

The Neper/FEPX Project and its Application to 4D Experiment/Simulation Studies

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

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The Neper/FEPX Project

Application to a 4D Experiment/Simulation Study

Outline

The Neper/FEPX Project

Application to a 4D Experiment/Simulation Study

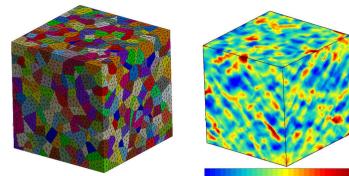
Context: Simulation of the (Large) Plastic Deformation of Polycrystals



Neper

Voronoi tessellations
meshing, regularization
2003–2005

First release
Neper v1.8
2009

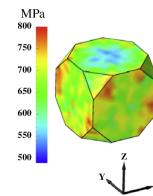
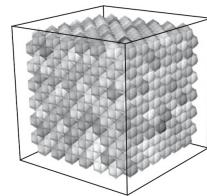


(Barbe, Quey, Musienko and Cailletaud, MRC, 2008)

FEpx

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

2009
Application to finely
meshed polycrystals

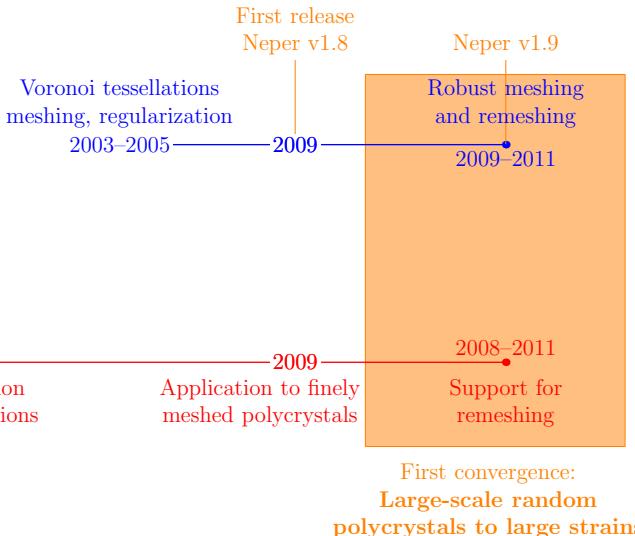


(Wong and Dawson, 2009)

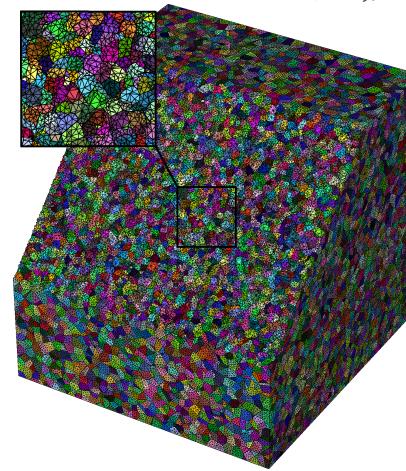
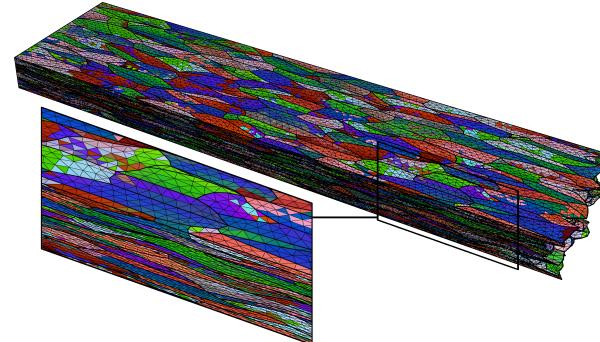
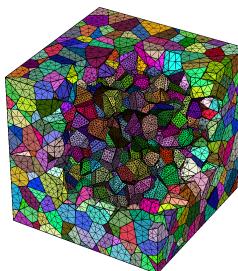
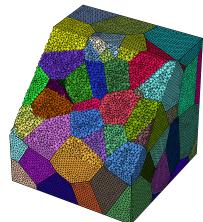
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Neper

