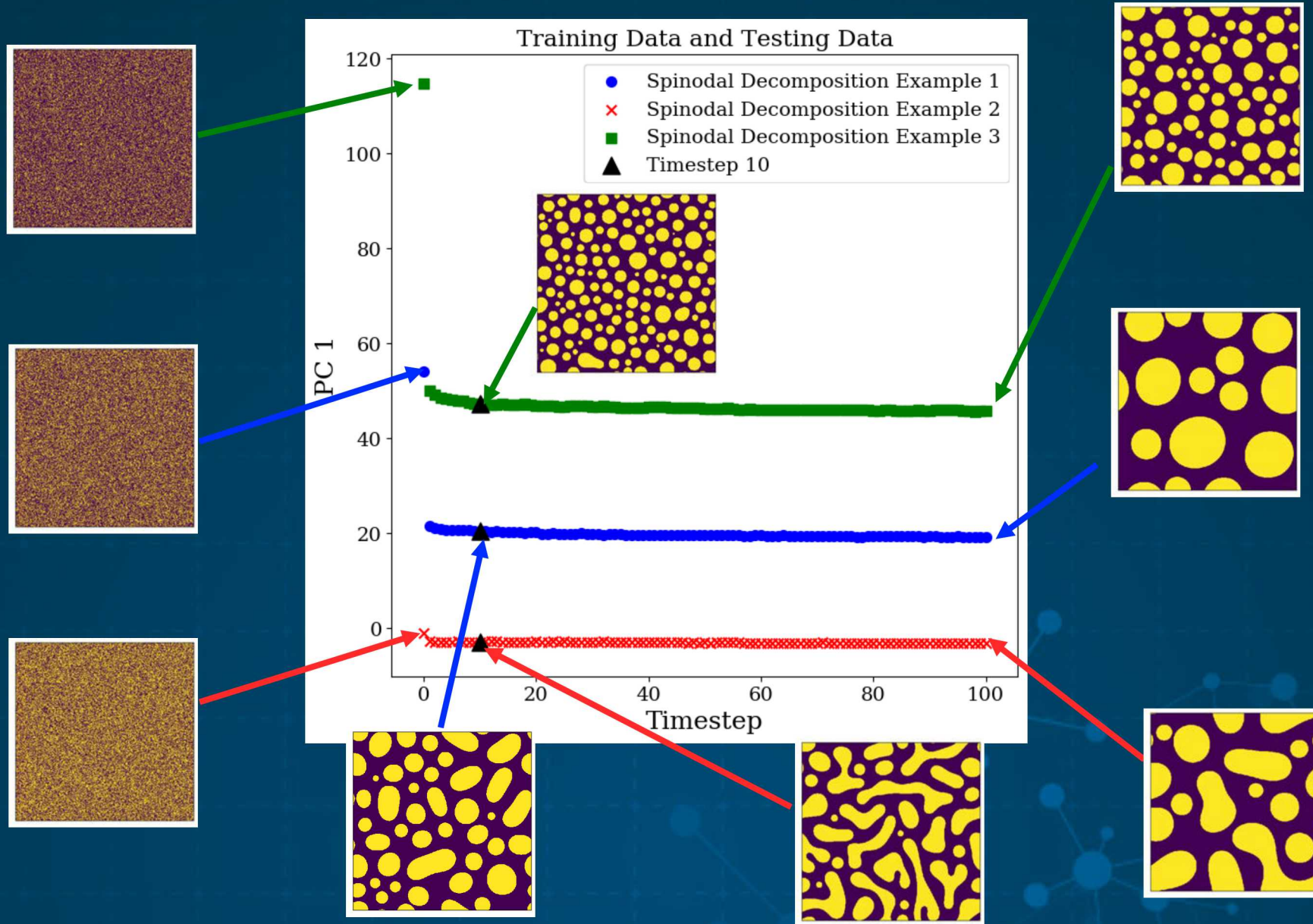
1. LSTM is a special kind of a recurrent neural net (RNN):  
Network with loops in them allowing information to persist (i.e, memory)
2. Looping connect previous information to current: TIME HISTORY!
3. Uses previous states, and current input
4. Learn/forget gate (internal structure) used to form long-term memory (known as cell state) and short-term memory (hidden state)
5. Training is done for  $N$  time steps, predicting  $N+1, N+2, \dots$



