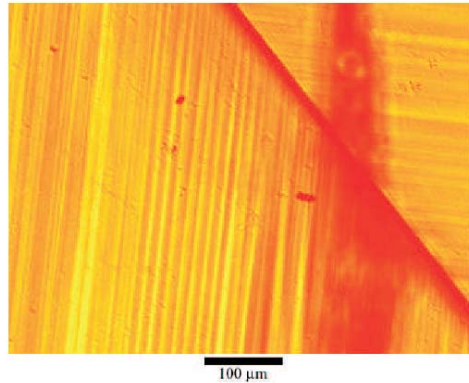


## Parallel Implementation of Phase field Modeling of Ferroelectric Domain formation

Bharat Penmecha  
ME Option



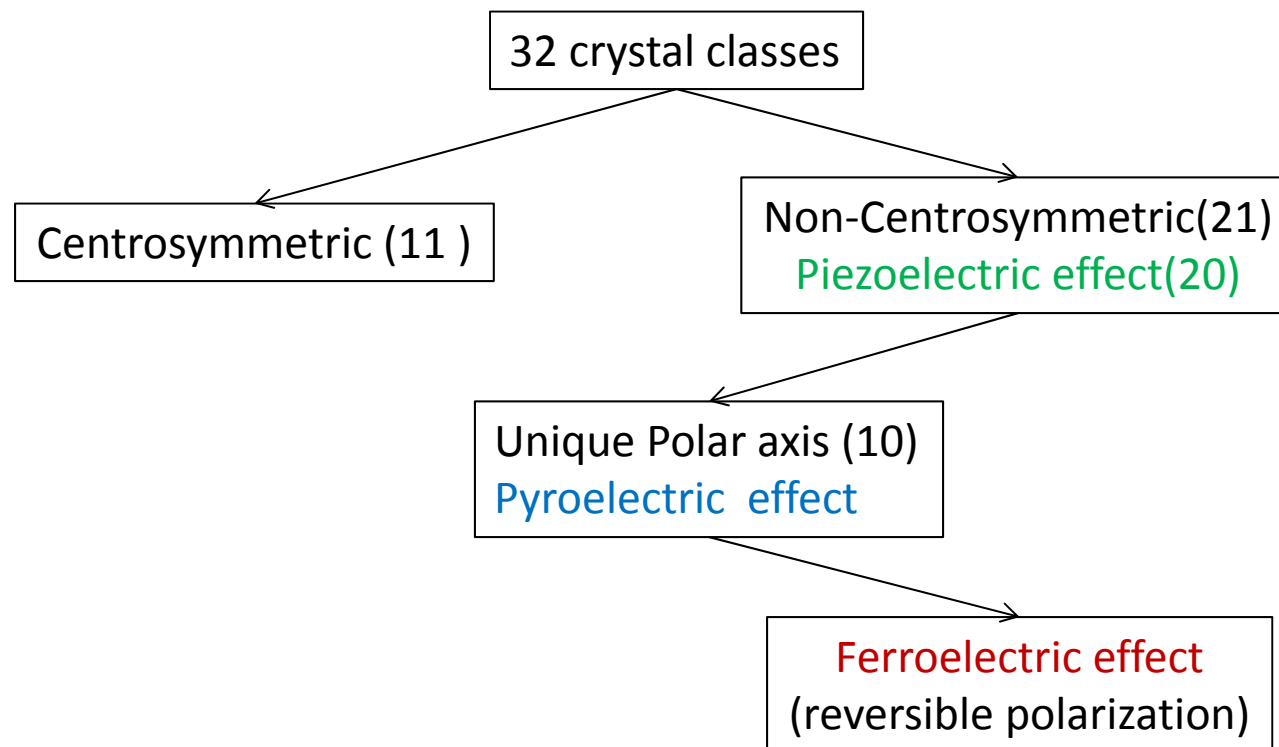
Domain wall as seen in an experiment

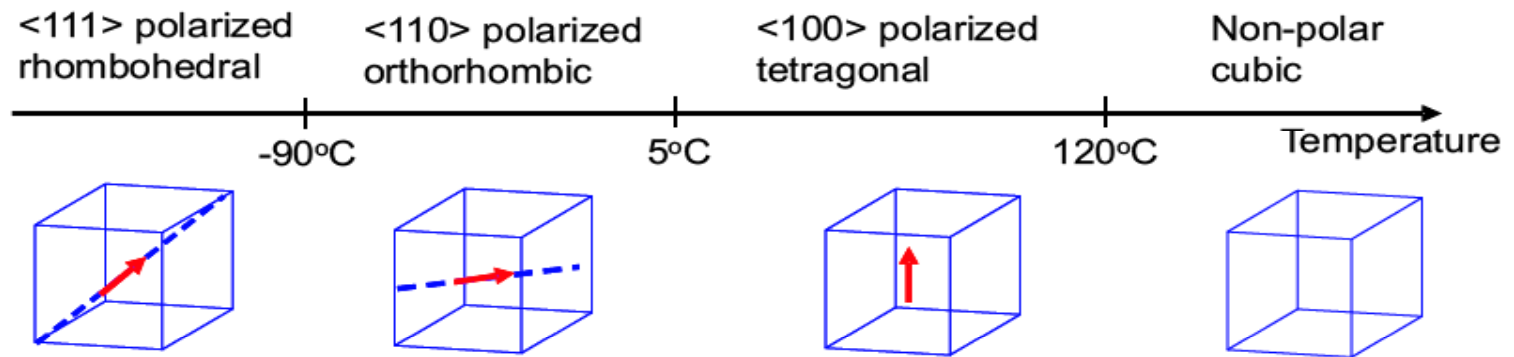
(Burcsu, 2001)

