

The Neper/FEPX Project and its Application to Polycrystal Homogenization

<https://neper.info>, <https://fepx.info>

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POLYCRYSTAL Workshop, Paris, France, 23–25 May 2022

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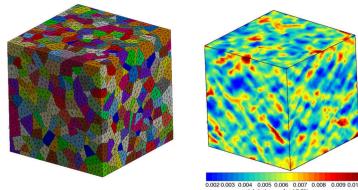


Context: Simulation of the (Large) Plastic Deformation of Polycrystals



Neper

Voronoi tessellations
meshing, regularization
2003–2005 —————— 2009
First release
Neper v1.8

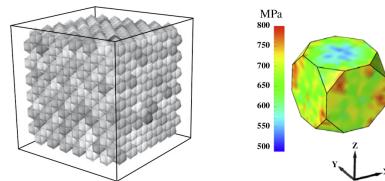


(Barbe, Quey, Musienko and Cailletaud, 2008)

FEpx

— · · 1995–1998 —————— 2009
Parallel implementation
Sheet forming applications

Application to finely
meshed polycrystals



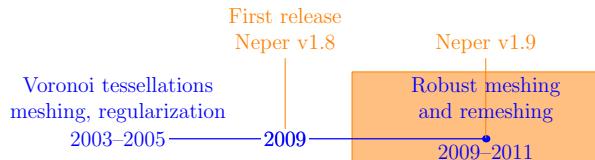
(Wong and Dawson, 2009)



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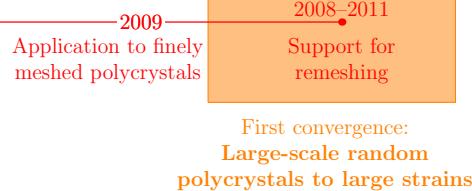


Neper



FEPEX

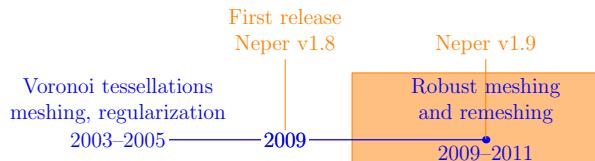
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Parallel implementation
Sheet forming applications



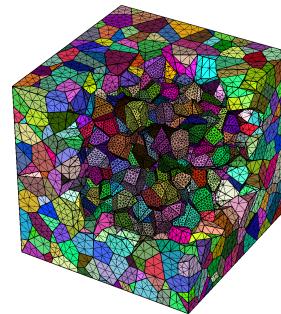
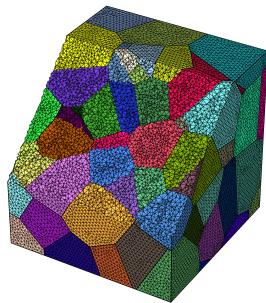
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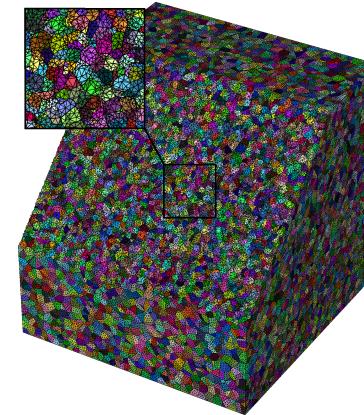
Neper



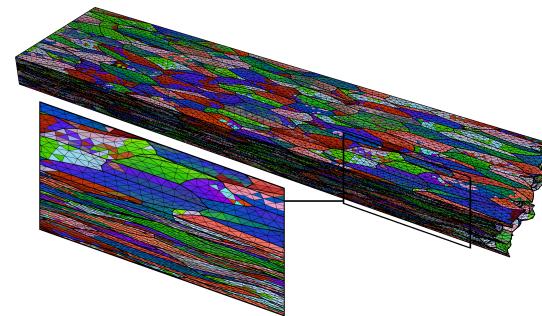
FEPEX



First convergence:
Large-scale random
polycrystals to large strains



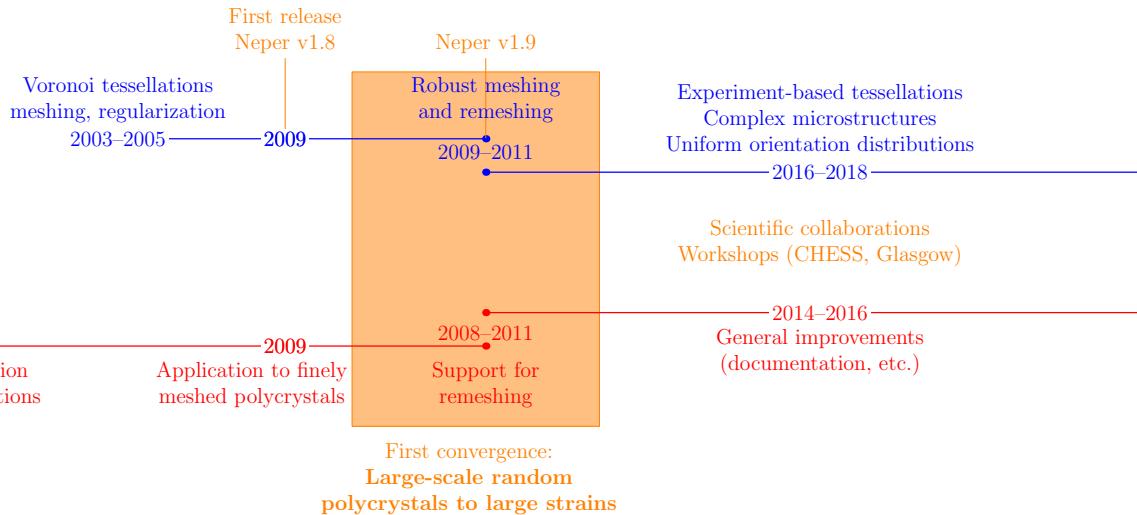
(Quay, Barbe and Dawson, 2011)