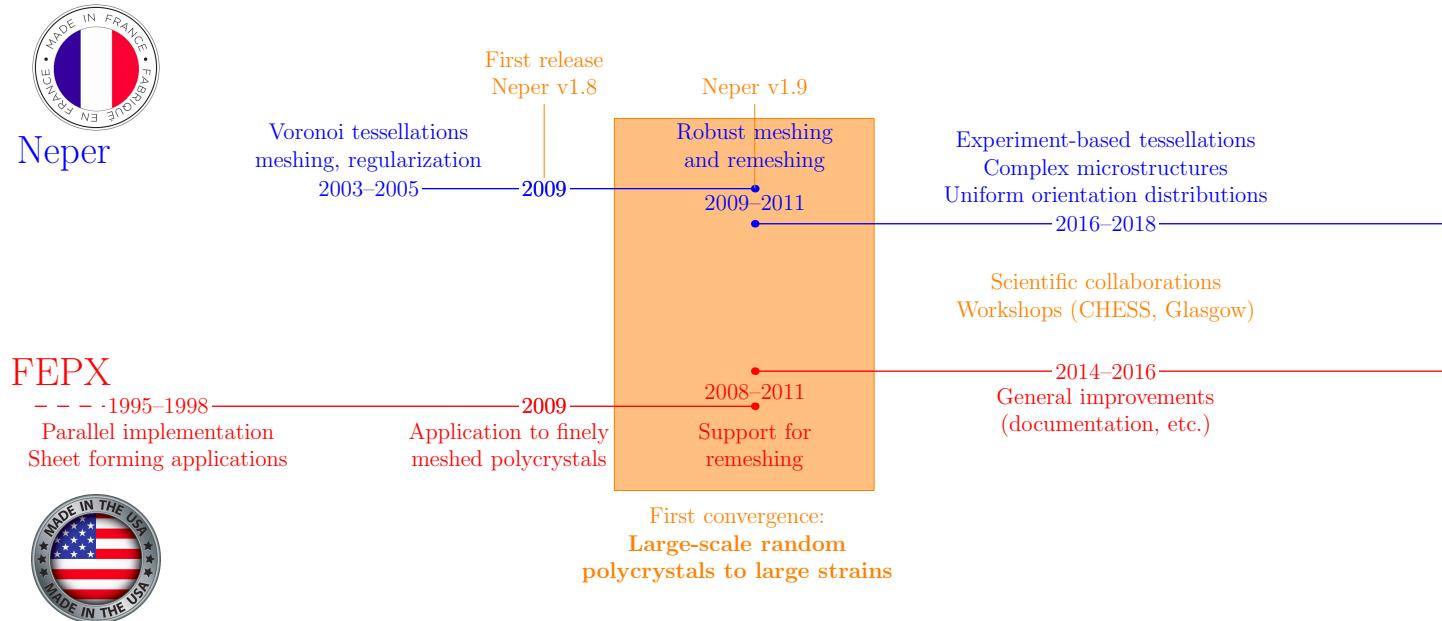


FEPX

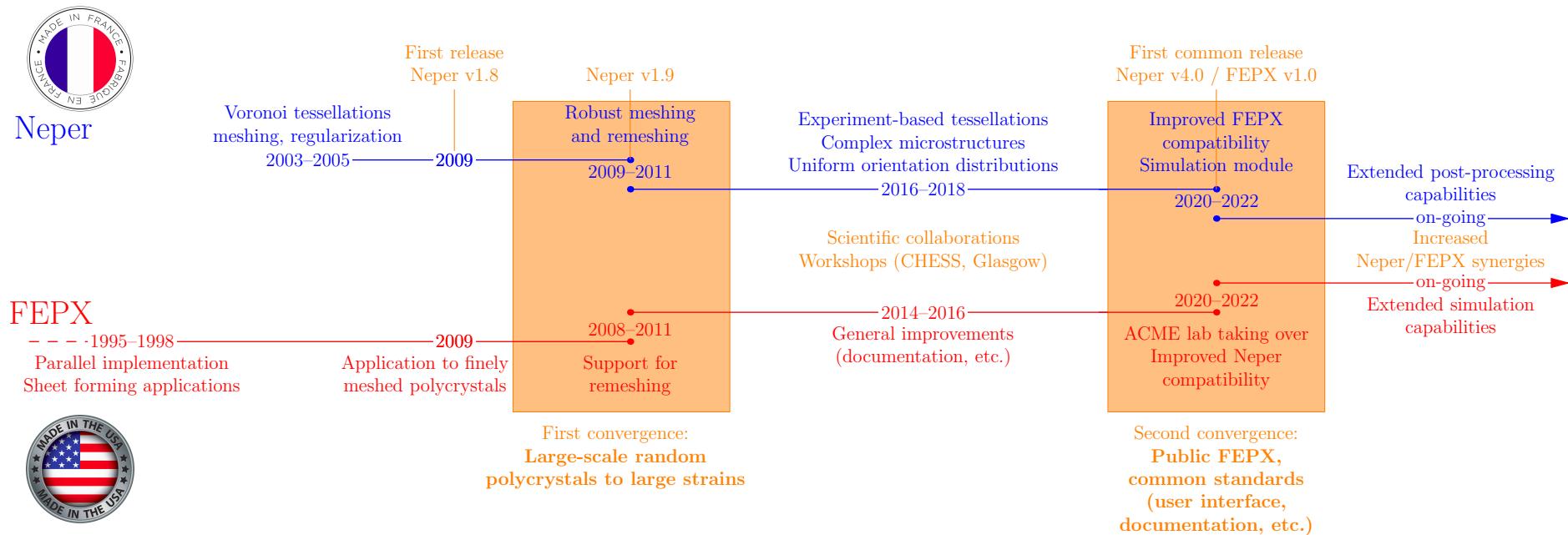


(Quey, Barbe and Dawson, 2011)

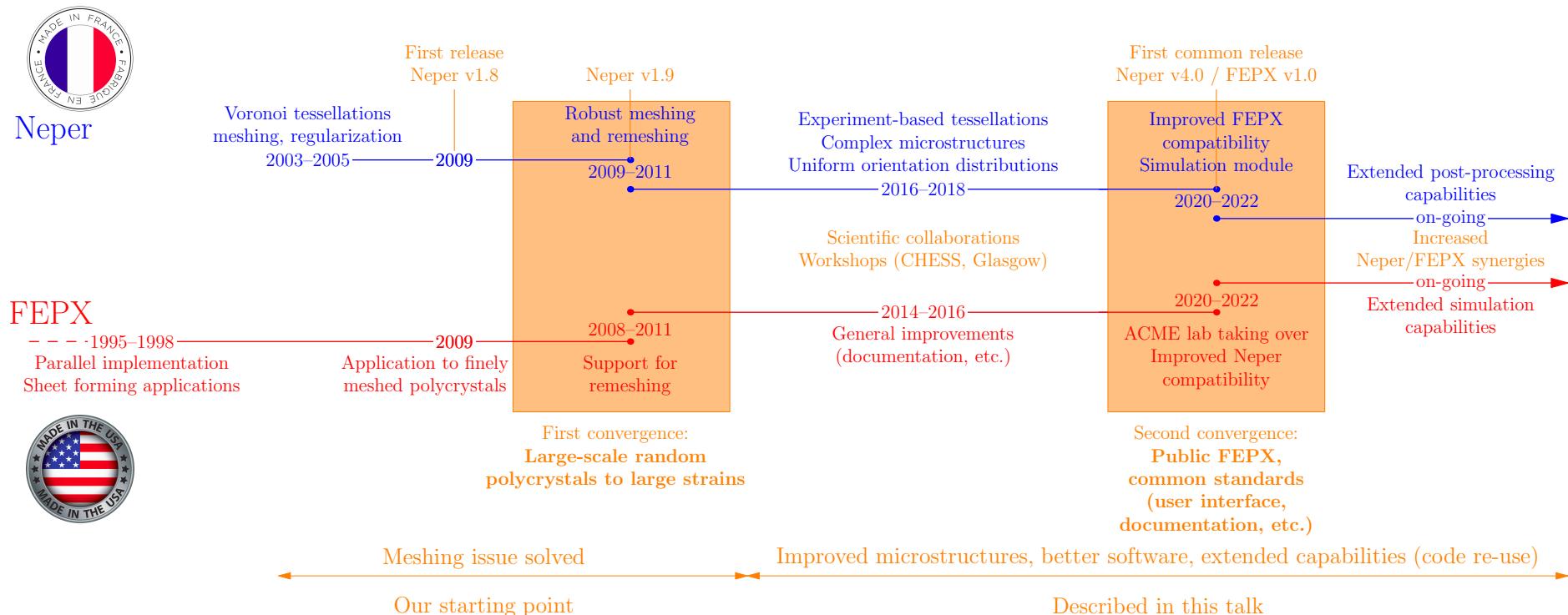
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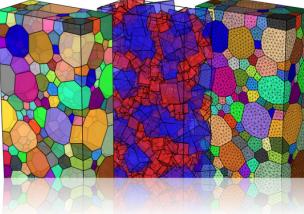
Context: Simulation of the (Large) Plastic Deformation of Polycrystals



Established codes, products of 40 collective years of development and use, 400–500 papers

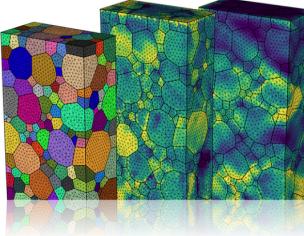
Lab-scale Free / Open-Source Software

<https://neper.info>



The screenshot shows the Neper software interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Neper logo and a search bar labeled "Search docs". Below the navigation bar, a sidebar lists "Features", "Documentation", "Tutorials", "Reference Papers", "Talks", "Applications", "Downloads", "Community", and "Other Resources". The main content area displays a 3D visualization of a polycrystal structure, where each grain is a different color (blue, green, yellow, red, etc.). Below the visualization, there's a descriptive text block: "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." A note section at the bottom left says "See also Neper's companion program, FEPX, a finite element software package for polycrystal plasticity. FEPX acts as a simulation tool for Neper." Another note section at the bottom right says "Neper is developed by Romain Quey at CNRS and Mines Saint-Etienne." A "Next" button is located at the bottom right of the main content area.

