



QUESTEK®

INNOVATIONS LLC

**Using digital twins to accelerate
qualification and certification of fatigue
critical components**

Gary Whelan, Jiadong Gong, Greg Olson



Empowering innovators by resolving materials challenges

CORPORATE PROFILE

**QuesTek
Innovations HQ** ★
Evanston, IL

★ **QuesTek Europe AB**
Stockholm, Sweden

★ **QuesTek Japan KK**
Tokyo, Japan

Headquarters: Illinois • Founded in 1997 • 25+ Engineers • 20+ Ph.D.'s



QUESTEK EXPERIENCE

Patents issued
and pending

32

Corporate
Engagements

400+

200+



SBIR/STTR
Projects awarded

First flight approved
"Cyber Steel"



CLIENT SUCCESS: HIGH-PERFORMANCE ALLOYS

“ From clean sheet alloy design to flight, this ICME-based program demonstrates the goals set by the 2011 Materials Genome Initiative. ”

NIST Report (2018)



Ferrium ® M54 ® Hookshank

Novel Materials improve existing products



MOTIVATION

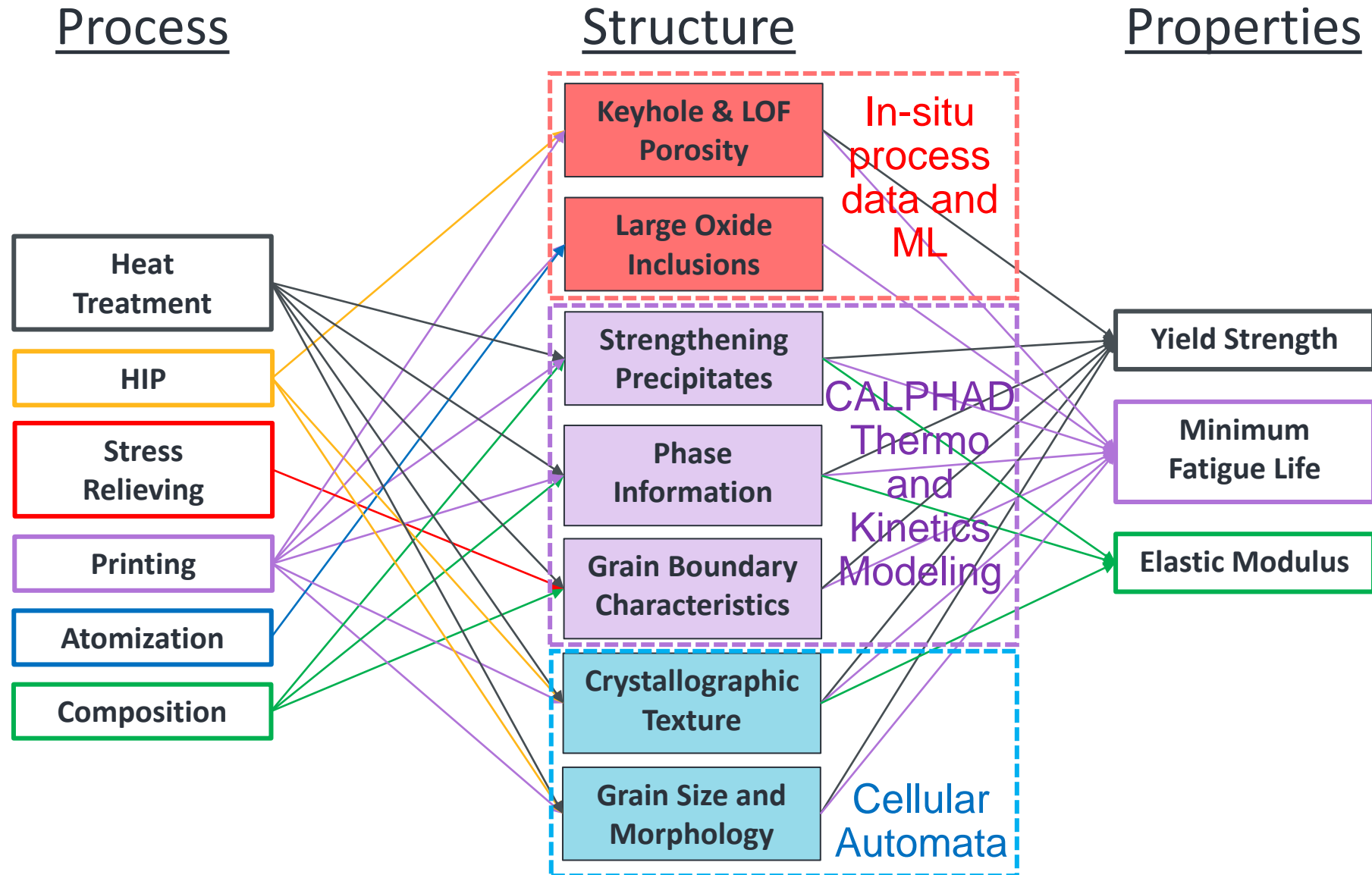
IMPROVE RELIABILITY
AND REDUCE
COST/TIME FOR
QUALIFICATION OF
FATIGUE CRITICAL
ADDITIVELY
MANUFACTURED
ALLOYS

Outline

- Digital Twin for material PSP system
- Accelerated Insertion of Materials (AIM)
- Multi-Stage Fatigue
- Microstructure Sensitive Fatigue Modeling
- ICMD[®] Software demo

