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**Large-scale Phase Field Simulation
for Coarsening Dynamics Based on
Cahn-Hilliard Equation with Degenerated Mobility**



Large scale phasefield simulation for coarsening dynamics based on the Cahn-Hilliard equation with degenerated mobility

Jian Zhang

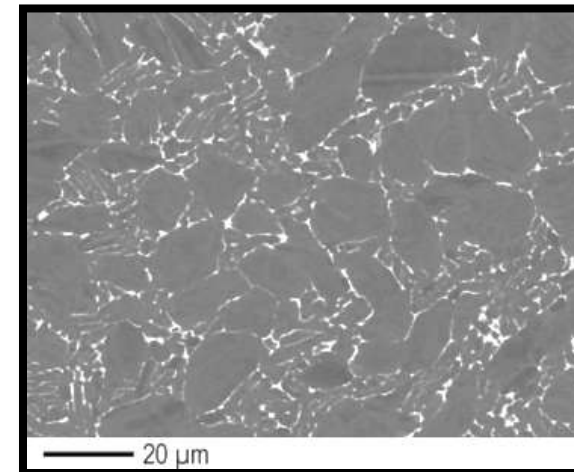
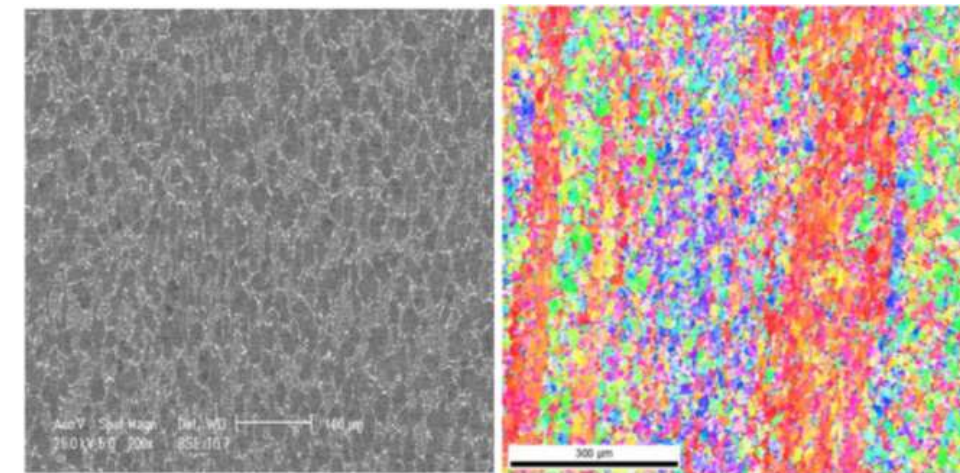
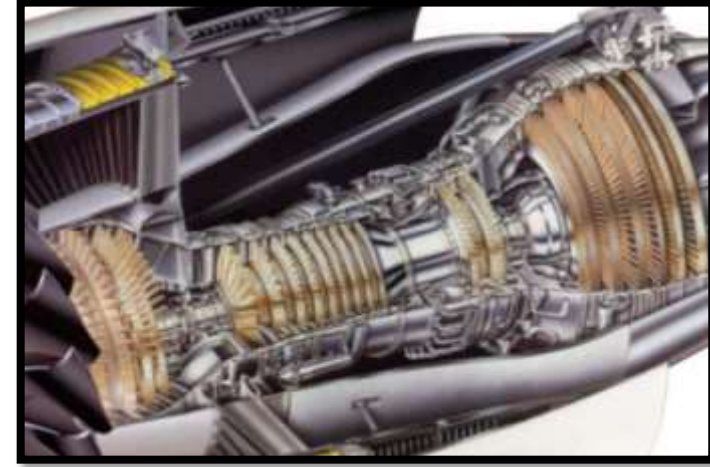
Computer Network Information Center(CNIC), CAS

**Chunbao Zhou(CNIC), Yangang Wang(CNIC), Xuebin Chi(CNIC),
Lili Ju(USC), Qiang Du(Columbia) , Dongsheng Xu(IMRCAS)**

Coarsening

changes in spatial scales over time associated with the mesoscale morphological patterns (micro-structures).

critical role in determining many material properties
strength, hardness, fatigue, ...