<https://fepx.info>



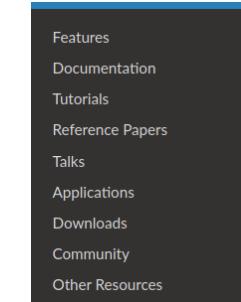
The screenshot shows the FEPX software interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the FEPX logo and a search bar labeled "Search docs". Below the navigation bar, a sidebar lists "Features", "Documentation", "Example Simulations", "Reference Papers", "Applications", "Downloads", "Community", and "Other Resources". The main content area displays a 3D visualization of a polycrystal structure, similar to the Neper interface, but with a visible finite element mesh overlaid on the grains. Below the visualization, there's a descriptive text block: "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." A note section at the bottom left says "See also FEPX's companion program, Neper, a polycrystal generation and meshing tool. Neper acts as the primary pre- and post-processor for FEPX." A note section at the bottom right says "FEPX is currently maintained and developed by the Advanced Computational Materials Engineering Laboratory ACME Lab at The University of Alabama." A "Next" button is located at the bottom right of the main content area.

- Code distributed on the websites / GitHub

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



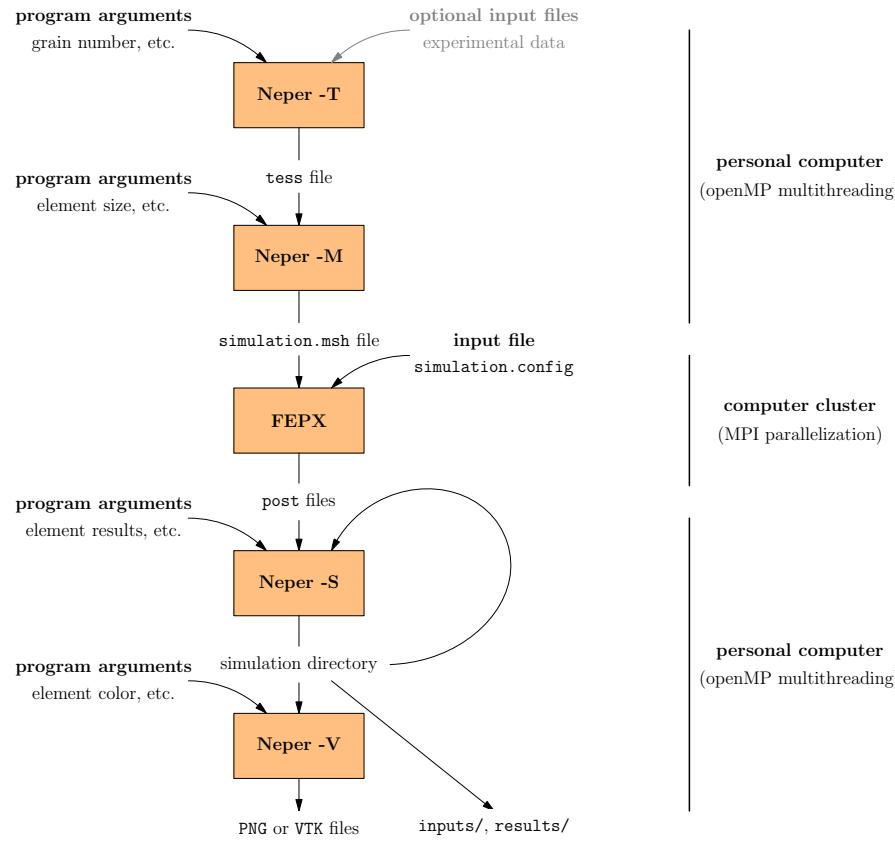
- Expanding array of resources



This is a screenshot of the expanded sidebar from the Neper/FEPX websites. It lists the following 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 (random or uniform)

Neper -M: Meshing

- Meshing
- Remeshing

FEPX: Crystal-plasticity FE simulations

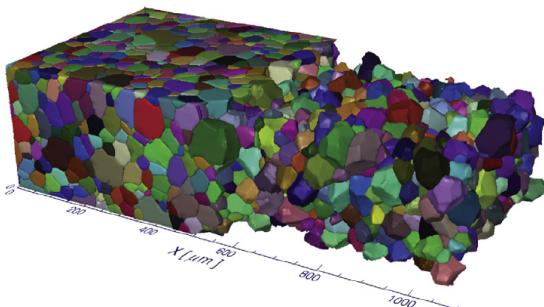
Neper -S: Simulation / Post-Processing

- Simulation archiving
- Post-processing

Neper -V: Visualization

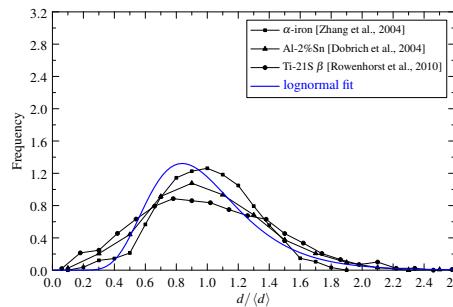
- Tessellation and mesh visualization
- Results visualization
- Pole figures
- Orientation space

Typical Polycrystal



(Rowenhorst et al., 2010)

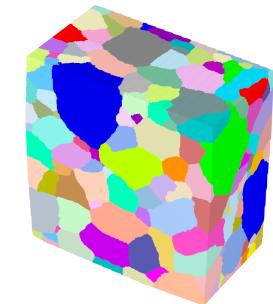
Typical Types of Microstructure Properties / Input



Statistical Data

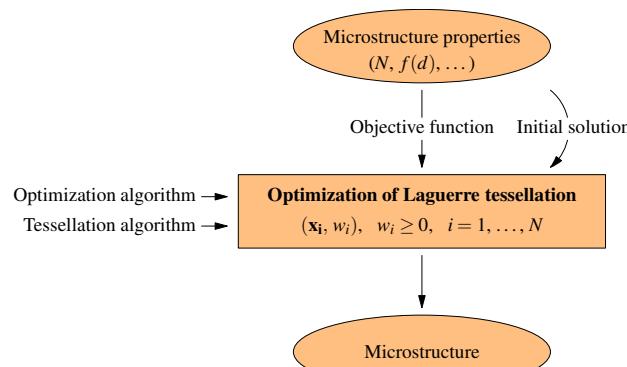


Incomplete Grain Data (ff-3DXRD)
(courtesy H. Proudhon)



Grain Maps (DCT)
(courtesy A. Dimanov)

Generation of Optimal Convex-Cell Tessellations



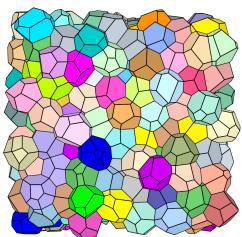
Optimization of (general) Laguerre tessellations:

- 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)

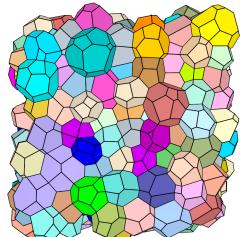
Any microstructure can be generated as long as (i) it can be represented using convex cells and (ii) an objective function can be defined