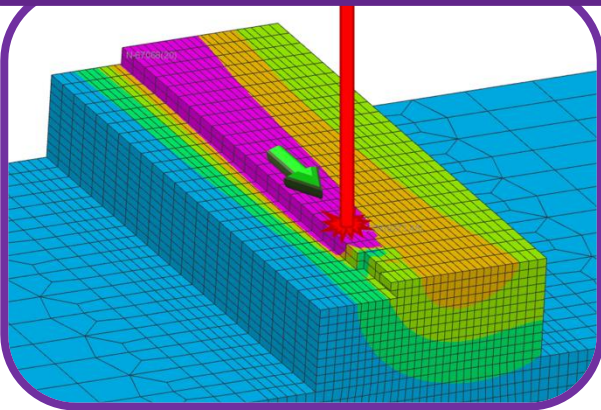
Digital Twin for material PSP system

PROCESS-STRUCTURE-PROPERTY MAP

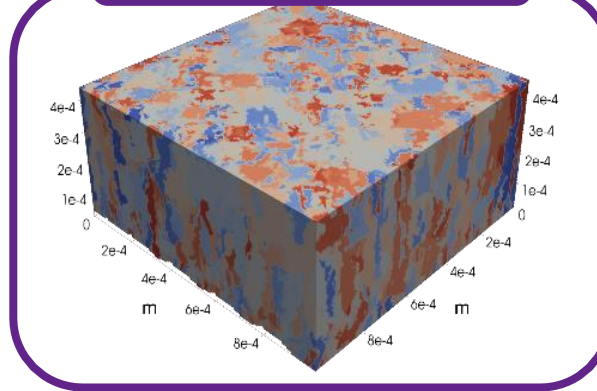


PROCESS-STRUCTURE-PROPERTY MODELING

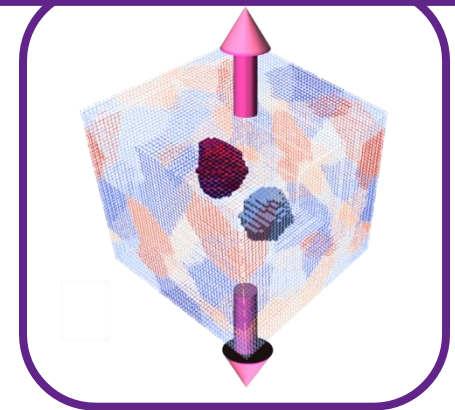
AM Process Simulation



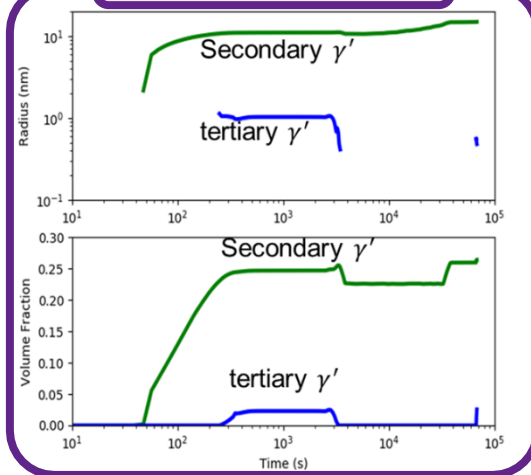
Grain Structure



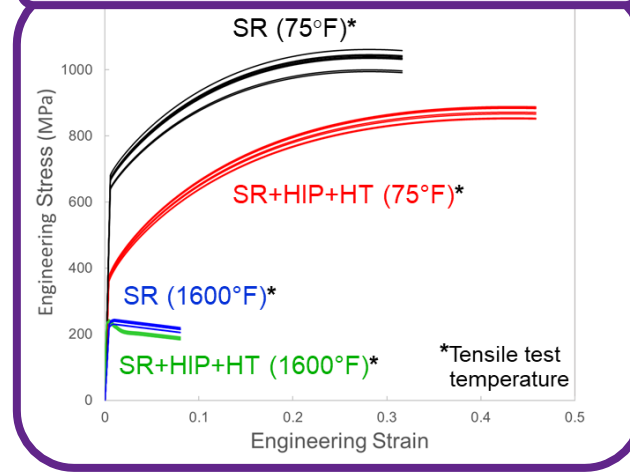
Crystal Plasticity Fatigue



CALPHAD



Strength and Ductility



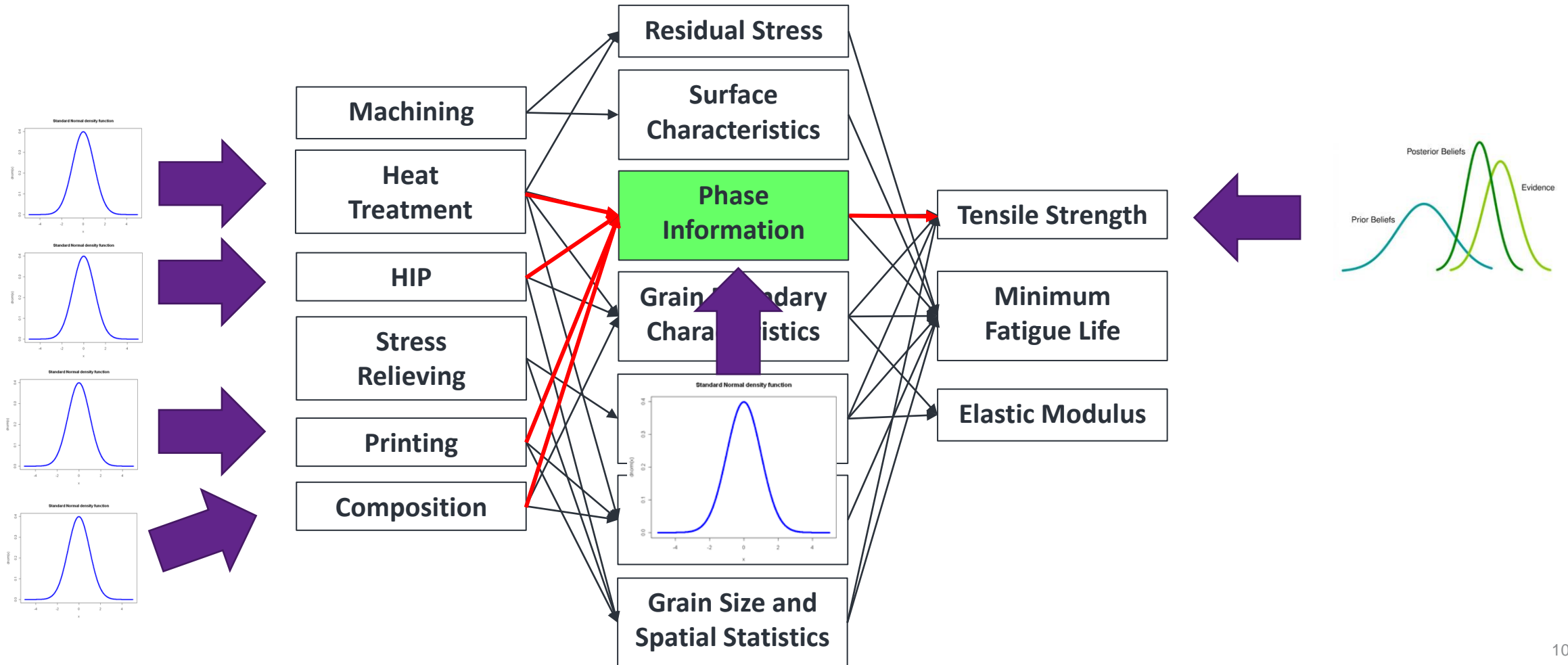
Accelerated Insertion of Materials

ACCELERATED INSERTION OF MATERIALS (AIM)

Process

Structure

Properties



AIM APPLIED TO TENSILE STRENGTH OF AM IN718+

Mechanistic
Property Models



Property Predictions
(TYS, UTS, RT-1000°F)