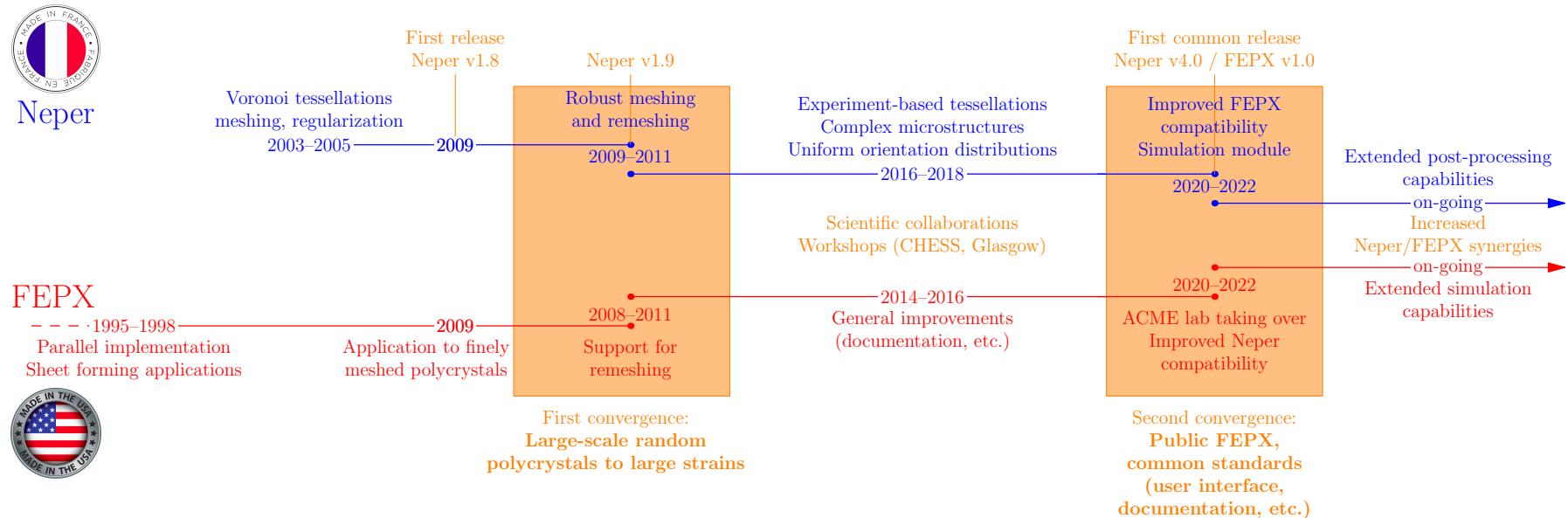
Context: Simulation of the (Large) Plastic Deformation of Polycrystals