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

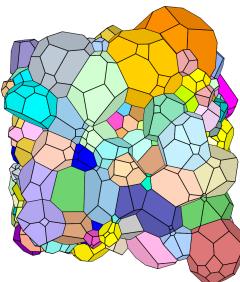
Polycrystals of Various Properties



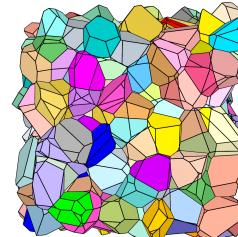
$\sigma_d = 0, s = 0.90$



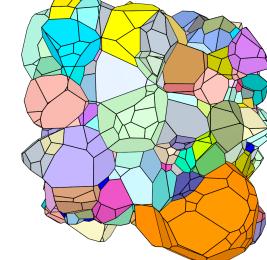
$\sigma_d = 0.15, s = 0.90$



$\sigma_d = 0.55, s = 0.90$

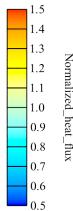
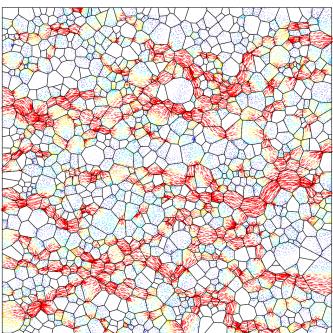
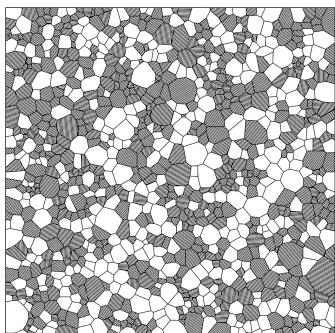


$\sigma_d = 0, s = 0.80$



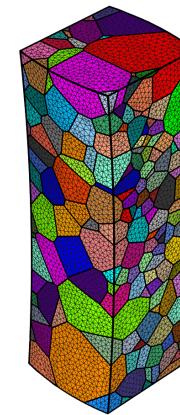
$\sigma_d = 0.55, s = 0.80$

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



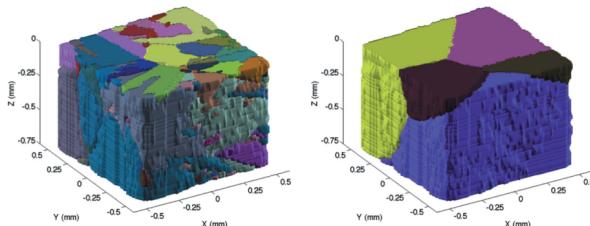
White grains: high conductivity; gray grains: low conductivity;
different grain boundary types: different conductances

6D-DCT Polycrystal

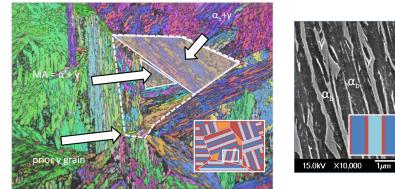


Generation of Multiscale Polycrystals: Principle (Neper -T)

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



Ti64 (Wielewski et al., 2015)

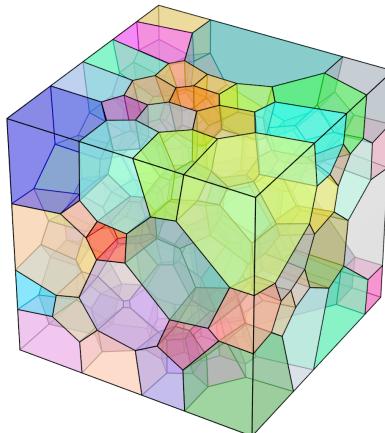


Carbide-free bainitic steel (Hell, 2011)

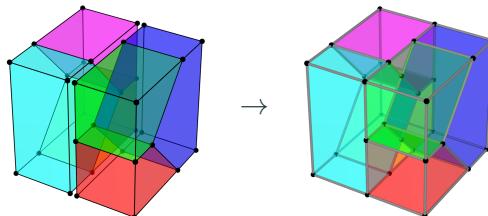
Characterized by grain subdivisions
→ “non-normal” tessellations

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



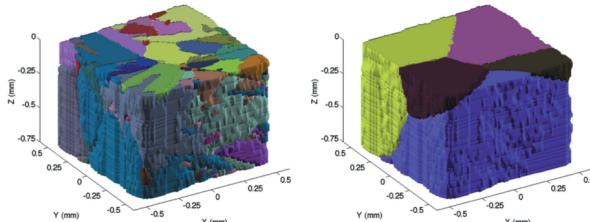
Before Meshing: Flattening



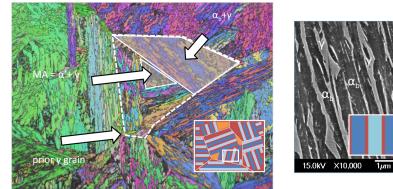
Flattening of a 2-scale tessellation

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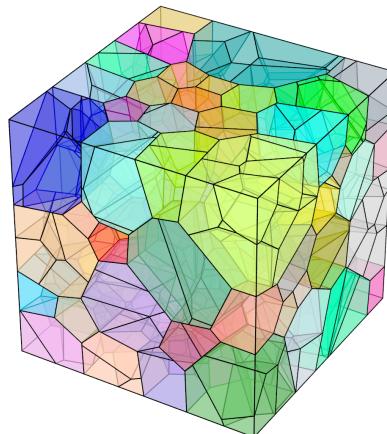
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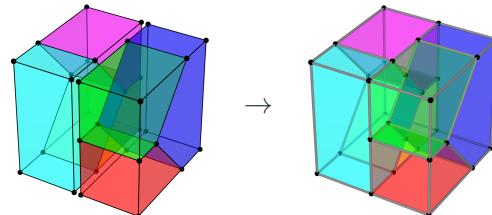
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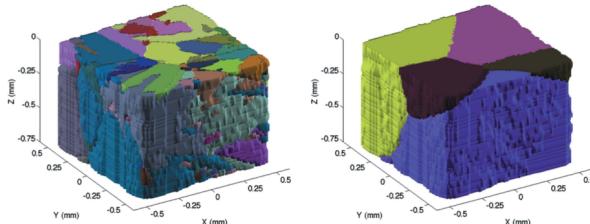
Before Meshing: Flattening



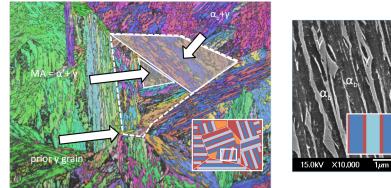
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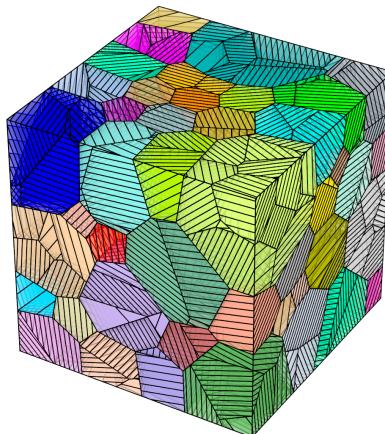
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Carbide-free bainitic steel (Hell, 2011)