Phase Field Model

Diffuse interface model, leads to a set of Partial Differential Equations

non-conserved field variable(phase) Allen-Cahn, TDGL equation,
2nd order diffusion-reaction equation

$$\frac{\partial \eta_p(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = -L \frac{\delta F}{\delta \eta_p(\mathbf{r}, t)} + \xi_p(\mathbf{r}, t);$$

conserved field variable(composition) Cahn-Hilliard equation,
4th order nonlinear diffusion

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left[M \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{r}, t)} \right] + \zeta(\mathbf{r}, t).$$

Computationally challenging:

various spacial and temporal scale
stiffness and strong nonlinear effects



Explicit Finite Difference

$$u_t = Lu + N(u, t)$$

stencil computation

$$u^{n+1} = u^n + \Delta t [Lu^n + N(u^n, t^n)]$$

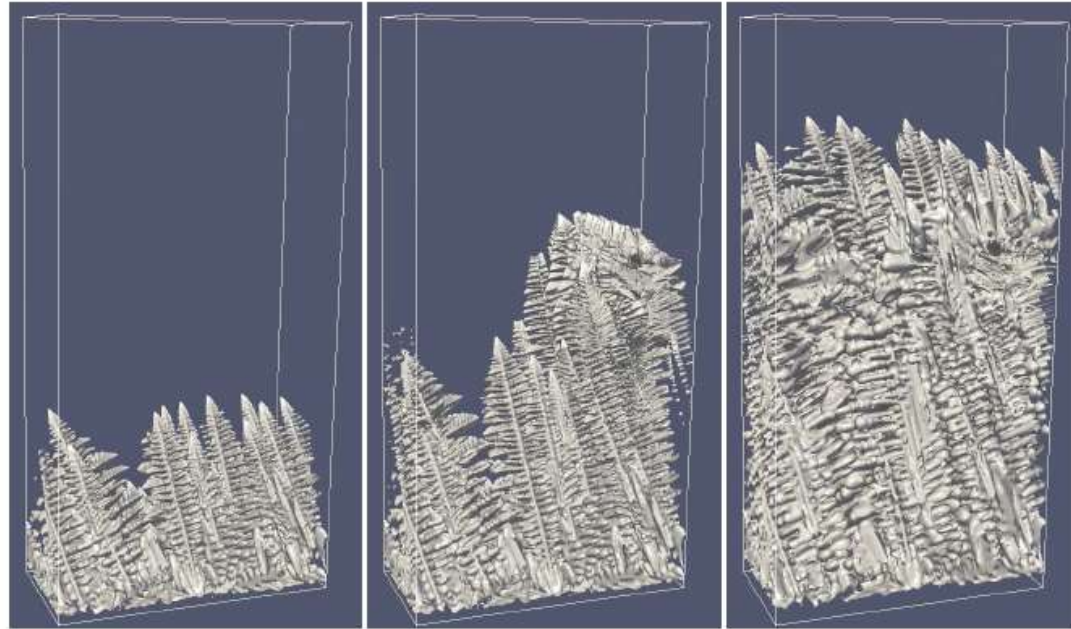
$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ 1 \\ \hline (\Delta x)^r \end{array}$$

stability restriction: $\Delta t \propto (\Delta x)^r$

Large scale long time simulation

Allen-Cahn Equ. (r=2): YES!

Cahn-Hilliard Equ. (r=4): NO!