# *Ferroelectric crystals*

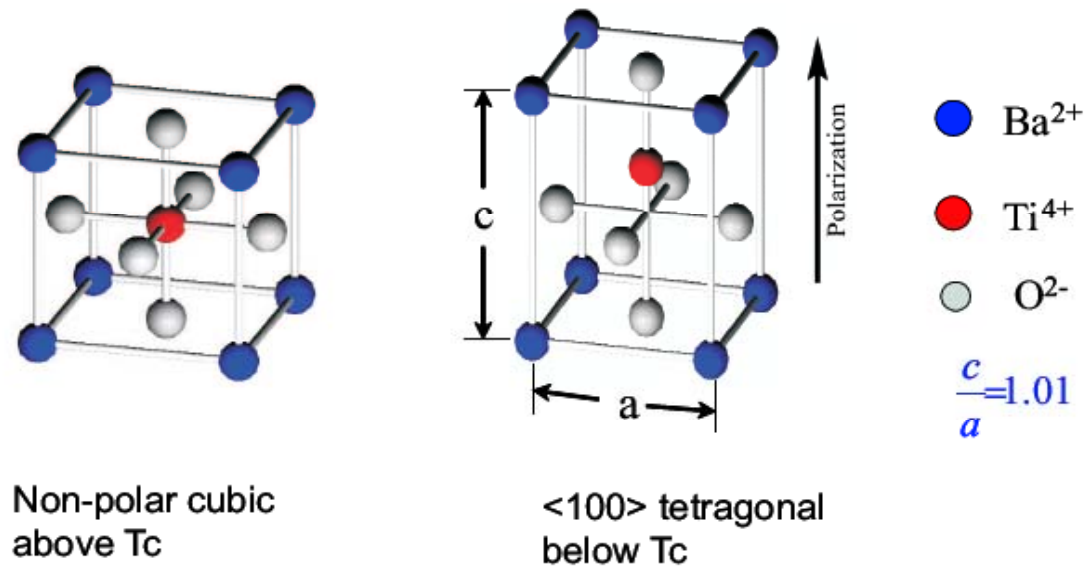
- A ferroelectric crystal is non-polar (paraelectric) above its Curie temperature, but is spontaneously polarized (ferroelectric) below the Curie temperature.
- The spontaneous polarization can be switched through the application of an electric field or mechanical stress.