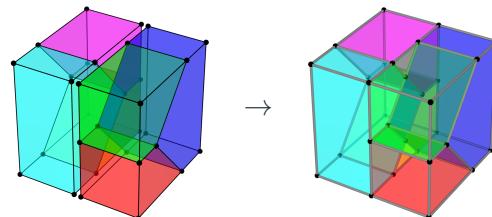
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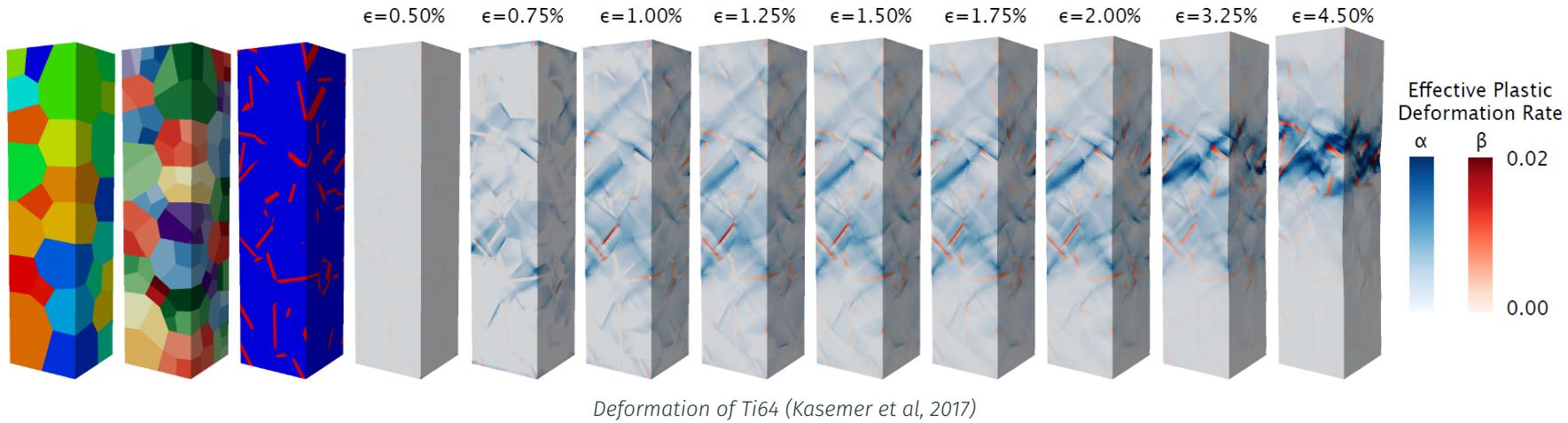
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Before Meshing: Flattening

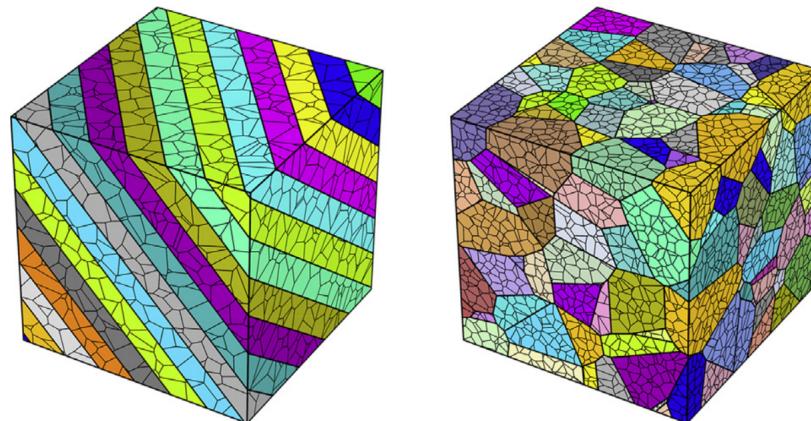


Flattening of a 2-scale tessellation

Generation of Multiscale Polycrystals: Applications (Neper -T)

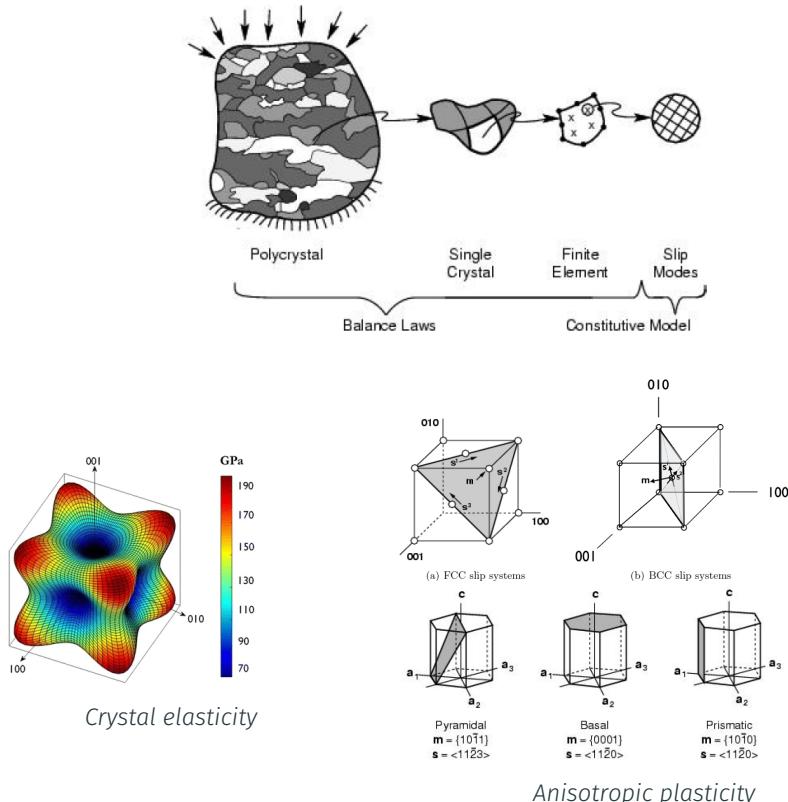


Deformation of Ti64 (Kasemer et al, 2017)