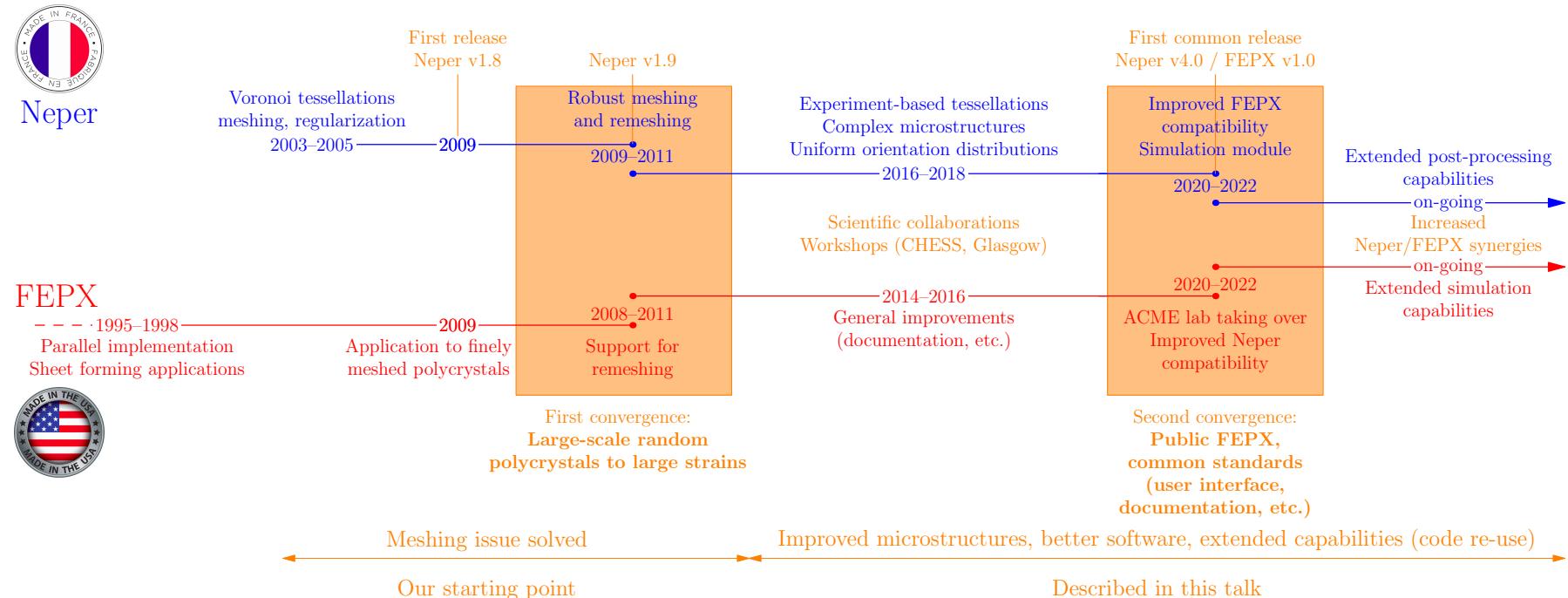
Neper



Context: Simulation of the (Large) Plastic Deformation of Polycrystals

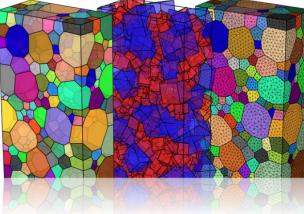


Context: Simulation of the (Large) Plastic Deformation of Polycrystals



Lab-scale Free / Open-Source Software

<https://neper.info>

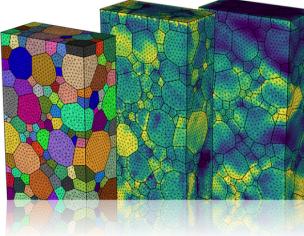


Neper is a free / open source software package for polycrystal generation and meshing. It can be used to generate polycrystals with a wide variety of morphological properties, from very simple morphologies (simple tessellations, grain-growth microstructures, ...) to complex, multiphase or multiscale microstructures that involve grain subdivisions. The resulting tessellations can be meshed into high-quality meshes suitable for finite-element simulations.

Note
See also Neper's companion program, **FEPX**, a finite element software package for polycrystal plasticity. FEPX acts as a simulation tool for Neper.

Neper is developed by Romain Quey at CNRS and Mines Saint-Etienne.

<https://fepx.info>



FEpx is a finite element software package for polycrystal plasticity. It can model both the global and local mechanical behaviors of large polycrystalline aggregates with complex microstructures via a scalable parallel framework.

Note
See also FEPX's companion program, **Neper**, a polycrystal generation and meshing tool. Neper acts as the primary pre- and post-processor for FEPX.

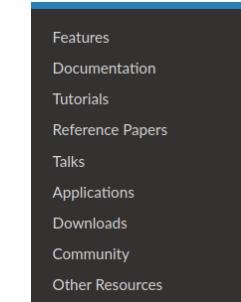
FEPX is currently maintained and developed by the Advanced Computational Materials Engineering Laboratory ACME Lab at The University of Alabama.

- Code distributed on the websites / GitHub

- Proper workflow (code versioning, testing, issue tracker, ...)

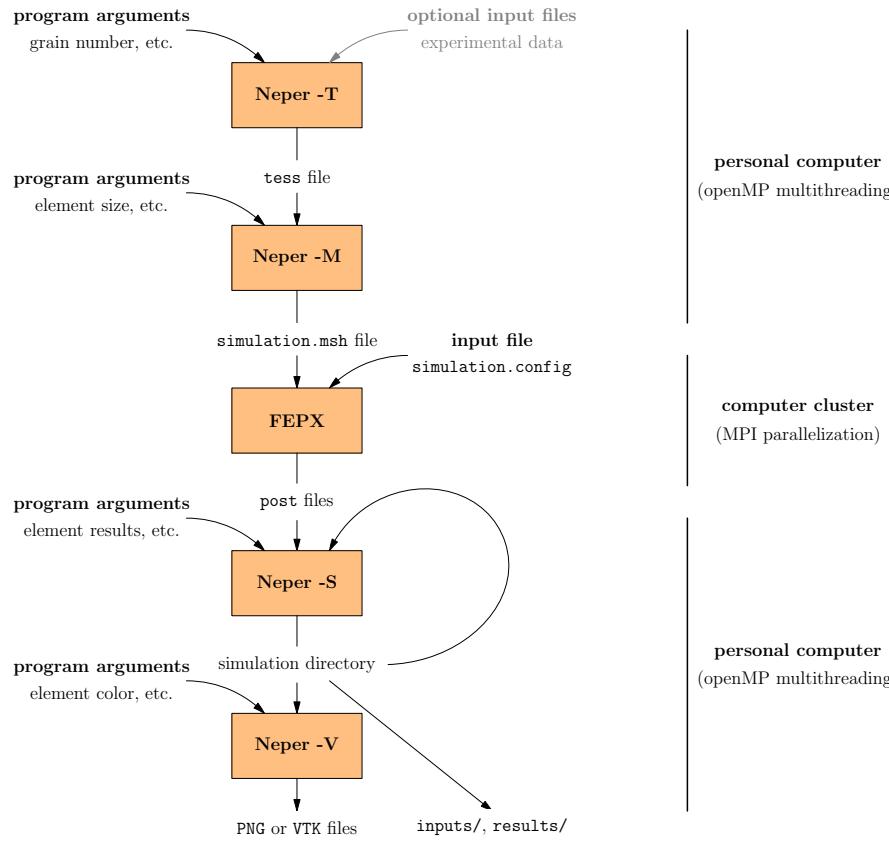


- Expanding array of resources



- Features
- Documentation
- Tutorials
- Reference Papers
- Talks
- Applications
- Downloads
- Community
- Other Resources