Design Allowables
Forecasting

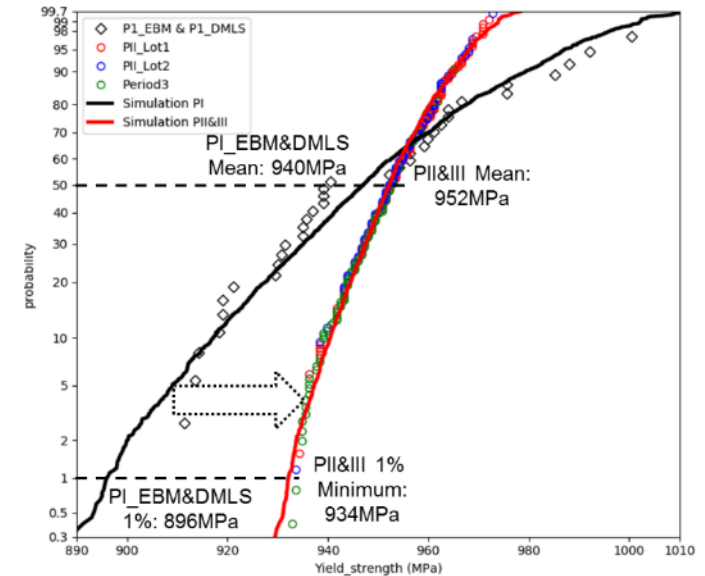
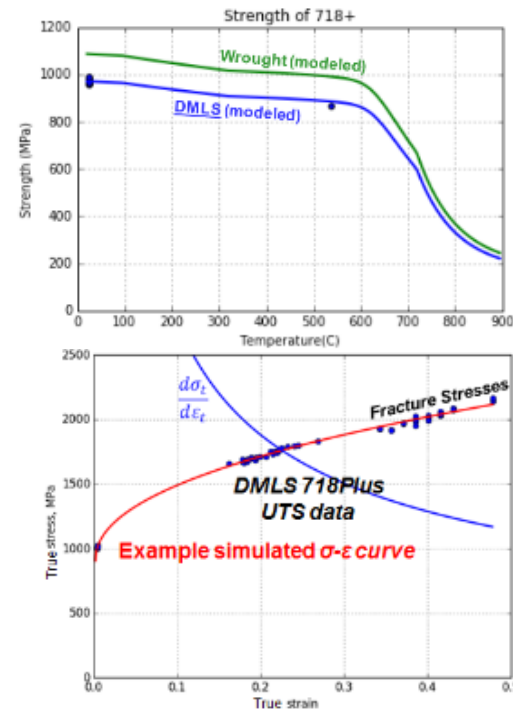
$$\sigma_{yield} = \sigma_{yield}(D_{gr}; f_{\gamma}; f_{\gamma'_p}; f_{\delta}; f_{\gamma'_s}; r; Y_{APB})$$

$$= f_{\gamma+\gamma'_s} \sigma_{\gamma+\gamma'_s} + f_{\gamma'_p} \sigma_{\gamma'_p} + f_{\delta} \sigma_{\delta}$$

$\sigma_{\gamma'_p} = \sigma_0^{Ni_3Al} + \Delta\sigma^{SS}(C_i)$ Strength of δ phase extracted from YS of soln. treated material
 Strengthening in primary γ' due to base strength of Ni_3Al and solid solution strengthening

$$\sigma_{(\gamma+\gamma'_s)} = \sigma^{HP}(D_{gr}) + \sigma^{SS}(C_i) + \sigma^{Pprecip}(f_{\gamma'_s}; r; Y_{APB})$$

Strengthening in γ matrix includes grain size, solid solution and secondary γ' precipitate strengthening

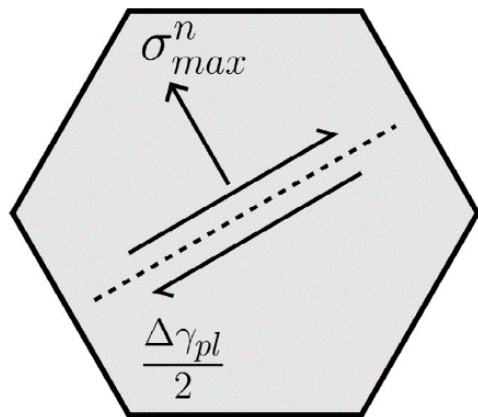


Modeling-informed heat treatment optimization resulted in mean YS improvement from 940 to 952 MPa and 1% min. YS improvement from 896 to 934 MPa

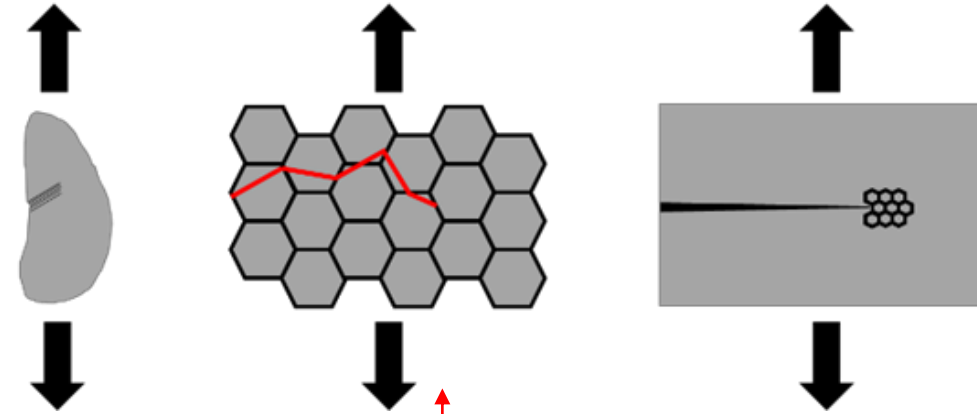
Multi-Stage Fatigue

MULTI-STAGE FATIGUE

Incubation occurs at persistent slip bands or pre-existing defects at the sub grain scale

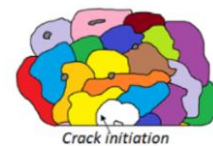


[1]



Microstructurally small cracks grow through several grains, being slowed by grain boundaries and meandering to the path of least resistance

Physically long cracks begin once the plastic zone at the crack tip becomes appreciably larger than grains, resulting in an averaging effect such that crack follows linear elastic fracture mechanics



Crack initiation

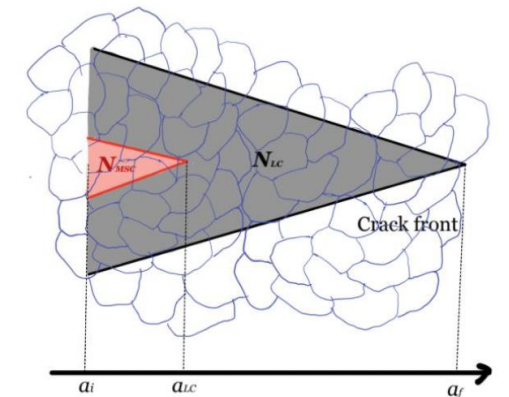


Crack growth (step 1)



Crack growth (step 2)

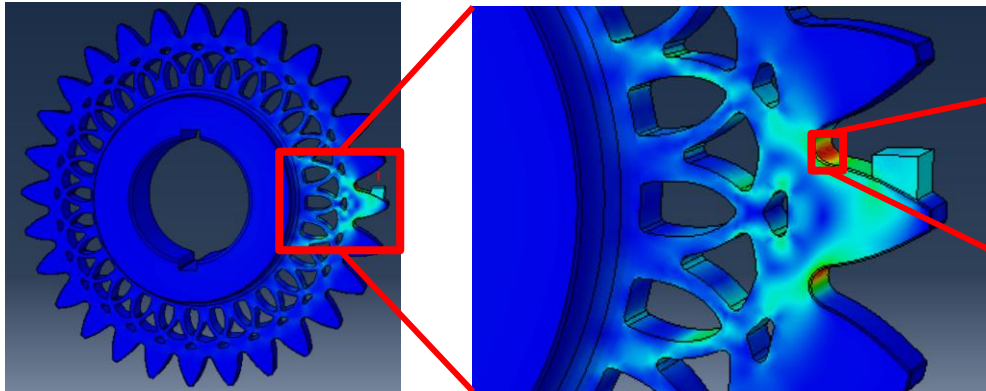
[2]



[3]