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

Principle



Specifics

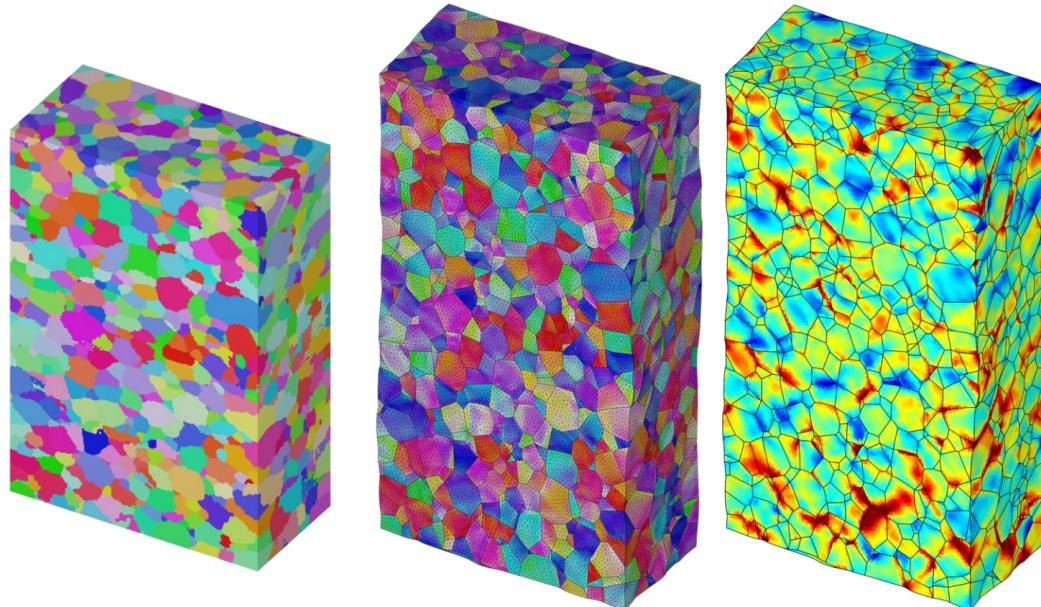
- Finite strain formulation
- Elasto-viscoplastic behavior

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

- 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

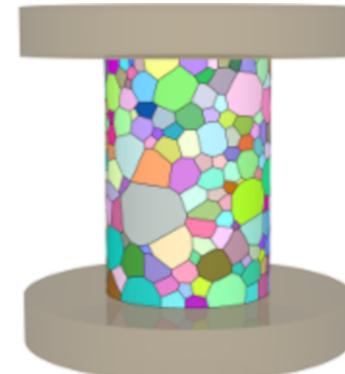
Can simulate deformation of polycrystals with 1000+ grains discretized 10^6 nodes/elements to small or large plastic strain routinely

Finite-Element Simulation (FEPX): Example



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

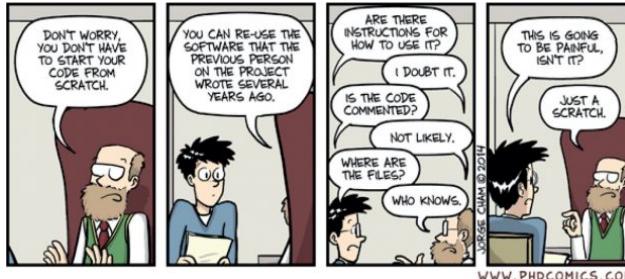
Next talk!



Deformation movie

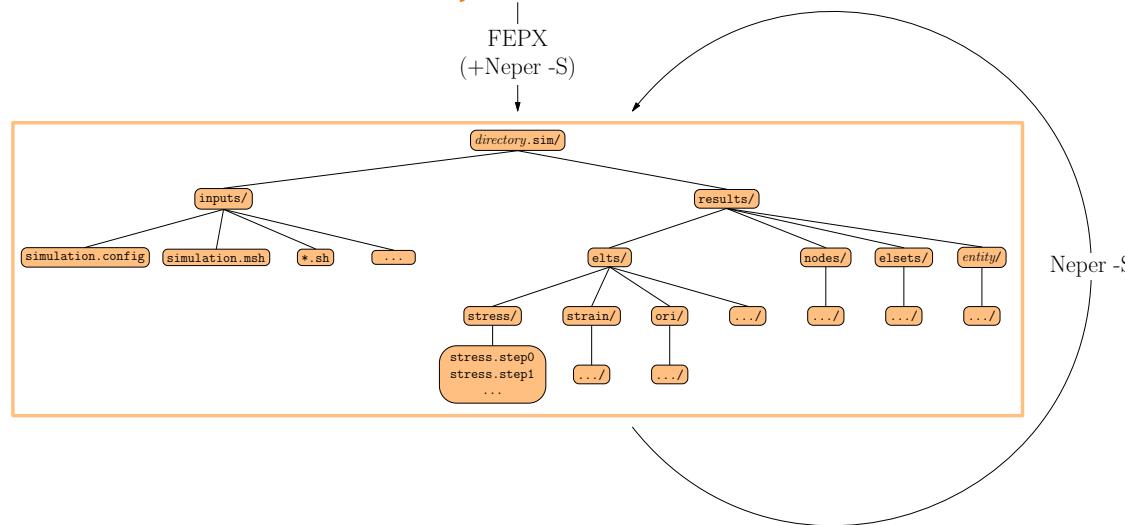
Simulation / Post-processing (Neper -S)

Doing post-processing...



Goal: facilitate / standardize **data management** and **post-processing**

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

Post-processing Operations

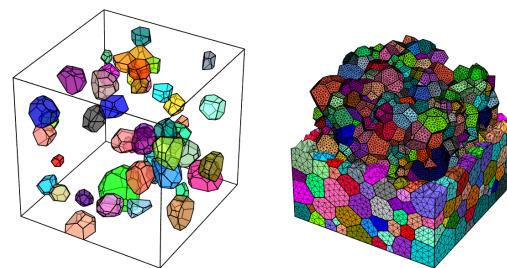
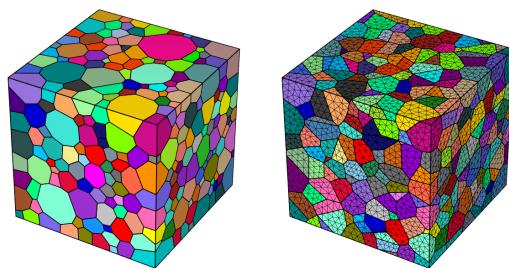
- Computation of mesh results:
`-reselset vol,x,y,z`
- Definition of new (simulation) results:
`-reselt myvar:2*stress33`
- Grain averaging: `-reselset stress`
- Sample averaging: `-resmesh stress`
- Definition of ROIs or *entities*:
`-entity top:z>0.5 -restop stress ...`
- Result management
- ...

Visualization (Neper -V)

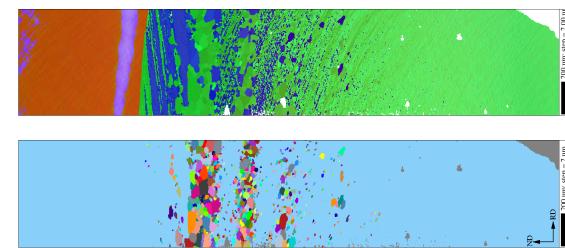
Top-quality Images or VTK for Interactive Visualization

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

Advanced visualizations of tessellations and meshes

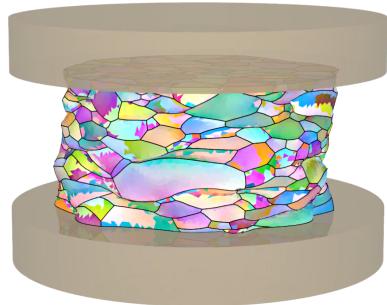


EBSD maps, etc.