- Active discussion forum and responsive user support



Neper -T: Tessellation Generation

- Single-Scale Tessellations
- Multi-Scale Tessellations
- Crystal Orientation Distributions

[described next](#)

[described next](#)

[described in Part 2](#)

Neper -M: Meshing

- Meshing
- Remeshing

[described next](#)

FEPEX: Crystal-plasticity FE simulations

Neper -S: Simulation / Post-Processing

- Simulation Archiving
- Post-processing

[described next](#)

[described next](#)

Neper -V: Visualization

- Tessellation and mesh visualization
- Results visualization
- Pole figures
- Orientation space

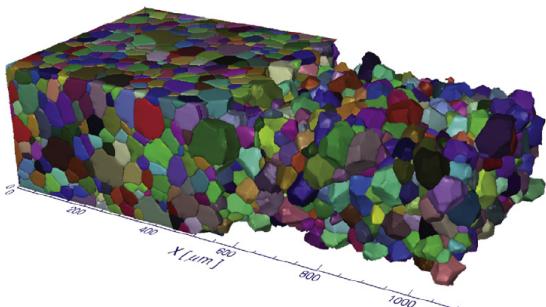
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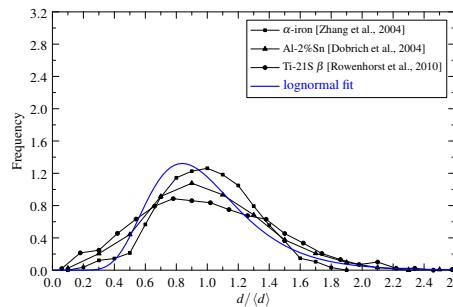
[described next](#)

Typical Polycrystal



(Rowenhorst et al., 2010)

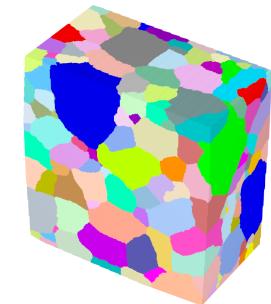
Typical Types of Microstructure Properties / Input



Statistical Data

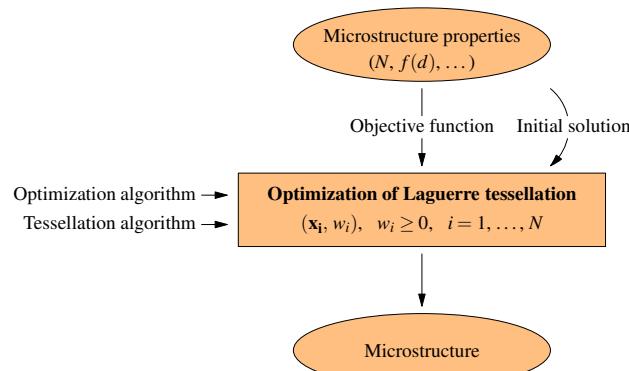


Incomplete Grain Data (ff-3DXRD)



Grain Maps (DCT)

Generation of Optimal Convex-Cell Tessellations

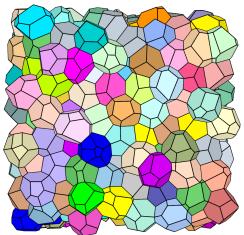


- Variables: for each seed, 3 coordinates + 1 weight ($4 \times N$)
- Objective function: application dependent (grain size distributions, grain centroids, ...)
- Non-linear, local, gradient-free, large-scale optimization problem (NLOpt)

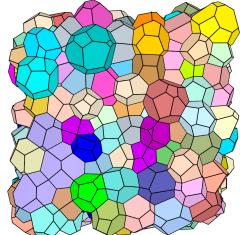
Any microstructure can be generated as long as (i) it can be represented using convex cells and (ii) an objective function can be defined

Generation of Single-Scale Polycrystals: Applications (Neper -T)

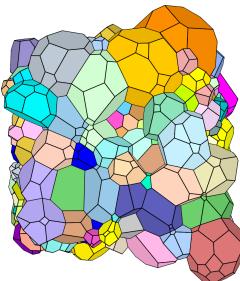
Polycrystals of Various Properties



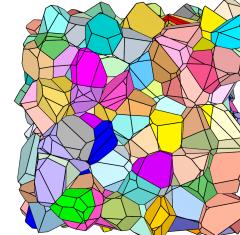
$\sigma_d = 0, s = 0.90$



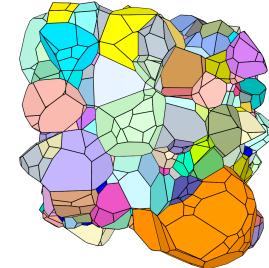
$\sigma_d = 0.15, s = 0.90$



$\sigma_d = 0.55, s = 0.90$

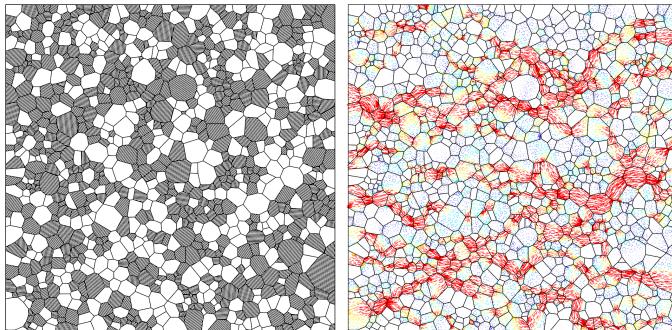


$\sigma_d = 0, s = 0.80$



$\sigma_d = 0.55, s = 0.80$

Grain size distributions in 2-phase or “textured” MoS₂ sheets
(Sledzinska et al, 2017)