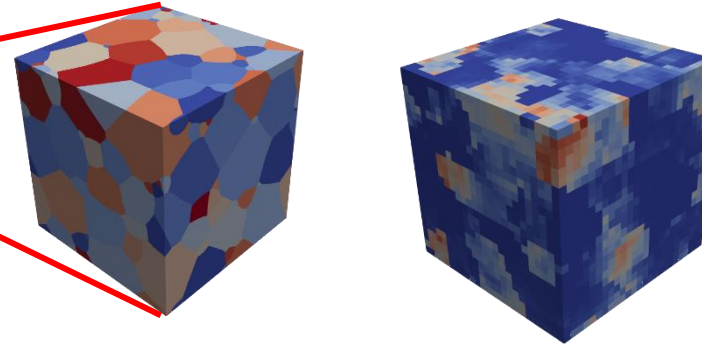
MULTI-STAGE FATIGUE

1. Identify key stress hot spots from component scale loading conditions

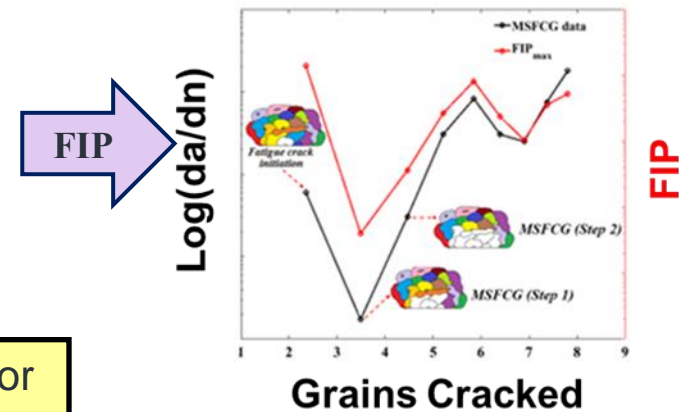


2. Apply microstructure sensitive fatigue modeling framework at mesoscale to predict component life

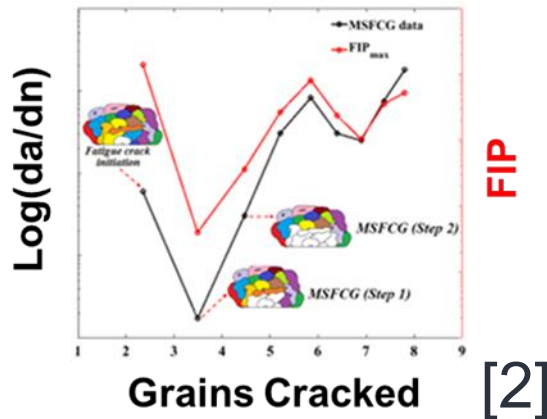
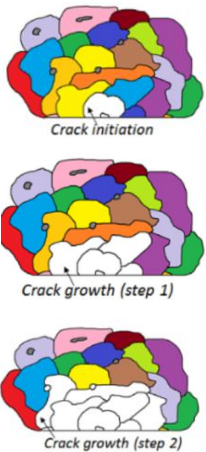
Localized plastic strain



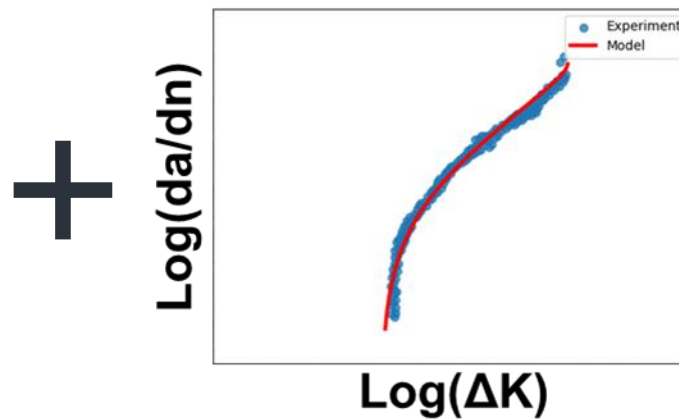
Microstructurally small crack growth



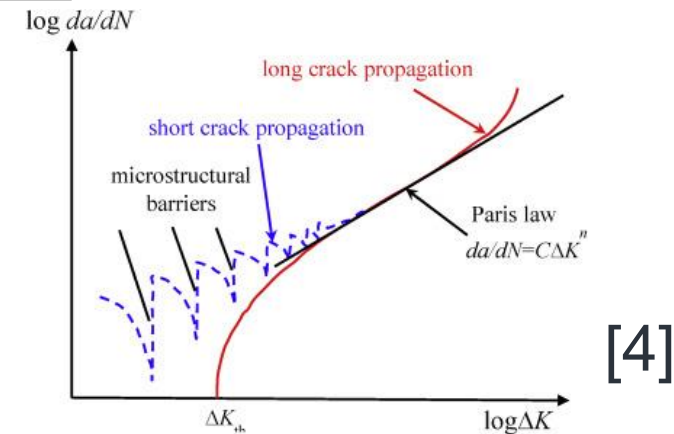
3. Combine microstructurally small crack and long crack models for full component life in high or low cycle fatigue



Microstructurally small cracks - CPFEM



Physically long cracks – Modified-NASGRO



Full Fatigue Life

[4]

Micro-Structure Sensitive Fatigue Crack Initiation

FATIGUE CRACK INITIATION MODEL

Grain structure

Crystallographic texture

Phase Fractions

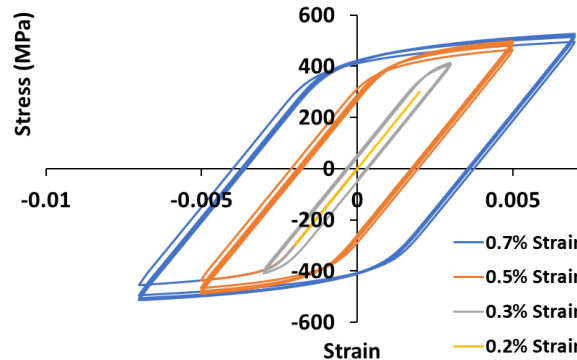
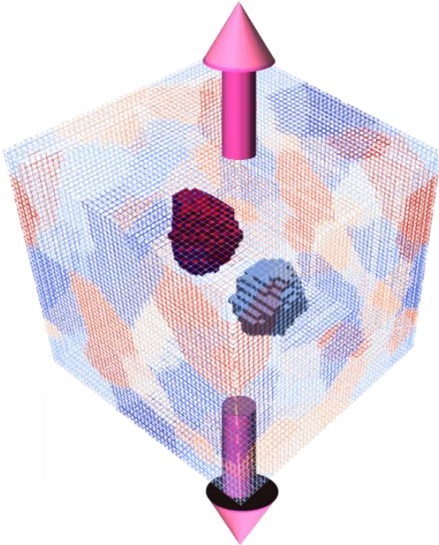
Surface Roughness

Precipitates

Porosity/Inclusions

Crystal Plasticity Finite Element Modeling (CPFEM)

Cyclic Stress-Strain



Fatigue life data

Fatigue Indicator Parameters

Minimum Fatigue Life

Crystal Plasticity Fatigue Modeling

Simulates:

- Crack Initiation and MSC Growth
- Low- and High-Cycle Fatigue

Used For:

- Minimum Fatigue Life
- Component-scale Performance

Calibrated with:

- Cyclic (10) stress-strain data
 - 2 Strain Ratios ($R=-1, 0.1$)
 - 2 Orientations
- VHCF Fatigue life data

CHARACTERIZATION AND DIGITAL TWIN

EBSD

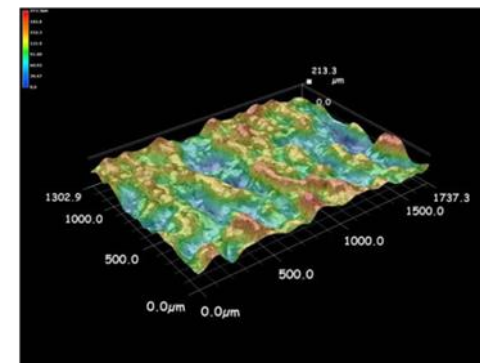
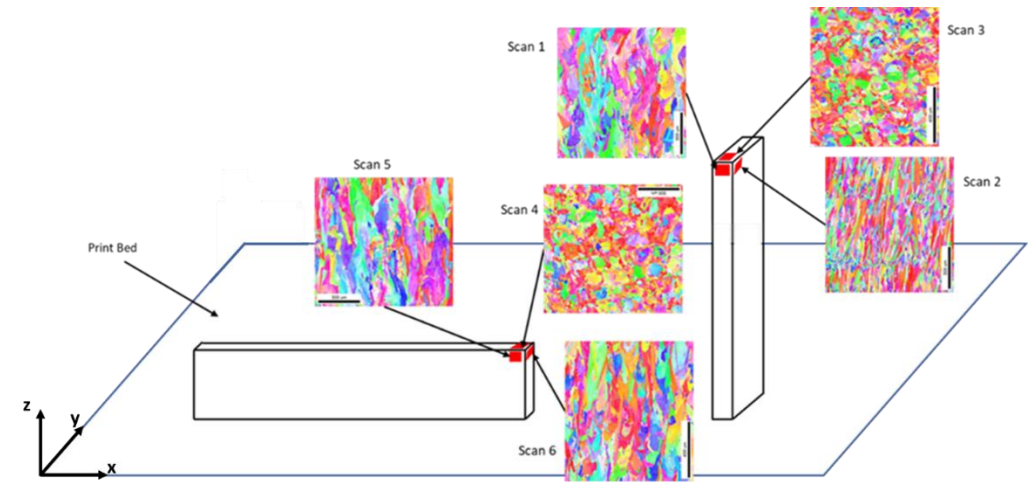
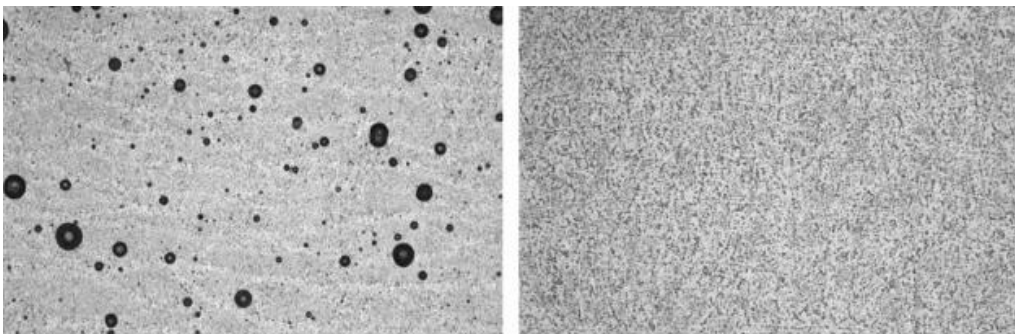
- Grain size
- Volume fractions
- Crystallographic Texture

Coherence Scanning Interferometer-based 3D Surface Analysis

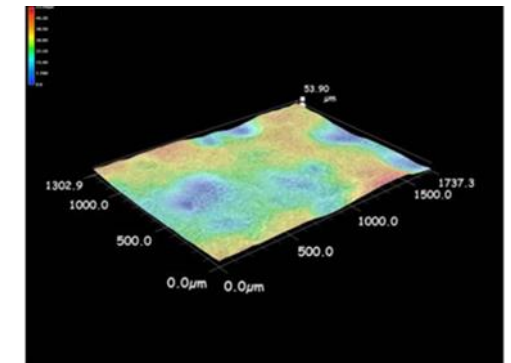
- As-built surface roughness
- Post-processed surface roughness

SEM

- Porosity statistics (pre- and post-HIP)
- Inclusion statistics and chemistry (From EDS)



As-Printed

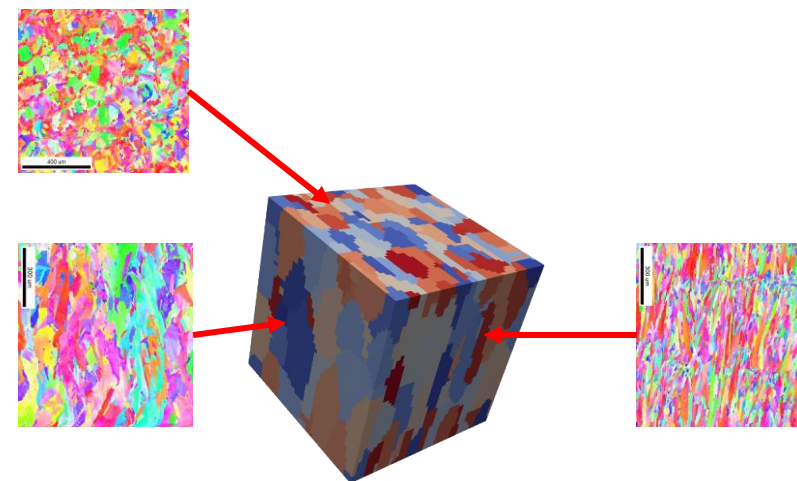
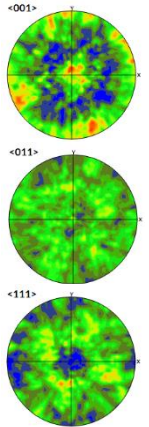
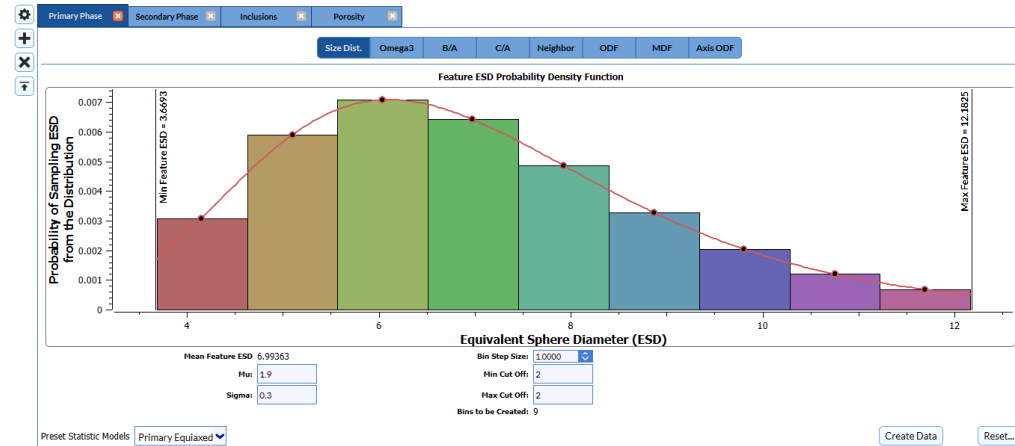
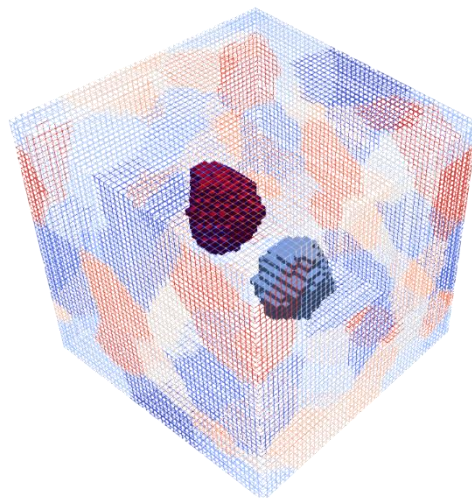
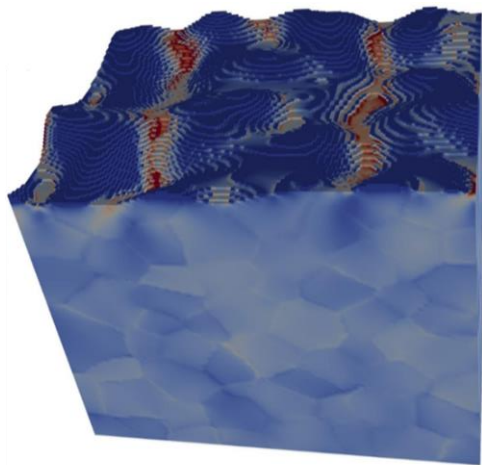