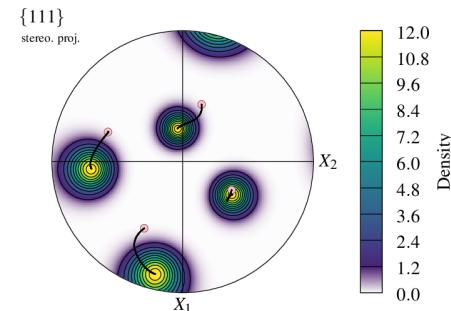


Orientation field and cell field (matrix / nuclei)

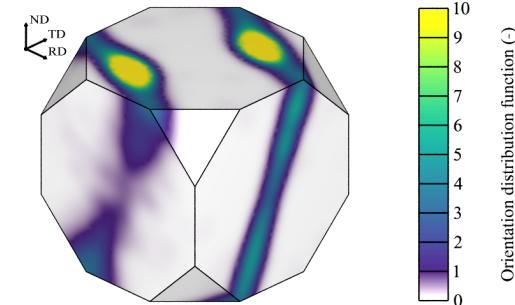
Simulation Results in Real Space...



Pole Figure Space...



Orientation Space...



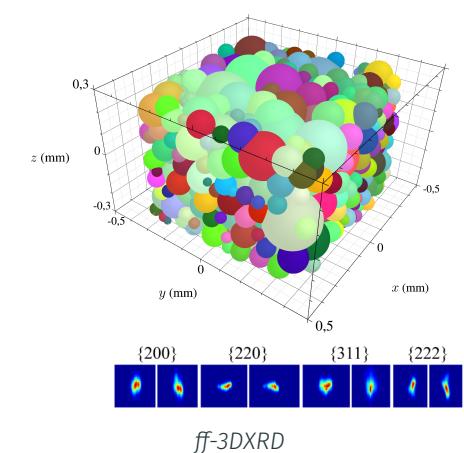
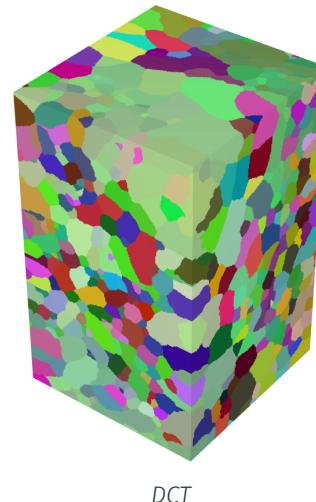
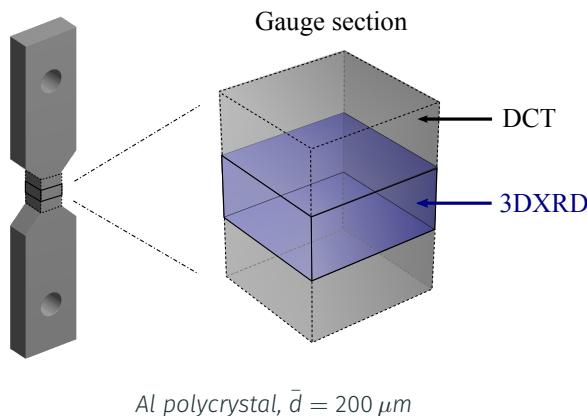
Outline

The Neper/FEPX Project

Application to a 4D Experiment/Simulation Study

Experiment

In situ analysis at ESRF / ID11 (Renversade and Quey, 40th Risø Symposium)



Specimen and scanning regions

$$\varepsilon = 0$$



Grain map
(.dat file + grain orientations)

$$\varepsilon = 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5 \text{ and } 4.5\%$$



Grain-scale results:
average orientation, in-grain disorientation
statistics, etc.

Importing the Experimental Data into Neper

Writing the DCT Volume (.dat) at Neper's Format (.tesr)

volume.tesr:

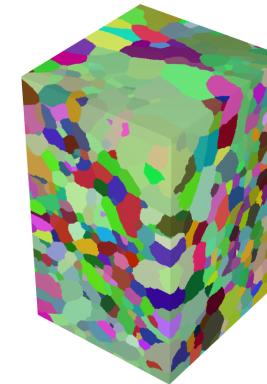
```
***tesr
**format
 2.1
**general
 3
 600 600 1000
 0.0014 0.0014 0.0014
**cell
 1987
*crysym
 cubic
*ori
 rodrigues:active
 0.021351228152    0.271788287376    0.157120856687
 [...]
**data
 binary16
 *file volume.dat
***end
```

```
$ neper -T -loadtesr volume.tesr \
      -transform "scale(0.25,0.25,0.25),autocrop,renumber"
```

- Generate a standalone **tesr** file
- Apply various transformations

```
$ neper -V volume.tesr -datacellcol ori -print img
```

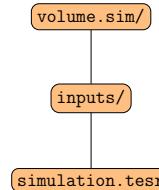
Simple input file, various transformations, direct visualization



Processing the Experimental Data

Initializing the Simulation Directory

```
$ neper -T -loadtesr volume.tesr -for sim
```



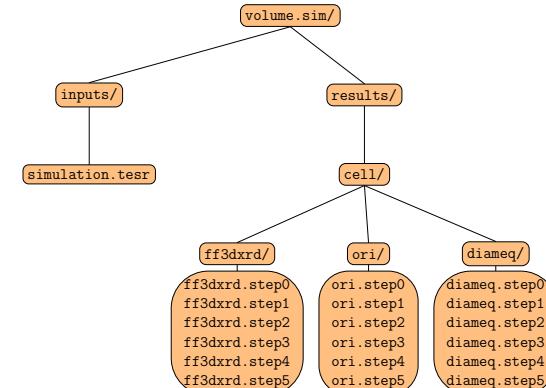
Computing Results

```
$ neper -S volume.sim -step 5 \  
-cellres "ff3dxrd:file(ff3dxrd),ori:file(ori),diameq"
```

ff3dxrd:

```
1  
0  
0  
1  
0  
1  
[...]
```

ori.step0, ori.step1, ...

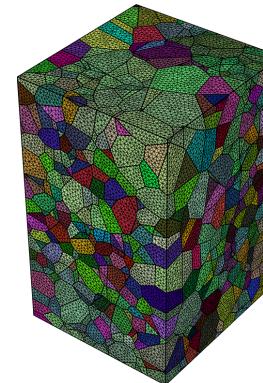
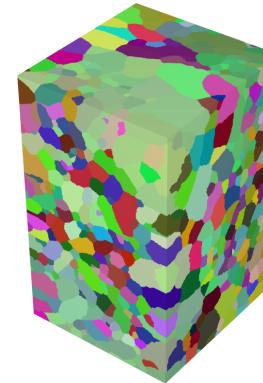


Simple simulation directory, custom or built-in results (morphological, topological or orientation-related), custom visualization

Polycrystal Meshing

```
$ neper -T -morpho "tesr(volume.tesr)" \
    -domain "cube(0.8386,0.8092,1.3622)" -o volume

$ neper -M volume.tess -order 2 -rcl 0.5 -part 100
```