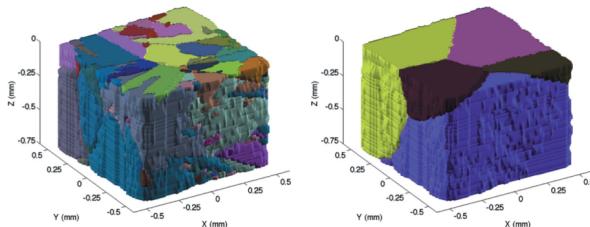
White grains: high conductivity; gray grains: low conductivity;
different grain boundary types: different conductances

6D-DCT Polycrystal

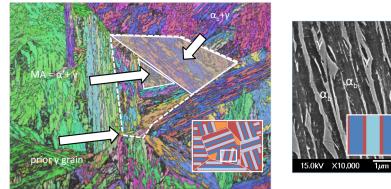


Generation of Multiscale Polycrystals: Principle (Neper -T)

Typically Microstructures (pearlitic / bainitic steels, lamellar Ti64, multilayer materials, ...)



Ti64 (Wieleski et al., 2015)

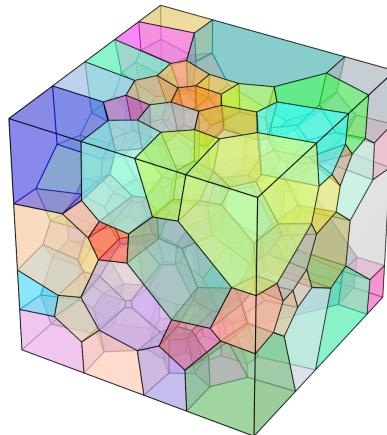


Carbide-free bainitic steel (Hell, 2011)

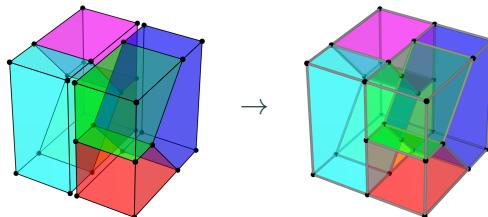
Characterized by grain subdivisions
→ “non-normal” tessellations

Principle: replicating material's processing (example of bainitic steel)

- Scale 1: grain-growth statistics, random orientations
- Scale 2, in each cell:
 - Morphology: seeds on GBs + Voronoi tessellation
 - Orientations: KS, NW relationships, ...
- Scale 3, in each cell: lamellae



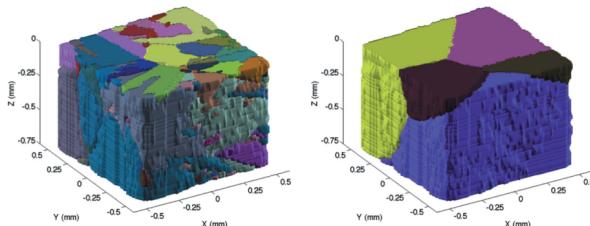
Before Meshing: Flattening



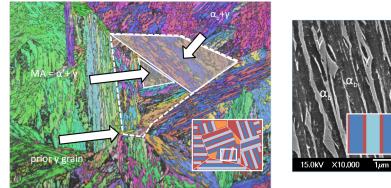
Flattening of a 2-scale tessellation

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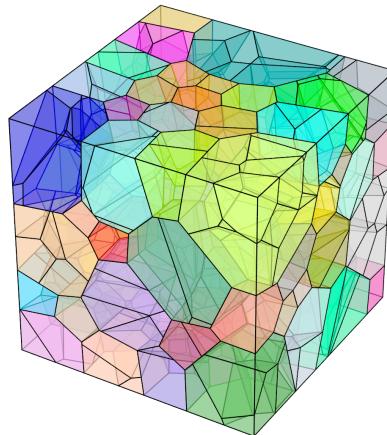


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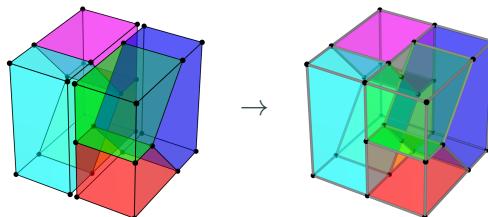
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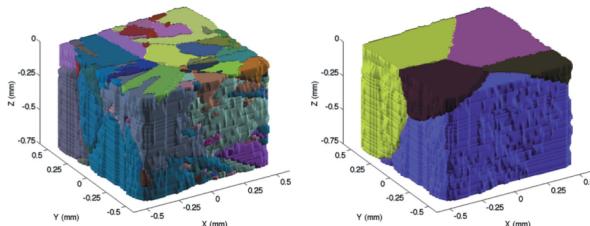
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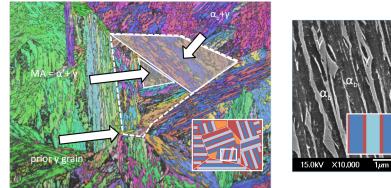
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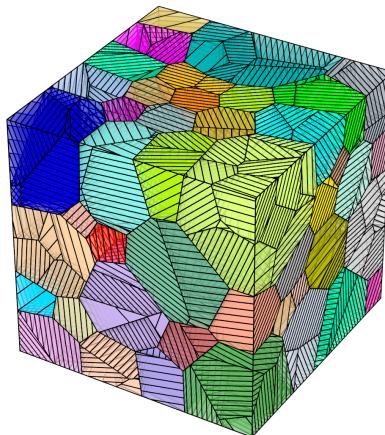