**Examples:** Rochelle salt ( $NaKC_4H_4O_6 \cdot 4H_2O$ ) ;  $KH_2PO_4$  ;  $BaTiO_3$  ;  $NaNO_2$





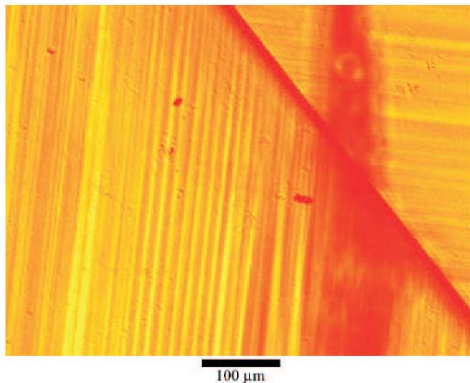
Various crystalline phases of  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ .



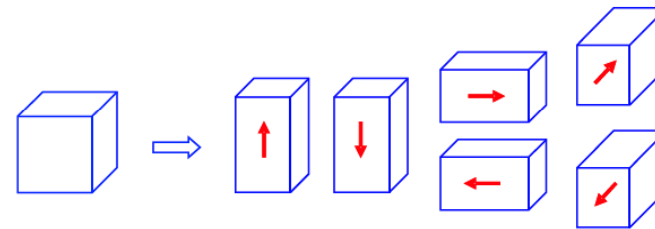
Crystal structures of  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  in their cubic and tetragonal phases.

## Domains of variants

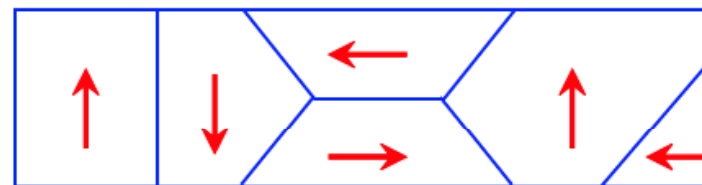
- A reduction of crystal symmetry at Curie temperature gives rise to symmetry-related *variants* (crystallographically and energetically identical states that are oriented differently with respect to the parent non-polar state).
- Variants can coexist as domains separated by domain walls.
- Variants are *energy-equivalent*  $\Rightarrow$  It is possible to switch one domain to another by suitable electromechanical loading.



Domain wall as seen in an experiment  
(Burcsu, 2001)