# MICROSTRUCTURE TRAJECTORY IN PC SPACE

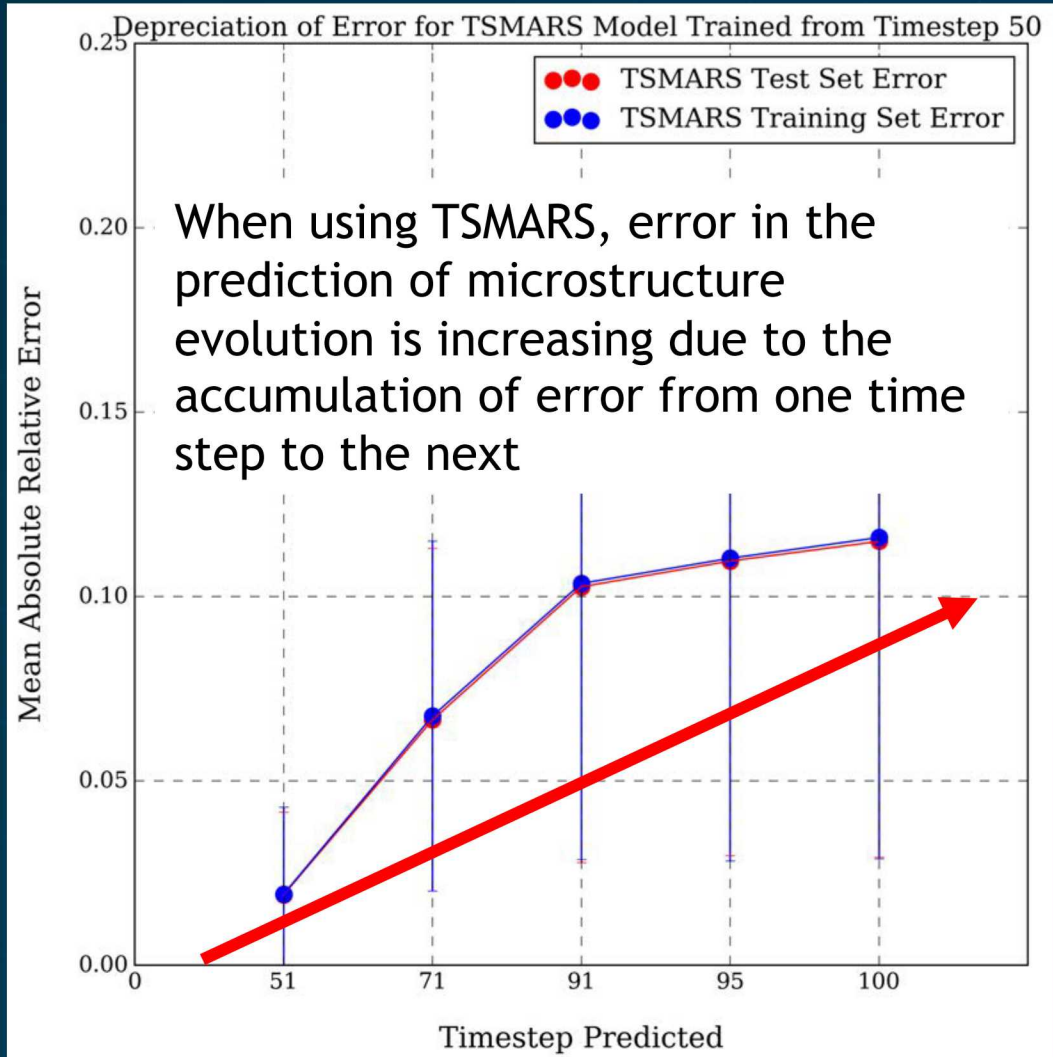


# MICROSTRUCTURE TRAJECTORY IN PC SPACE

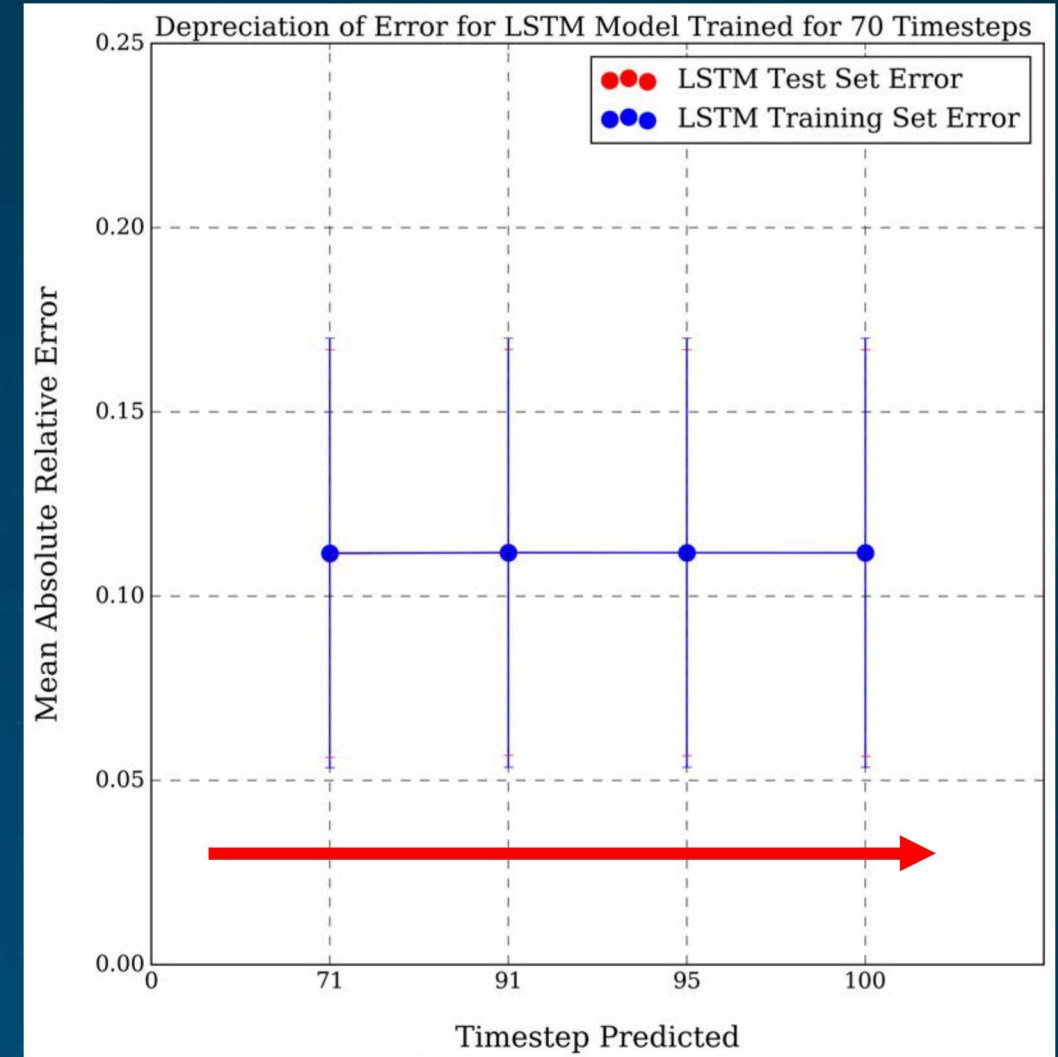


# WHY DO WE NEED A DEEP LEARNING STRATEGY?

## TSMARS

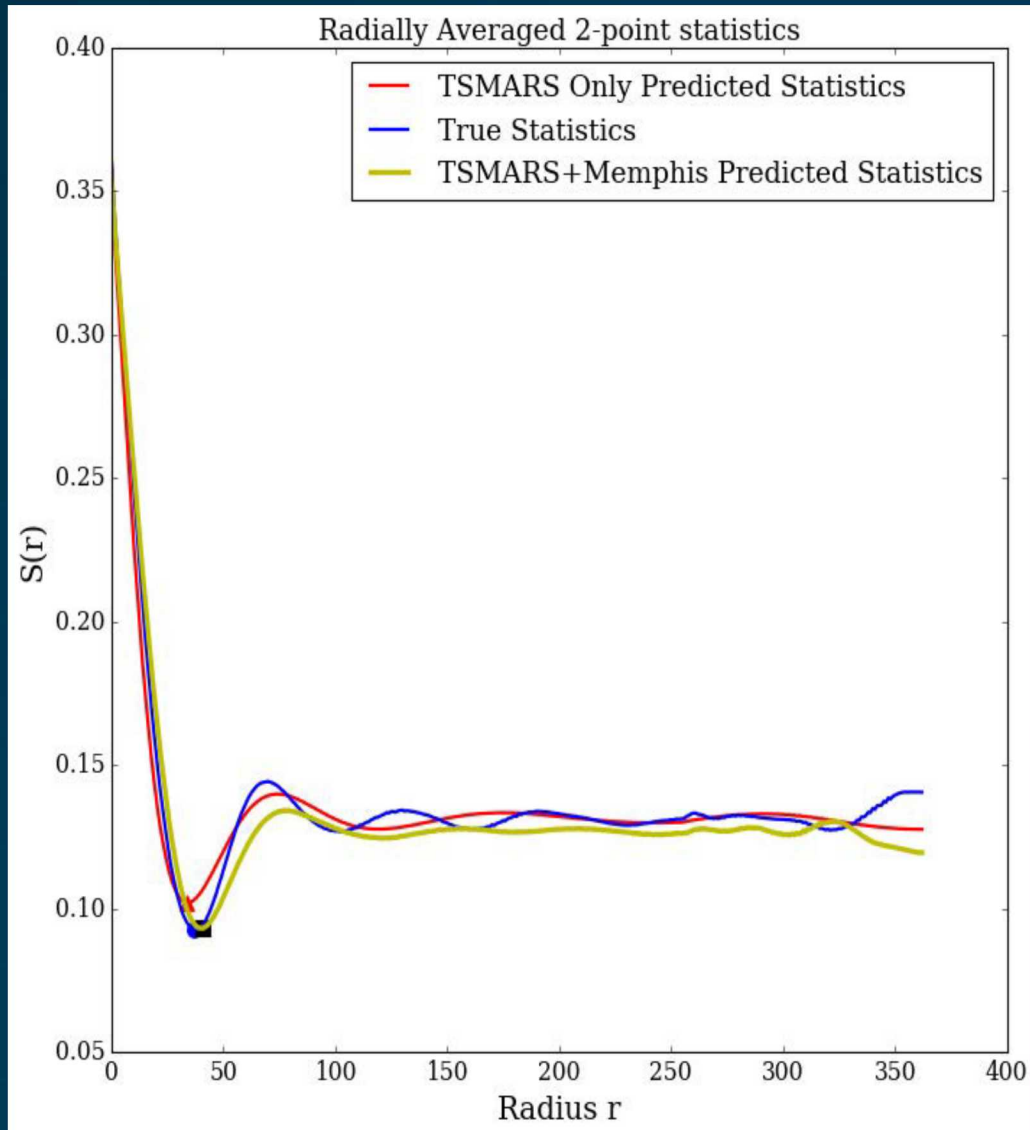


## LSTM

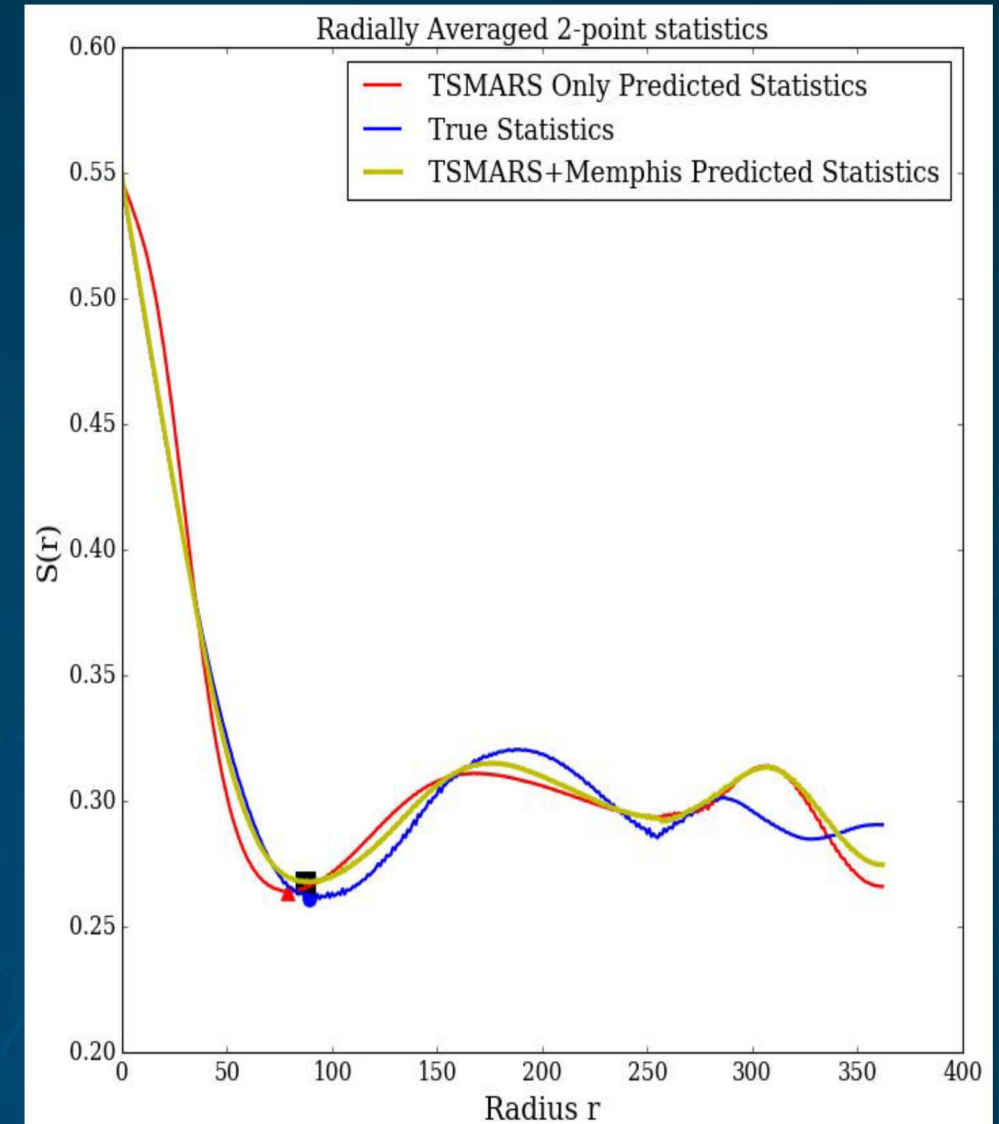


# FEEDING PREDICTIONS BACK INTO MEMPHIS

## TSMARS



## LSTM



# MOVING FORWARD

## MEMPHIS

- Open-source and available through CINT user program
- Modular implementation
- Performance comparable to other PF capabilities
- Extensions includes LB, SMB
- Development of additional Multiphysics models (e.g., ISCC)



# MOVING FORWARD

## MACHINE LEARNING

- Regression models and deep-learning algorithms to accelerate predictions of microstructure evolution
- Integration of PF-ML capabilities with PVD chamber at LANL to guide synthesis process

### Accelerated Phase-Field Based Microstructure Evolution Predictions Using Time-Series Multivariate Adaptive Regressive Splines

David Montes de Oca Zapalán<sup>a</sup>, James A. Stewart<sup>a</sup>, Rémi Dingreville<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM, 87185, USA