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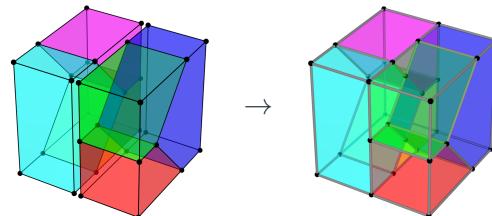
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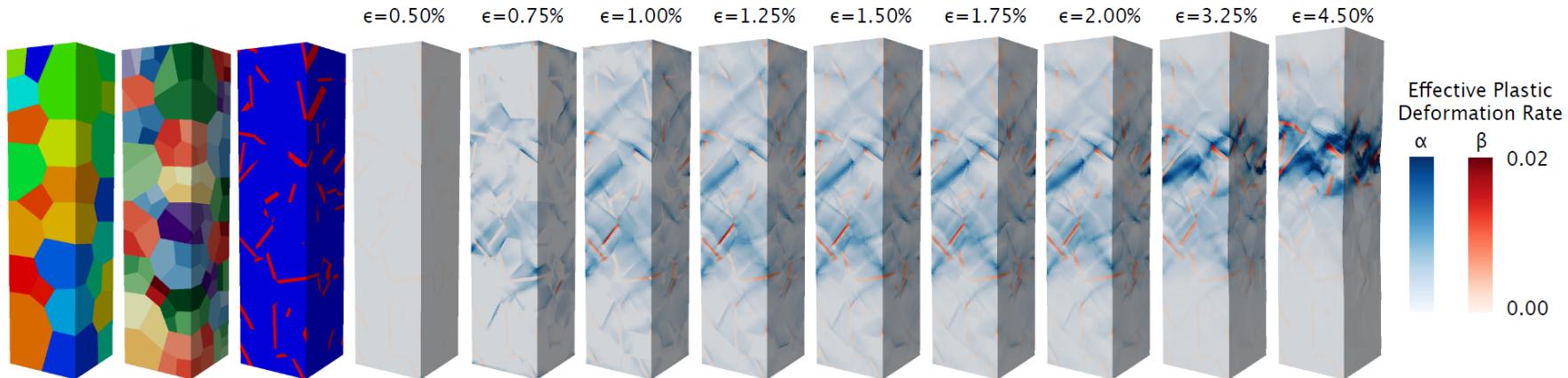


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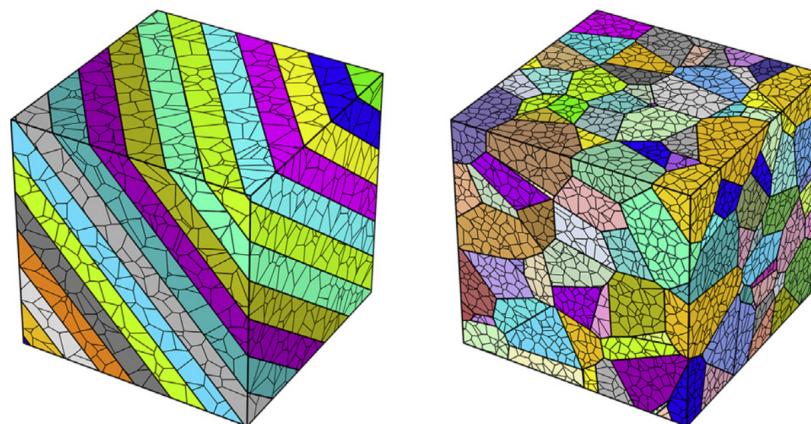


Flattening of a 2-scale tessellation

Generation of Multiscale Polycrystals: Applications (Neper -T)



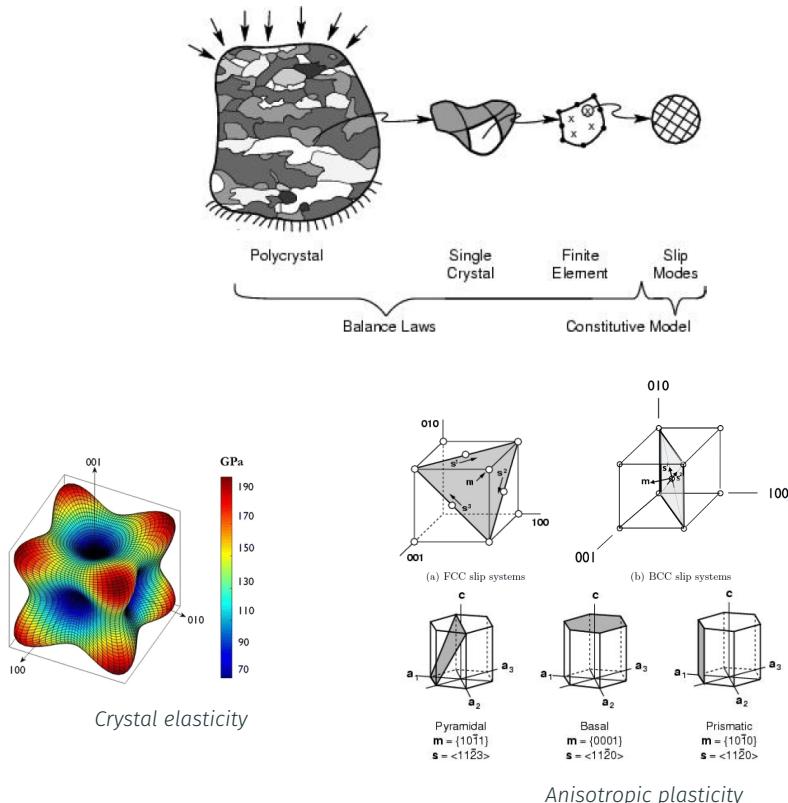
Deformation of Ti64 (Kasemer et al, 2017)