Simulation with FEPX

Simulation file, simulation.config

```
## Material Parameters
number_of_phases 1

phase 1
crystal_type FCC
m 0.03
gammadot_0 1.0
h_0 47.0
g_0 6.0
g_s0 455.0
m_prime 0.0
gammadot_s0 1.e10
n 2.6
c11 107.3e3
c12 60.9e3
c44 28.3e3

## Deformation History
def_control_by uniaxial_strain_target

number_of_strain_steps 5
target_strain 0.010 60 print_data
target_strain 0.015 30 print_data
target_strain 0.020 30 print_data
target_strain 0.025 30 print_data
target_strain 0.045 120 print_data

## Boundary Condition
boundary_conditions uniaxial_minimal
loading_direction Z
loading_face Z_MAX
strain_rate 1e-2

## Printing Results
print coo
print ori
print slip
print sliprate
print crss
print stress
```

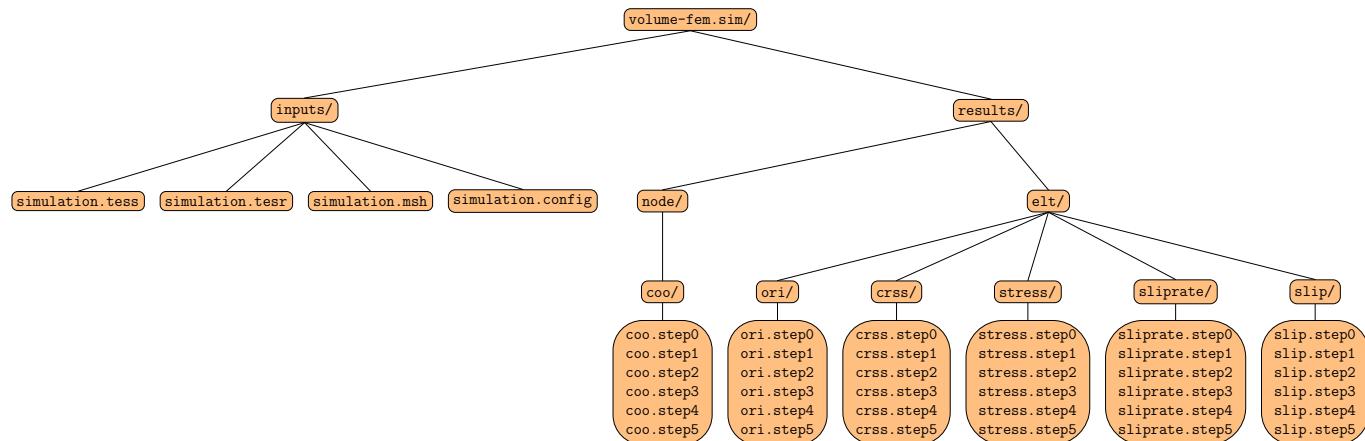
Running FEPX

\$ mpirun -np 100 fepx (on a computer cluster, in a submission script)

→ per-core files (**post.core#**)

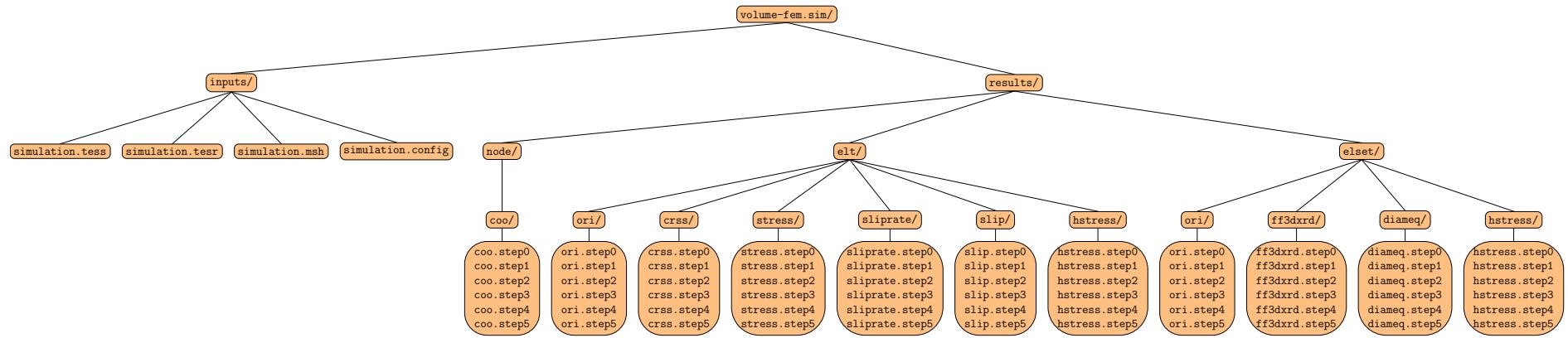
\$ neper -S volume-fem/

→ simulation directory, **volume-fem.sim**



Simulation Post-Processing: Grain Averaging, etc.

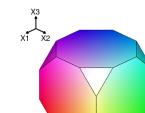
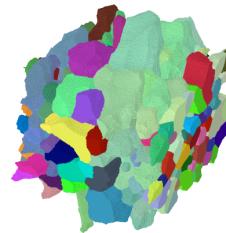
```
$ neper -S volume-fem.sim  
  -reselt "hstress:(stress11+stress22+stress33)/3" \\  
  -reselset "ori,ff3dxdrd:file(ff3dxdrd),diameq,hstress"
```



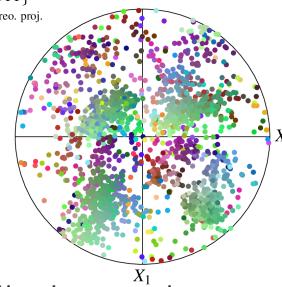
Visualization

Experiment

```
$ neper -V volume.sim \
  -step 5 \
  -showcell "ff3dxrd" \
  -datacellcol ori \
  -print exp \
  -space pf \
  -print exp-pf
```

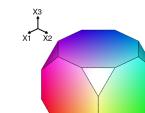
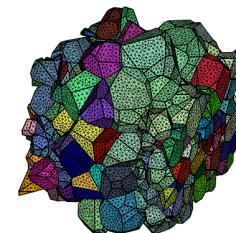


{111}
stereo. proj.

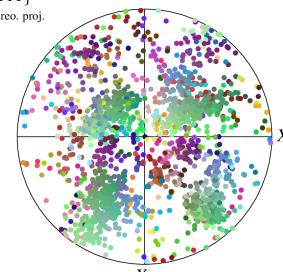


Simulation

```
$ neper -V volume-fem.sim \
  -step 5 \
  -datanodecoo coo \
  -showelset "ff3dxrd" \
  -dataelsetcol ori \
  -print fem \
  -space pf \
  -print fem-pf
```



{111}
stereo. proj.



Custom visualization, consistent across possible inputs (experiment and simulation, 2D or 3D), interactive using VTK files

Conclusions

The Neper/FEPX Project

- Convergence of 2 established codes, product of 40 collective years of development and use
- Goal: Full range of features for polycrystal plasticity studies, especially in the experiment / simulation context
 - Generation, meshing, simulation, ...
 - ... post-processing, visualization, *data management* (+ Jupyter notebooks)
 - *Many* features are implemented, others *can be added*
- Open-science approach: open-source code, open resources, ...
- Growing community of users (discussion forums)