Surface Finished

[5]

CHARACTERIZATION AND DIGITAL TWIN

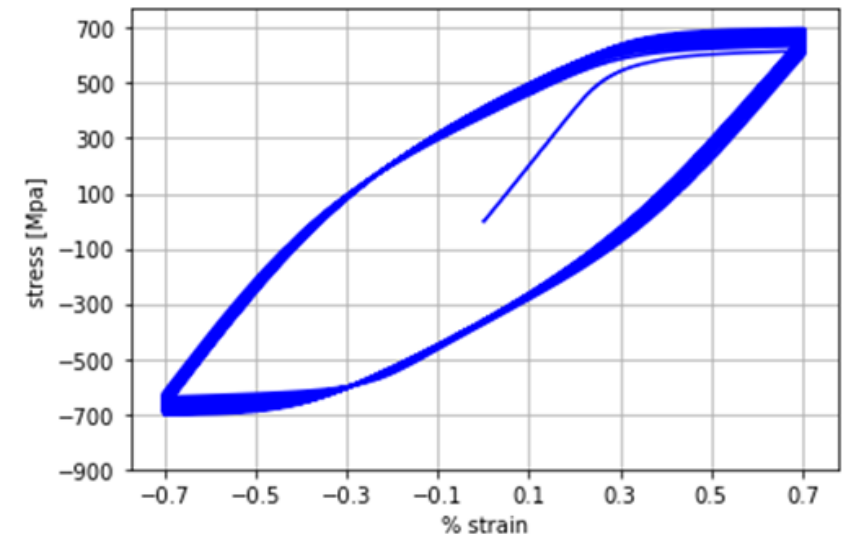
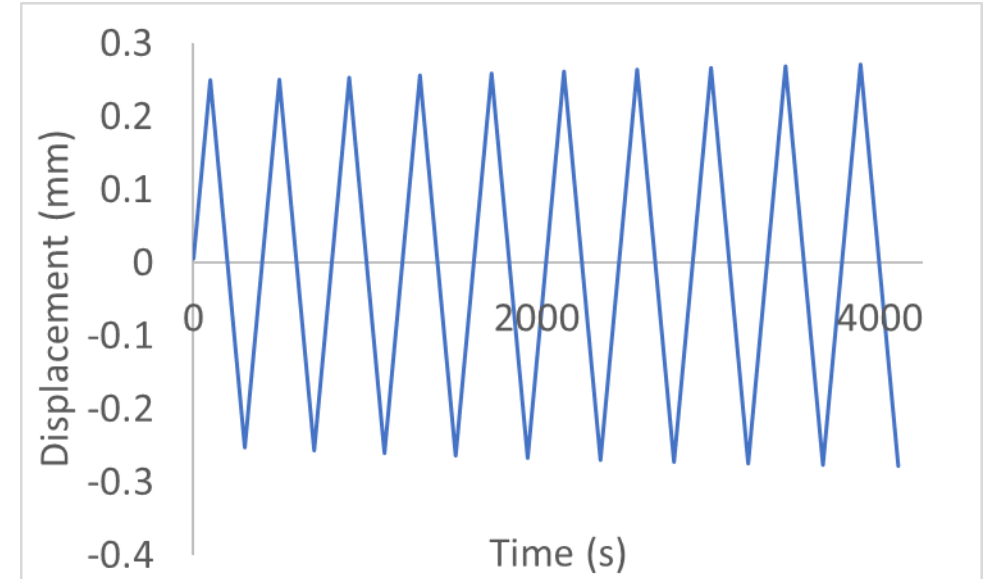
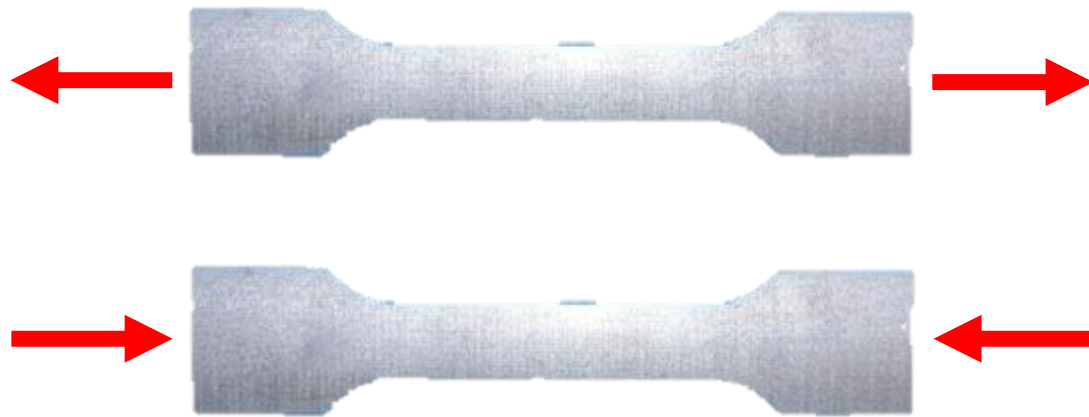
- Generate digital microstructures with appropriate grain morphology, phases, and crystallographic texture
- Add surface roughness, porosity/inclusions to digital microstructures



[6]