(Left) Sedimentary rocks, (right) intra-grain cracking path (Ghazvinian et al, 2014)

Finite-Element Simulation (FEPX)

Principle



Specifics

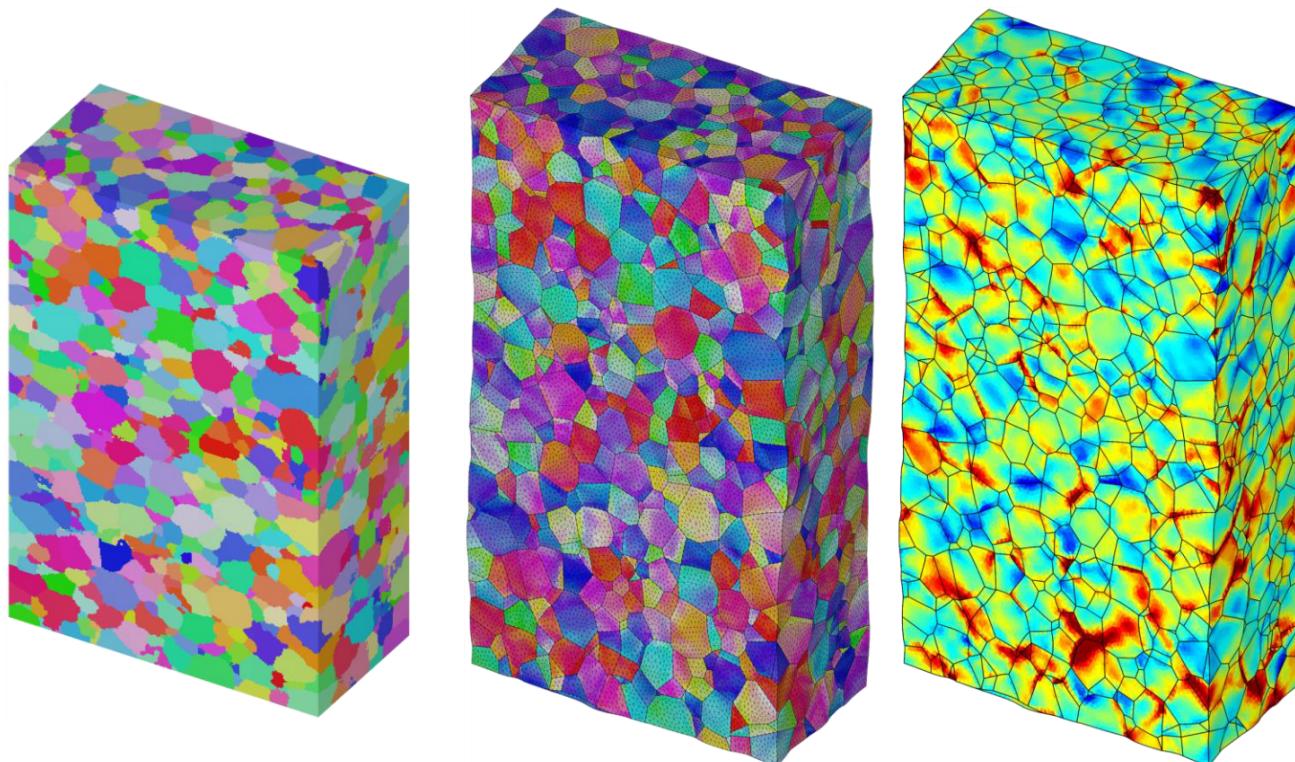
- Finite strain formulation
- Elasto-viscoplastic behavior

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

- Different hardening models (isotropic, anisotropic, cyclic)
- Formulated in displacement velocities
- Multiphase (cubic, hexagonal, tetragonal)
- Simple boundary conditions (no friction or changing contact conditions)
- Parallelized with Open MPI, dependency-free

Can simulate deformation of polycrystals with 1000+ grains discretized 10^6 nodes/elements to small or large plastic strain routinely