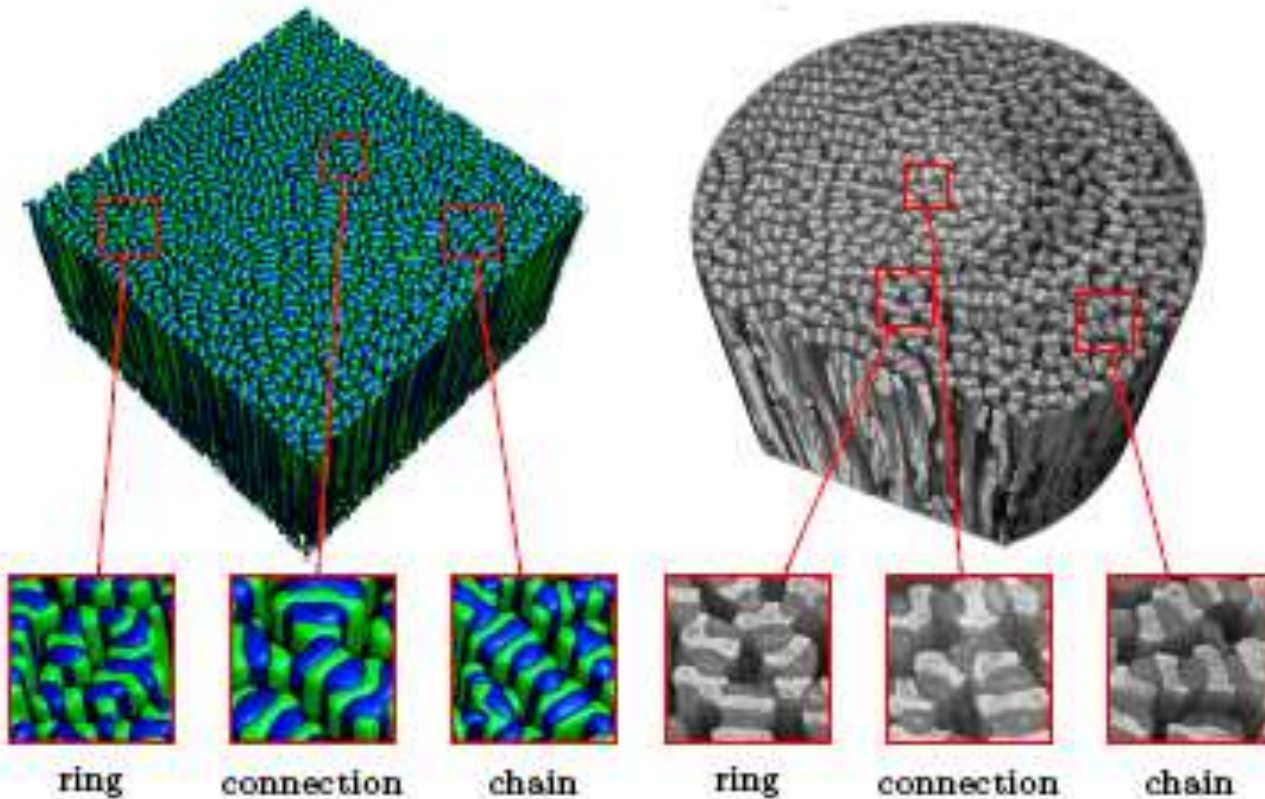
Takashi Shimokawabe et. al. SC2011

Gordon Bell Prize, Scalability

binary dendritic growth



Explicit Finite Difference



Martin Bauer et. al. SC2015

directional solidification,
Allen-Cahn type equation, omitting the coarsening effect



Implicit Finite Difference

$$u_t = Lu + N(u, t)$$

$$u^{n+1} = u^n + \Delta t [Lu^{n+1} + N(u^n, t^n)]$$



$$\frac{1}{(\Delta x)^r}$$

stability issue resolved at the prize of solving large scale sparse linear/nonlinear systems at each time step



$$u^{m+1} = u^m + \Delta t [Lu^{m+1} + N_1(u^{m+1}, t^{m+1})] + N_2(u^n, t^n]$$

operator splitting,
introducing 1st order splitting error



Exponential Time Differencing

$$u_t = Lu + N(u, t).$$

$$u(t_{n+1}) = e^{L\Delta t} u(t_n) + e^{L\Delta t} \int_0^{\Delta t} e^{-Ls} N(u(t_n + s), t_n + s) ds.$$



exact integration, no stability issue

however, dense exponential matrices

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{pmatrix}_{N_x \times N_y \times N_z} \quad e^{L\Delta t} = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}_{(N_x \times N_y \times N_z) \times (N_x \times N_y \times N_z)}$$

1,000³ simulation, (10⁹) grid points



Exa (10¹⁸) storage and computation



Compact representation of FD discretization

$$u_t = D\Delta u + F(u, t)$$

$$A = \frac{D}{h_x^2} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & & & & & \\ & \frac{2}{3} & & & & & \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & & & & \\ & & 1 & -2 & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ & & & & & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix}_{N_x \times N_x}$$

$$B = \frac{D}{h_y^2} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}_{(N_y+1) \times (N_y+1)}$$

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} u_{1,1} & u_{1,2} & \dots & u_{1,N_y} & u_{1,N_y+1} \\ u_{2,1} & u_{2,2} & \dots & u_{2,N_y} & u_{2,N_y+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ u_{N_x,1} & u_{N_x,2} & \dots & u_{N_x,N_y} & u_{N_x,N_y+1} \end{pmatrix}_{N_x \times (N_y+1)}$$

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = AU + UB + F. \quad e^{A\Delta t} = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}_{N_x \times N_x}$$