#### Abstract

Phase-field models accurately predict microstructure evolution. However, these models require significant computational resources and high-dimensional parameter spaces. Inverse-type problems and high-dimensional parameter spaces need to be evaluated to identify a model to develop surrogate models. This work leverages low-dimensional representations, computational resources and with machine learning models to predict the evolution of the microstructure. The term memory (LSTM) neural network is employed in this work as Time-Series Multivariate Adaptive Regressive Splines (TS-MARS) models. The ability to obtain accurate results will enable unbiased and material parameters for any design.

**Keywords:** Phase-Field, PCA, TS-MARS

### A data-driven surrogate model to rapidly predict microstructure morphology during physical vapor deposition

Elizabeth Herman<sup>a,b</sup>, James A. Stewart<sup>b</sup>, Rémi Dingreville<sup>b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Mathematics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-8205, USA  
<sup>b</sup>Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM 87185, USA

#### Abstract

Nanostructured thin films are ubiquitous as functional coatings. The properties of a thin film depend directly on the microstructure generated during the fabrication process, typically through physical vapor deposition (PVD). The complexities of microstructure formation during this deposition process makes the development of predictive process-structure models a cumbersome task. While several microstructure-based, high-fidelity simulations have successfully predicted microstructure evolution during PVD, they are computationally expensive. Therefore, high-fidelity models are not necessarily suited to rapidly explore the large number of combinations of processing parameters that would be needed to optimize deposition conditions for a targeted microstructure. PVD presents an additional challenge related to the fact that achievable microstructure morphologies formed during this process can drastically change over a narrow range of deposition conditions. Here, we present a surrogate model that rapidly predict the microstructures of a binary-alloy thin film during PVD. This surrogate model is constructed and trained from a data set produced by phase-field simulations of PVD. It relies on a statistical representation of the microstructure-reconstruction algorithm to estimate the microstructure as a function of the deposition parameters and properties of the materials being deposited. This protocol, exercised on a simplified PVD model, demonstrates the efficacy of the surrogate model to rapidly predict a broad class of microstructures as a function of deposition conditions with good accuracy relative to high-fidelity models. This surrogate model can be used to guide the choice of deposition conditions and materials being deposited to fabricate functional thin films with targeted microstructures.

**Keywords:** process-structure relationships, physical vapor deposition, microstructure reconstruction, surrogate model, phase-field.





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