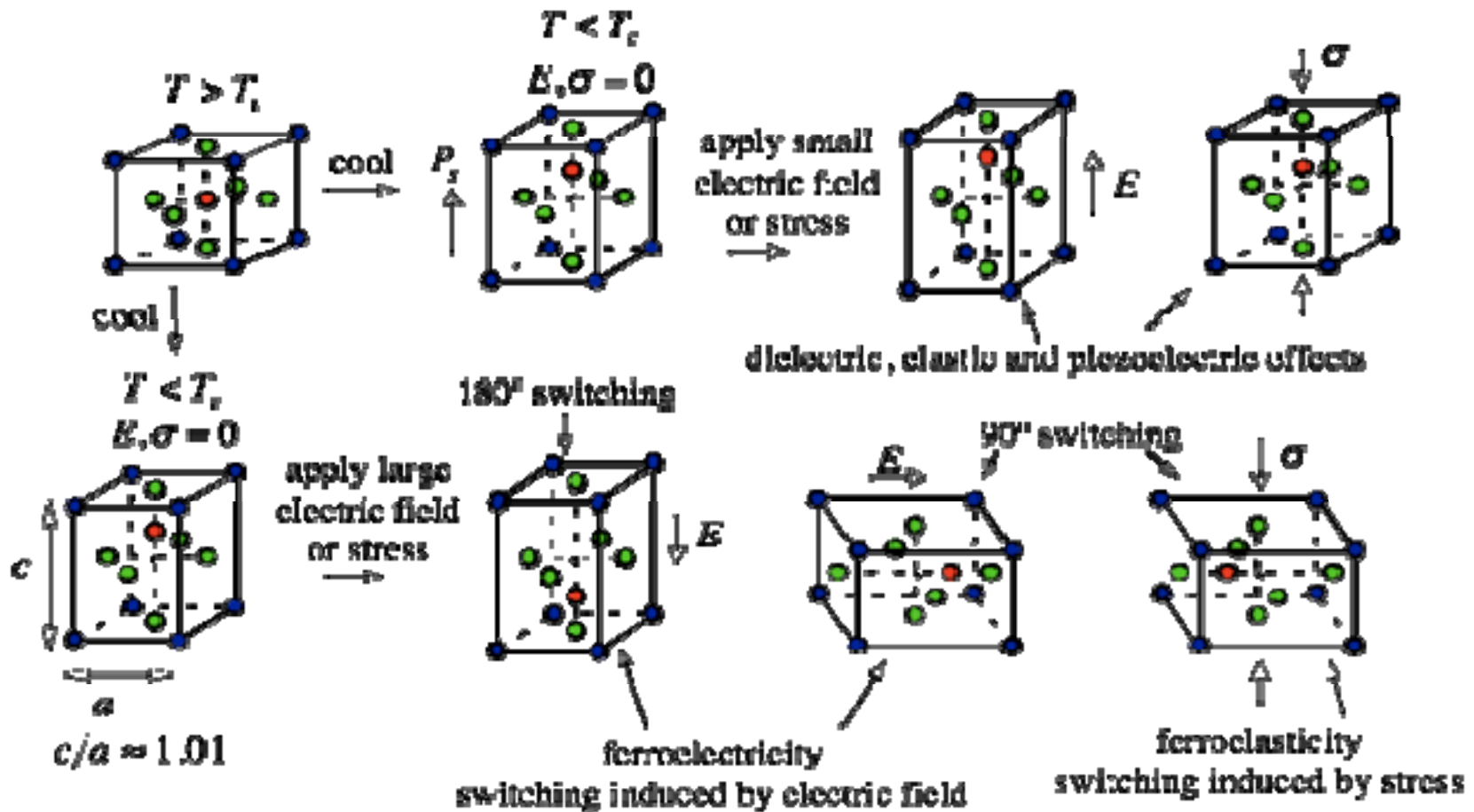
Variants in cubic-tetragonal transition



Variants coexisting as domains

# Electromechanical Switching in $\text{BaTiO}_3$

● Ba +2    ● Ti +4    ● O -2



<http://www.ae.utexas.edu/~landis/Landis/Research.html>

## *Applications of ferroelectric materials*



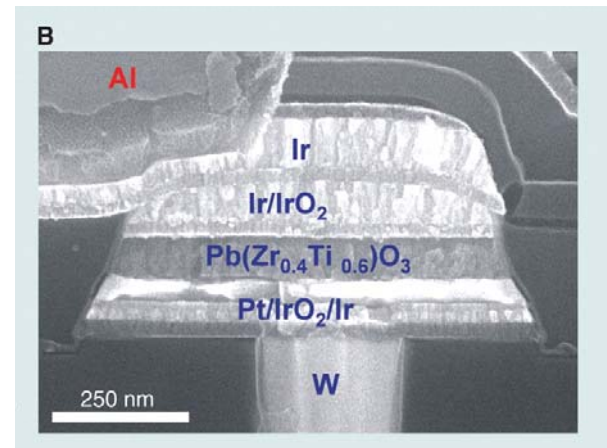
Bosch Fuel Injector  
(piezoelectric)



Ramtron 4MByte FRAM  
(Ferroelectric)



Nikitar Zoom Lens  
(piezoelectric)



32 Mb Samsung PZT FRAM

## Phase field model

The total potential energy,  $E$ , of a Ferroelectric material may be written as

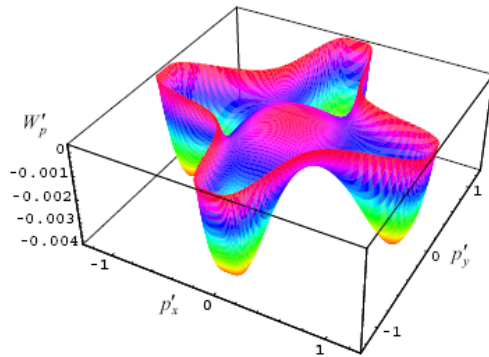
$$E = \int_{\Omega} [U(\nabla \mathbf{p}) + W(\varepsilon, \mathbf{p})] d\Omega + \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \int_{R^3} |\nabla \phi|^2 d\Omega.$$