1,000³ grid points \Rightarrow

Giga (10⁹) storage and
Tera (10¹²) computation



Linear operator splitting

$$u_t = Lu + N(u, t)$$

$$u_t = Lu \pm \tilde{L}u \mp \tilde{L}u + N(u, t)$$



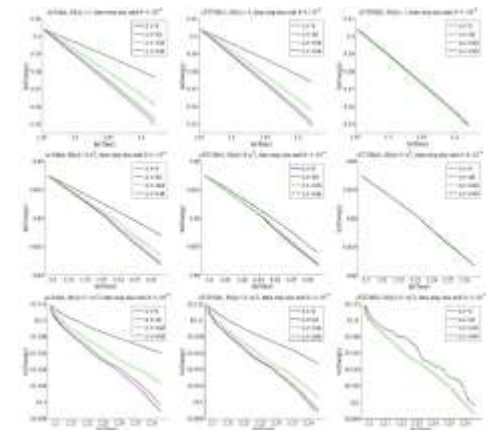
Exact integration polynomial approximation

High order in nature

Important for effective simulation of coarsening process, time step size 10-100 times larger than the 1st order implicit FD schemes (CMS 2015, JSC 2015,...)

Table 1
Constant mobility $M(u) \equiv 1$: numerical errors and temporal convergence rates with periodic BC.

Δt	6.4×10^{-3}	3.2×10^{-3}	1.6×10^{-3}	8×10^{-4}	4×10^{-4}	2×10^{-4}	1×10^{-4}
<i>ss-Euler</i>							
Rela. ener. error	2.828E-2	1.945E-2	1.217E-2	7.094E-3	3.949E-3	2.138E-3	1.135E-3
Conv. rate	-	0.54	0.68	0.78	0.85	0.89	0.91
Rela. L^2 error	1.533E-1	1.128E-1	7.434E-2	4.456E-2	2.510E-2	1.366E-2	7.288E-3
Conv. rate	-	0.44	0.602	0.74	0.83	0.88	0.91
<i>cETDMs1</i>							
Rela. ener. error	2.548E-2	1.631E-2	9.325E-3	4.949E-3	2.528E-3	1.271E-3	6.369E-4
Conv. rate	-	0.64	0.81	0.91	0.97	0.99	1.00
Rela. L^2 error	1.414E-1	9.693E-2	5.800E-2	3.139E-2	1.615E-2	8.165E-3	4.109E-3
Conv. rate	-	0.55	0.74	0.89	0.96	0.98	0.99
<i>cETDMs2</i>							
Rela. ener. error	8.453E-4	2.370E-4	6.366E-5	1.647E-5	4.233E-6	1.089E-6	2.738E-7
Conv. rate	-	1.84	1.90	1.95	1.96	1.96	1.99
Rela. L^2 error	6.011E-3	1.921E-3	5.656E-4	1.498E-4	3.766E-5	9.366E-6	2.286E-6
Conv. rate	-	1.65	1.76	1.92	1.99	2.01	2.03



ScETD method

cETD: Stable, high order accurate schemes for phase field equations.

compact representation of finite difference discretization
+ Exponential Time Differencing + linear operator splitting

Essentially explicit

- no need to solve linear/nonlinear systems

accurate large time step

- time stepsize 10-100 times larger than 1st order implicit schemes

compute intensive

- explore the computing power of modern hardware

ScETD: Scalable cETD with localized exponential integration and subdomain coupling

explicit cETD as subdomain solver with explicit inner boundary conditions provided by adjacent subdomains.

Implementation on Sunway TaihuLight

1 core group handles 1 subdomain:

Exponential integration of solution variables and B.C.'s

tensor dot production DGEMM

tensor transposition CPE's via DMA

Nonlinear terms in equation and B.C.'s

pointwise and stencil computation CPE's via DMA

data transfer between CG's:

values of solution variables in the overlapping(halo) region

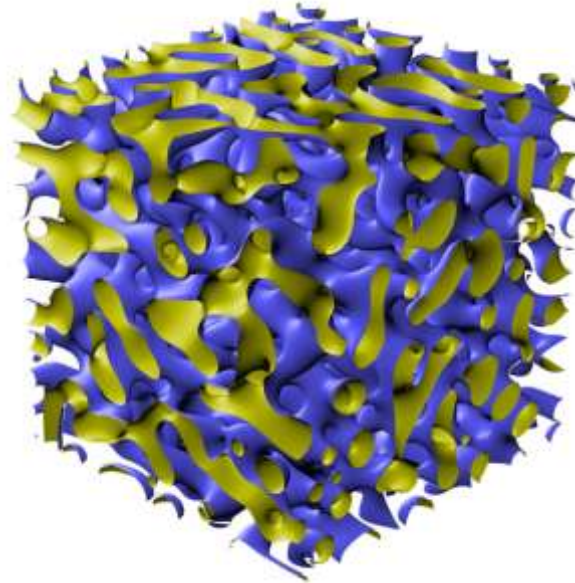
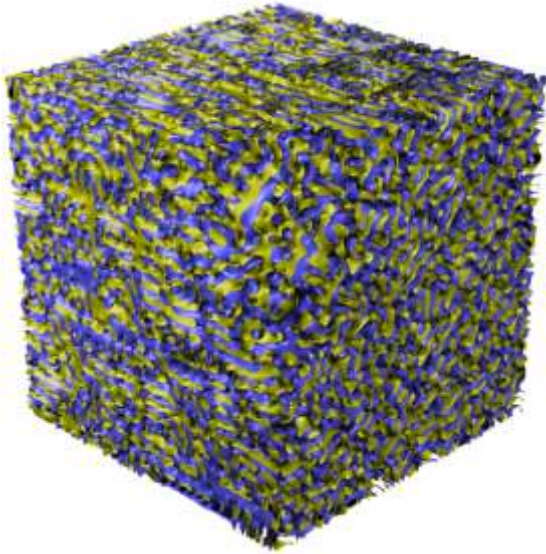
packing/unpacking CPE's via DMA

transfer MPE via MPI

I/O: MPE, asynchronous.

Coarsening dynamics simulation

Coarsening determined in both fields: CH equation with constant mobility



63 billion grid points(3972^3), 20,000 time steps, error in coarsening rate 1%.

2 million MPE and CPE cores(32,768 core groups), at 0.16sec/step, total time <1hr.

Coarsening dynamics simulation

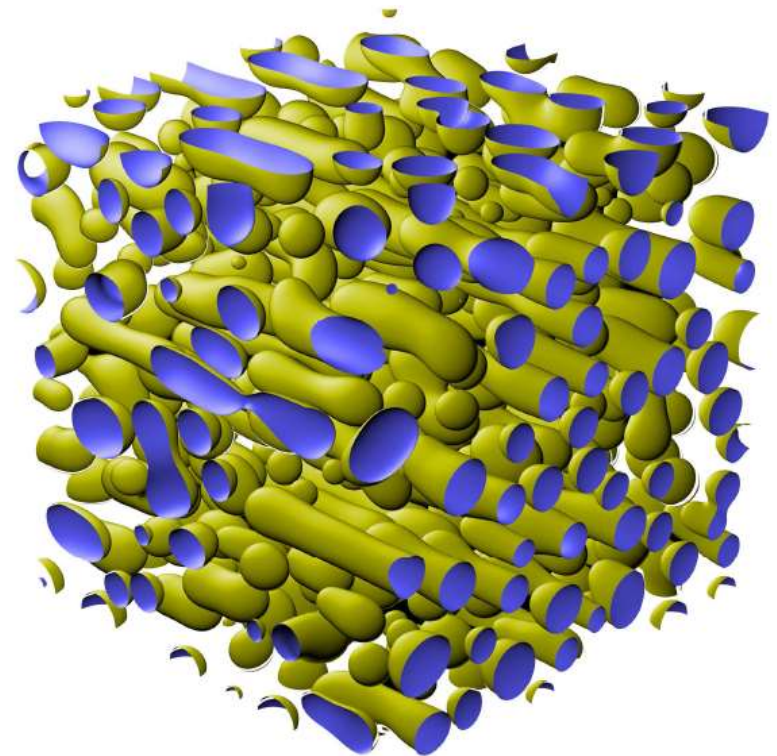
Coarsening dominated by interfacial diffusion : mobility degenerates in the two phases

slower, more nonlinear and stiff.

Different models and parameters.