MODEL CALIBRATION

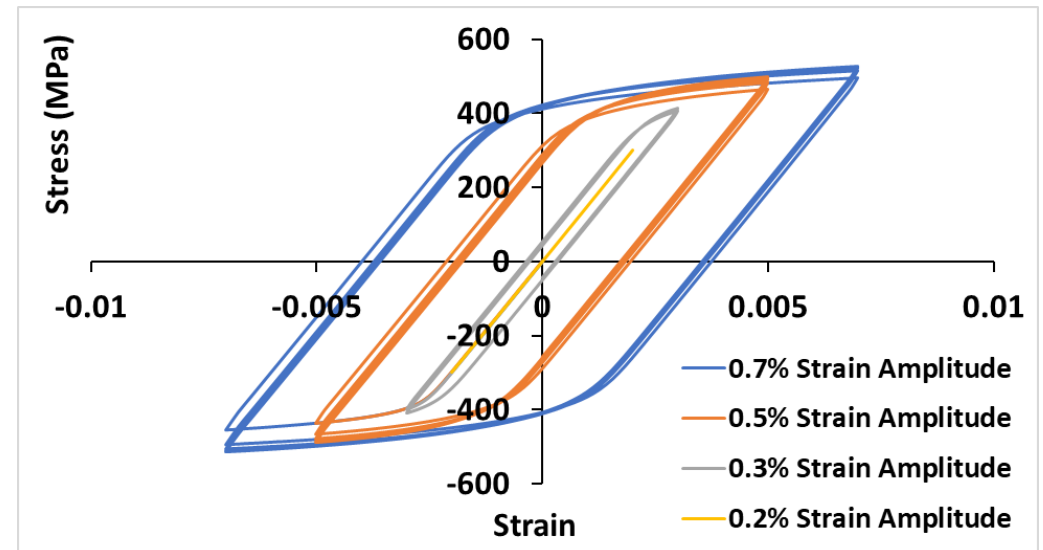
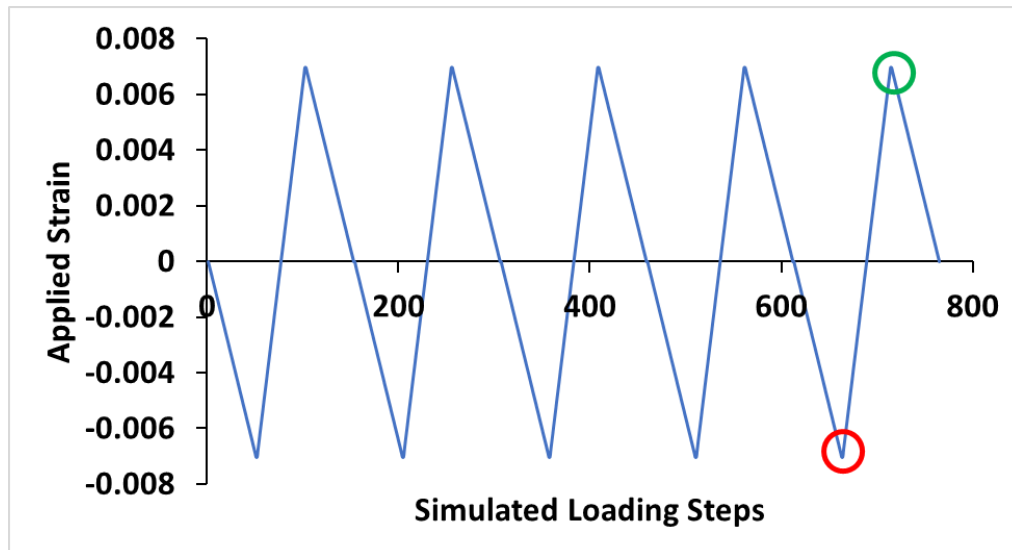
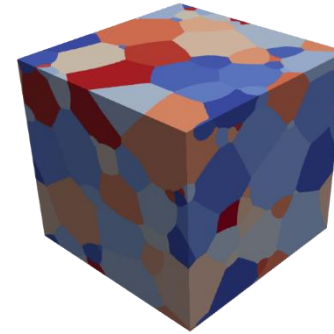
- Conduct cyclic tensile/compressive tests on coupons in Z (build) direction and XY (orthogonal) direction for ~10 cycles
- Alternatively yield strength and modulus of elasticity can be predicted using mechanistic models to calibrate CPFEM model



FATIGUE INDICATOR PARAMETERS

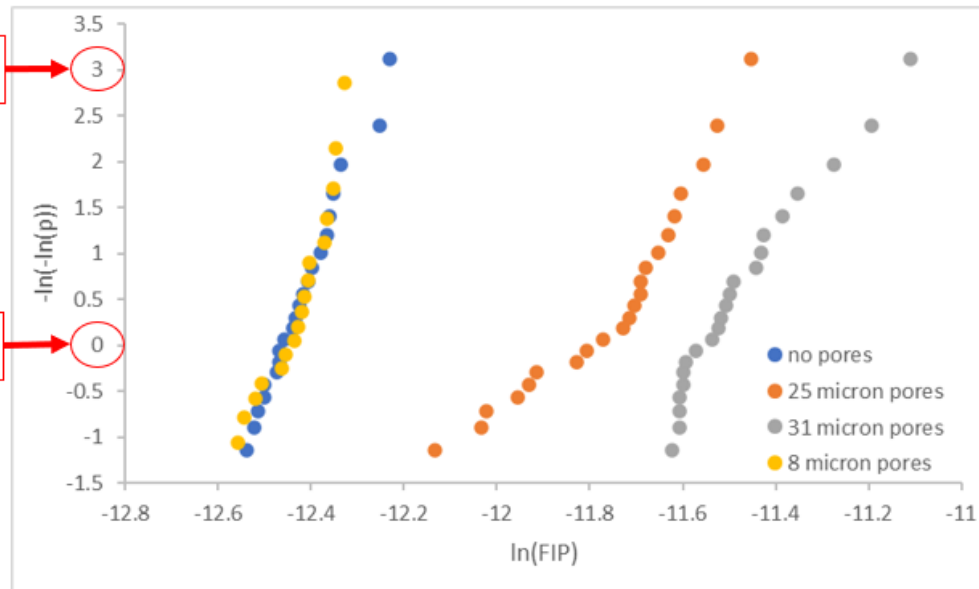
- Fatigue indicator parameters are a surrogate measure of driving forces for fatigue crack initiation and microstructurally small crack growth

$$FIP_{FS} = \frac{\Delta \bar{\gamma}_{\max}^p}{2} \left[1 + k \frac{\bar{\sigma}_{\max}^n}{\sigma_y} \right]$$