Domain wall energy

$$U(p_{ij}) = \frac{a_0}{2} (p_{1,1}^2 + p_{1,2}^2 + p_{2,1}^2 + p_{2,2}^2),$$

Ferroelectric Multiwell energy

$$\begin{aligned} W(p_i, \varepsilon_{jk}) = & \frac{a_1}{2} (p_1^2 + p_2^2) + \frac{a_2}{4} (p_1^4 + p_2^4) + \frac{a_3}{2} p_1^2 p_2^2 \\ & + \frac{a_4}{6} (p_1^6 + p_2^6) + \frac{a_5}{4} p_1^4 p_2^4 - \frac{b_1}{2} (\varepsilon_{11} p_1^2 + \varepsilon_{22} p_2^2) \\ & - \frac{b_2}{2} (\varepsilon_{11} p_2^2 + \varepsilon_{22} p_1^2) - b_3 (\varepsilon_{12} + \varepsilon_{21}) p_1 p_2 \\ & + \frac{c_1}{2} (\varepsilon_{11}^2 + \varepsilon_{22}^2) + c_2 \varepsilon_{11} \varepsilon_{22} + \frac{c_3}{2} (\varepsilon_{12}^2 + \varepsilon_{21}^2). \end{aligned}$$



where electric potential  $\phi$  is obtained by solving the Maxwell's equation

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{p} - \epsilon_o \nabla \phi) = \rho$$

## Phase Field model continued ....

Gradient flow of E leads to governing equations:

$$\mu \dot{p}_i = \left( \frac{\partial U}{\partial p_{i,j}} \right)_j - \frac{\partial W}{\partial p_i} - \phi_{,i},$$

$$p_{i,i} - \varepsilon_0 \phi_{,ii} = 0,$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial W}{\partial \varepsilon_{ij}} \right)_j = 0$$

As an initial approximation neglect elasticity

Solve for equilibrium values of  $\mathbf{p}$  and  $\phi$

Reference:

A computational model of ferroelectric domains. Part I: model formulation and domain switching  
W. Zhang, K. Bhattacharya, [Acta Materialia](#), [Volume 53, Issue 1](#), 3 January 2005, Pages 185–198



## Discretization

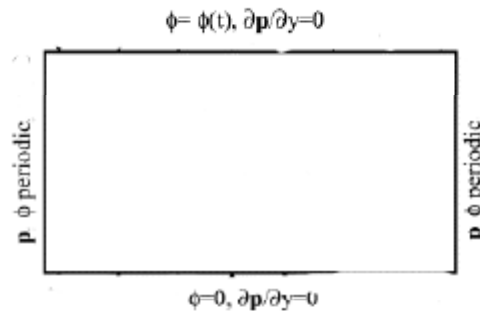
Finite Difference, Explicit Scheme in time, 3 variables per grid point

$$\frac{p_x^{k+1}(i, j) - p_x^k(i, j)}{\Delta t} = \frac{p_x^k(i+1, j) + p_x^k(i-1, j) + p_x^k(i, j+1) + p_x^k(i, j-1) - 4p_x^k(i, j)}{h^2} - \left. \frac{\partial W}{\partial p_x} \right|_{\mathbf{p}^k} - \frac{\phi^k(i+1, j) - \phi^k(i-1, j)}{2h} \quad (2a)$$

$$\frac{p_y^{k+1}(i, j) - p_y^k(i, j)}{\Delta t} = \frac{p_y^k(i+1, j) + p_y^k(i-1, j) + p_y^k(i, j+1) + p_y^k(i, j-1) - 4p_y^k(i, j)}{h^2} - \left. \frac{\partial W}{\partial p_y} \right|_{\mathbf{p}^k} - \frac{\phi^k(i, j+1) - \phi^k(i, j-1)}{2h} \quad (2b)$$