63 billion grid points(3972^3),
20,000 - 100,000 time steps

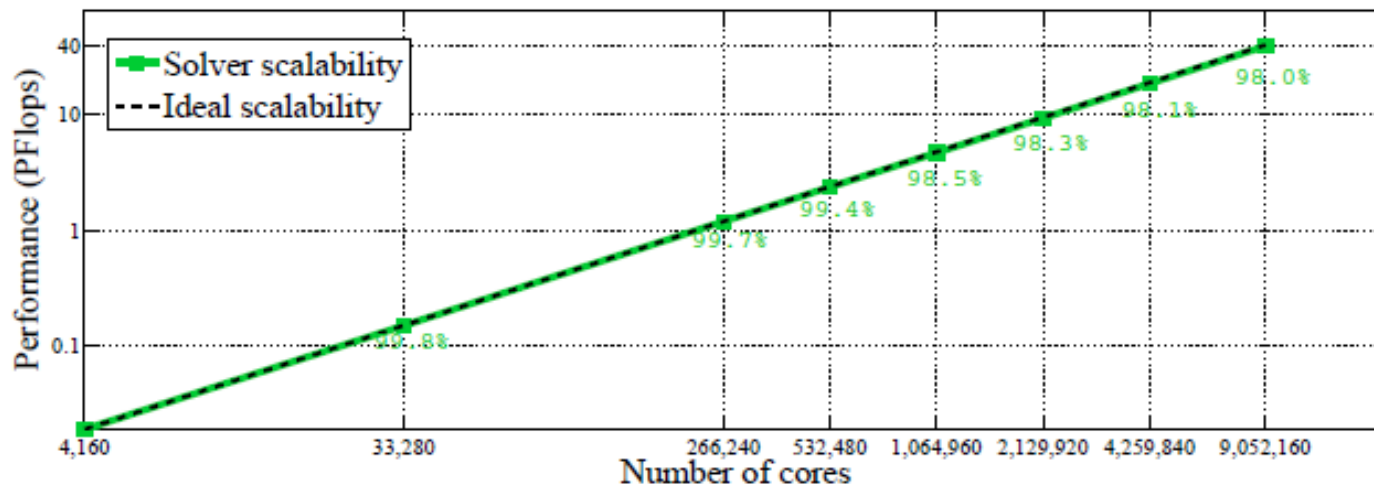
2 million MPE and CPE cores(32,768 core
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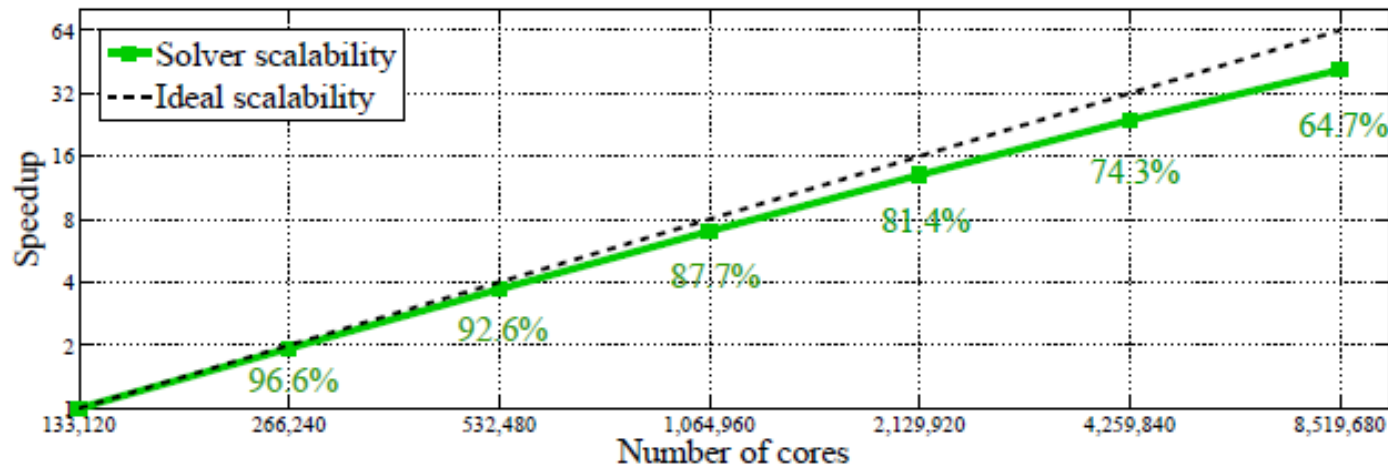
Grains in various sizes and shapes coexist, revealing transition to columnar like morphologies with unprecedented precision and details (previously reported experiments have been largely limited to resolutions with at most a handful cylinder-like structure in the computational domain).

Performance and scaling

Weak scaling, up to 18.3 trillion grid points



Strong scaling, 0.27 trillion grid points.





Thanks!