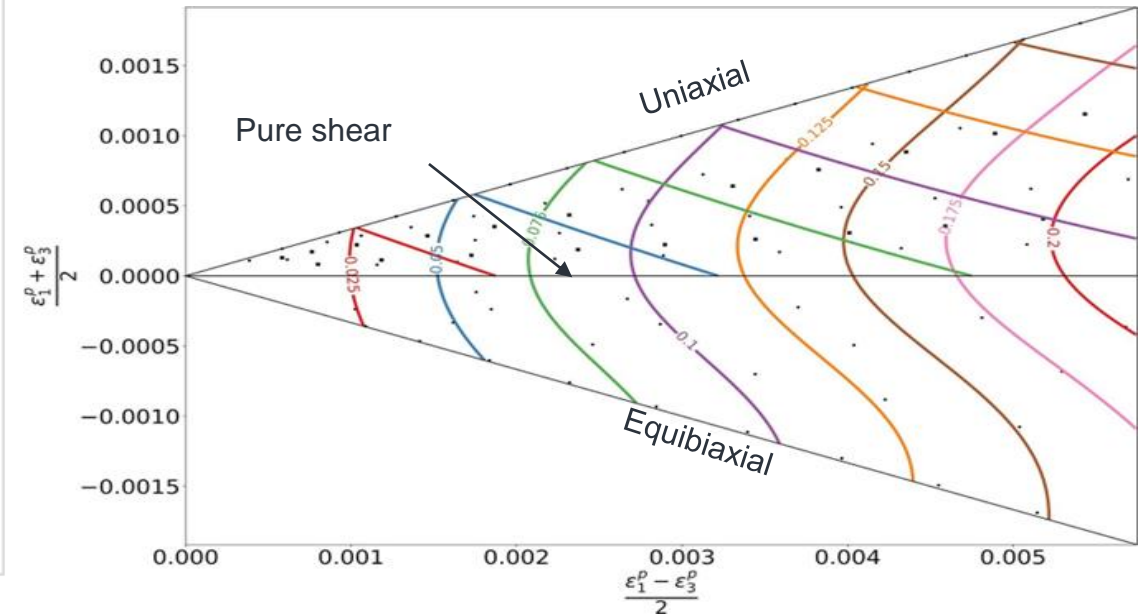
FIP ANALYSIS USE CASES

- Example 1 – Study of effect of maximum pore size on fatigue performance in AM Ti64 can be used to determine critical pore size



HIP optimization for HCF life

- Example 2 – iso-FIP contour showing fatigue performance in complex strain states can be used for topological optimization of fatigue critical components

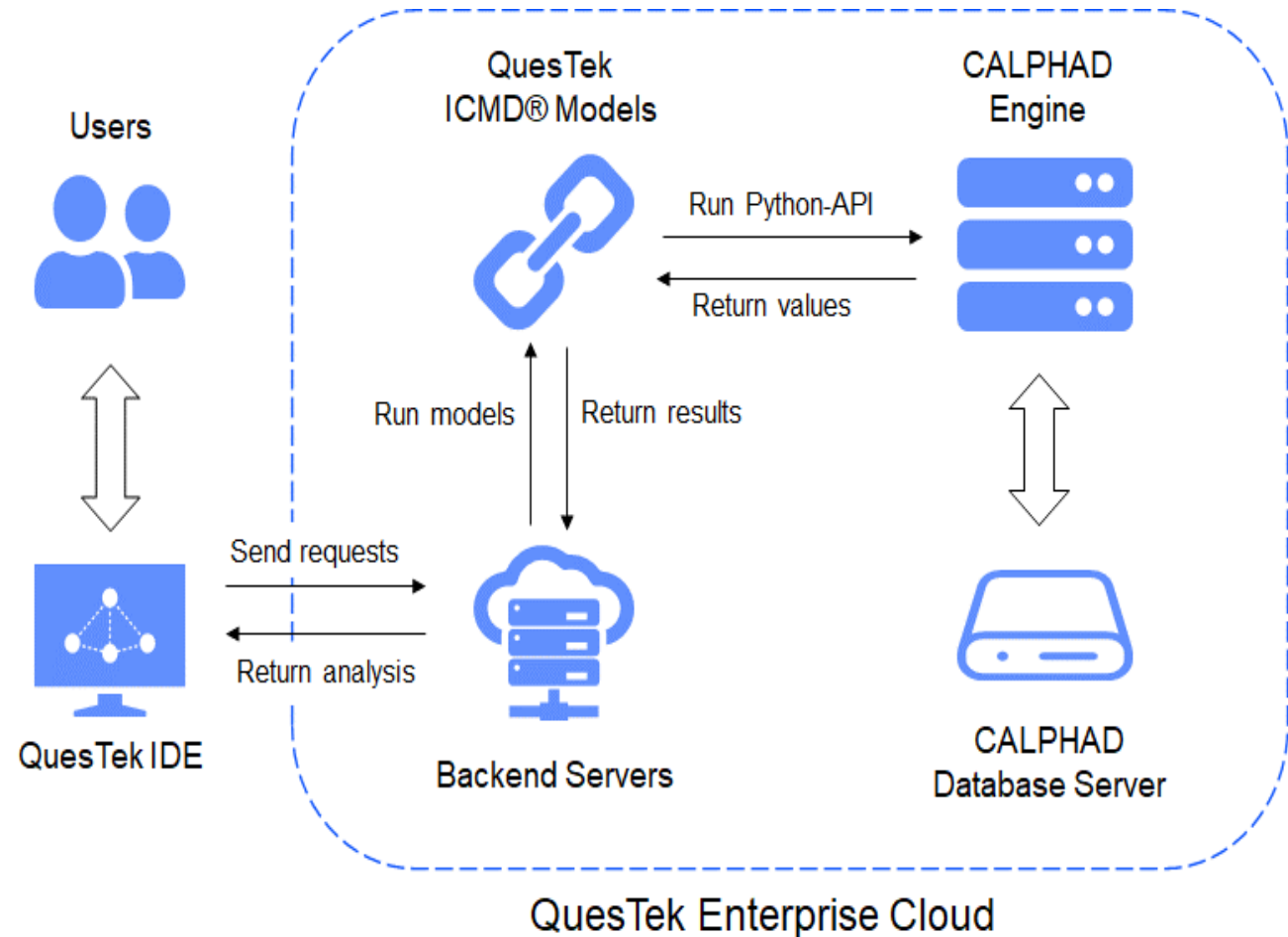


Fatigue sensitive TopOp

ICMD[®] Software Platform

ICMD[®] PLATFORM

- Productizing our proven library of software, databases, models, and analytics: ICMD[®]
- Platform toolkits:
 - Alloy Design
 - Alloy Qualification
 - CALPHAD ('24)
 - **Fatigue Simulation ('24)**
 - Additive Simulation ('24)
- Packaged as a SaaS offering via web-accessible cloud-based Integrated Digital Environment
- Licensing and subscription availability next month!



REFERENCES

1. Pineau, André, David L. McDowell, Esteban P. Busso, and Stephen D. Antolovich. "Failure of metals II: Fatigue." *Acta Materialia* 107 (2016): 484-507.
2. Yeratapally, Saikumar R., Patrick E. Leser, Jacob D. Hochhalter, William P. Leser, and Timothy J. Ruggles. "A digital twin feasibility study (Part I): Non-deterministic predictions of fatigue life in aluminum alloy 7075-T651 using a microstructure-based multi-scale model." *Engineering Fracture Mechanics* 228 (2020): 106888.
3. Suresh S. *Fatigue of materials*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press; 2003. p. 543
4. Chowdhury, P., and H. Sehitoglu. "Mechanisms of fatigue crack growth—a critical digest of theoretical developments." *Fatigue & Fracture of Engineering Materials & Structures* 39, no. 6 (2016): 652-674.
5. <http://pencerw.com/feed/2016/11/29/ebm-and-chemical-surface-finishing>
6. Stopka, Krzysztof S., Mohammadreza Yaghoobi, John E. Allison, and David L. McDowell. "Microstructure-Sensitive modeling of surface roughness and notch effects on extreme value fatigue response." *International Journal of Fatigue* 166 (2023): 107295.



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