The electric potential is solved for using the Jacobi iteration. The loop update is given by :

$$\phi^{n+1}(i, j) = 0.25 \left\{ \phi^n(i+1, j) + \phi^n(i-1, j) + \phi^n(i, j+1) + \phi^n(i, j-1) - \frac{h^2}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{p_x^n(i+1, j) - p_x^n(i-1, j)}{2h} + \frac{p_y^n(i, j+1) - p_y^n(i, j-1)}{2h} \right) \right\}$$



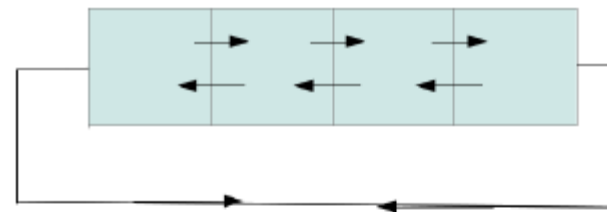
Random initial polarization.

Geometry and boundary conditions used for the simulation

Periodic boundary conditions in lateral direction

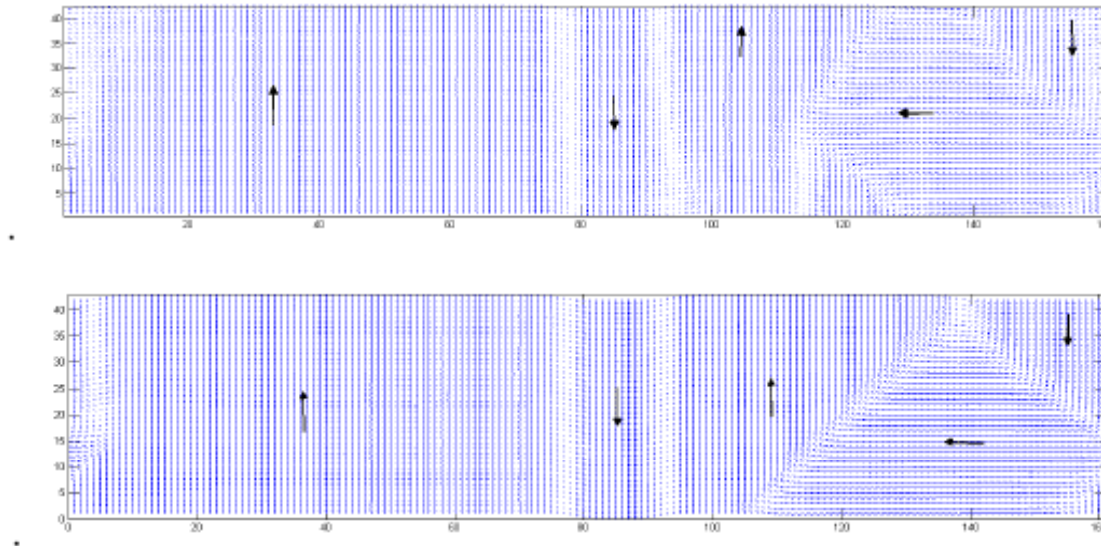
## Parallel Implementation

- Finest grain tasks
  - Update  $\mathbf{p}(i,j)$  ( time update )
  - Update  $\phi(i,j)$  (Jacobi update)
- Coarsening ( bundle multiple grid points and assign to each process )
- MPI Implementation
- Communication between adjacent processors, Convergence criterion ( for both  $\phi$  (each time step, Jacobi) ,  $\mathbf{p}$  ( at equilibrium )
- Execution built around Homework problem.
- 160 \*\* 40 grid (resolution depends on domain wall thickness)
- Variables: 3\*6400



Layout and Communicaton for 4 processors

## Results



Computed domains

## Future Work

- Introduce elasticity
- Semiconducting effect ( non-linear problem )
- Change geometry (notches)