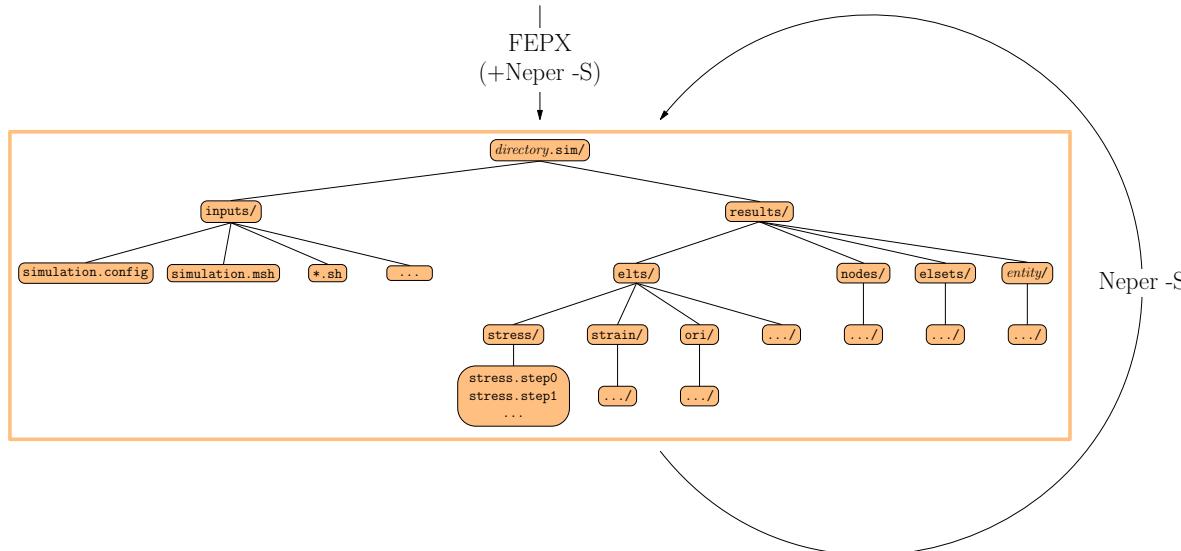
Finite-Element Simulation (FEPX): Example



Deformation of Al-4%Cu (postdoc Runguang Li, M4D ERC Project, DTU, Denmark)

Goal: define a structure to archive a simulation and facilitate postprocessing

Definition of a **Simulation directory**



Has a simple and browsable structure

Can be loaded all at once in Neper -V for visualization

Can be used for experimental results

Postprocessing Operations

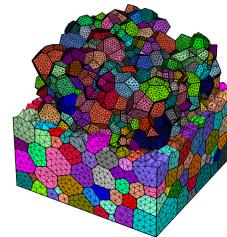
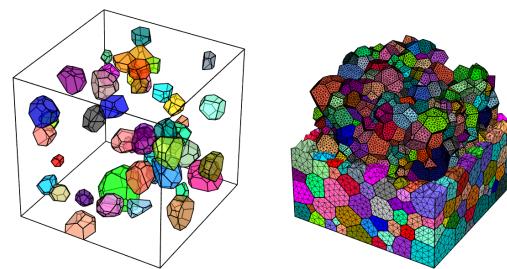
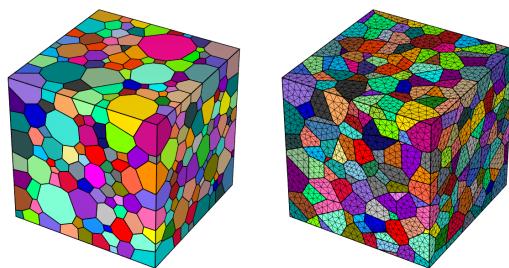
- Computation of mesh results:
`-reselset vol,x,y,z`
- Definition of new (simulation) results:
`-reselt myvar:2*stress33`
- Grain averaging:
`-reselset stress`
- Sample averaging:
`-resmesh stress`
- Definition of ROIs or *entities*:
`-entity top:z>0.5 -restop stress ...`
- Result management
- ...

Visualization (Neper -V)

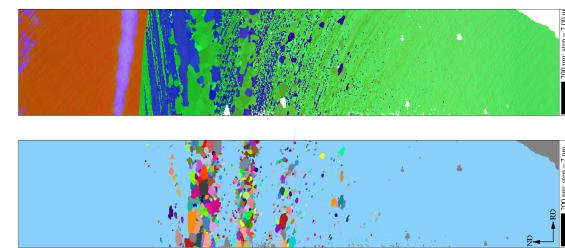
Top-quality Images or VTK for Interactive Visualization

3D images produced by ray-tracing (POV-Ray) with full control (camera, light, projection, etc.)

Advanced visualizations of tessellations and meshes

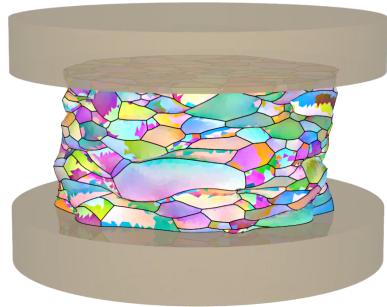


EBSD maps, etc.

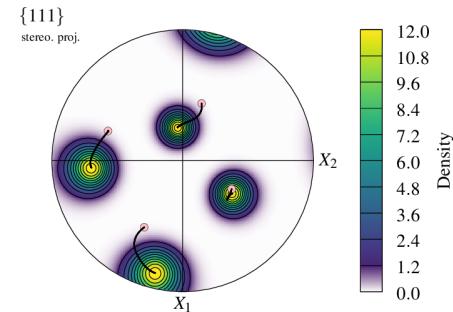


Orientation field and cell field (matrix / nuclei)

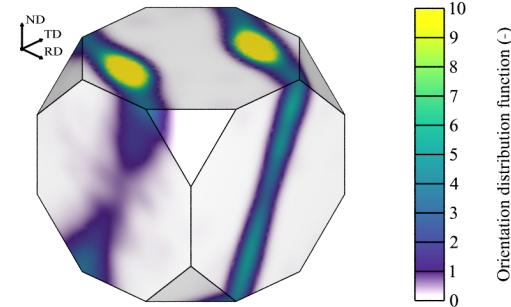
Simulation Results in Real Space...



Pole Figure Space...



and Orientation Space



Conclusions

Our Goals on the Neper/FEPX Project

- Continue to improve over the years...
- Provide a full range of features for polycrystal plasticity studies including post-processing and advanced visualization
- Provide more resources
- Build a community of users / active users / developers