

# Numerical Study on the Concrete Microstructure using Image-based Virtual Element Method

Hyeong-Tae Kim, PhD

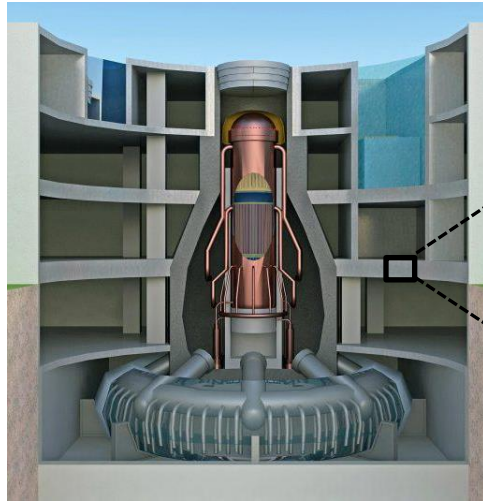
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May 31, 2023

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Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea



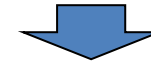
# Motivation



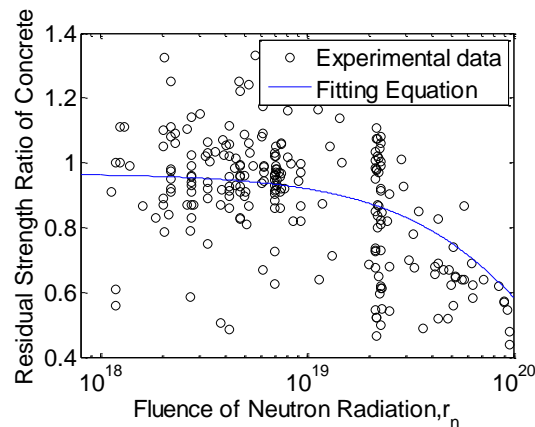
## Concrete Microstructure Analysis



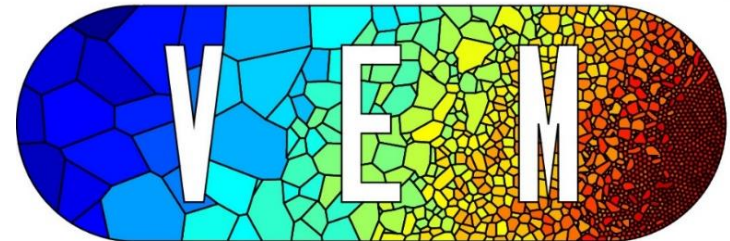
- Complexity of microstructure
- Wide range of length scale



Discretization of **complex-geometry** mesh  
Number of elements **increase**



## Virtual Element Method



- K. Park, H.T. Kim, T.H. Kwon, and E. Choi, 2016, *Nuclear Engineering and Design* 310, 15-26
- Pignatelli, I., Kumar, A., Field, K.G., Wang, B., Yu, Y., Le Pape, Y., Bauchy, M. and Sant, G., 2016. *Scientific Reports*, 6, 20155
- Maruyama, I., Kontani, O., Takizawa, M., Sawada, S., Ishikawao, S., Yasukouchi, J., ... Igari, T. 2017. *Journal of Advanced Concrete Technology*, 15(9), 440–523.
- Choi, H., Chi, H., Park, K., & Paulino, G. H. 2021. *International Journal of Numerical Methods in Engineering*, 122(1), 25-52

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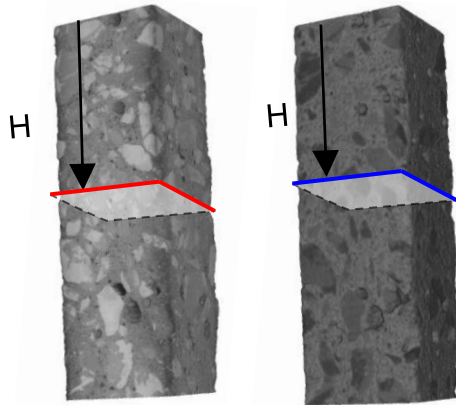


# Image Preparation

## □ Concrete Specimen

Mix component		Content (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
Portland Cement		425	137.1
Water		166	166.0
Aggregate	Quartz sand [석영] 0-2 mm	525	198.1
	Gabbro [반려암] 2-8 mm	1267	448.0
Admixture	Plasticizer	2.89	2.8
	Air entraining agent	0.77	0.7

## □ Computed Tomography



**Specimen size = 20 x 20 x 80 mm**

**X-ray CT pixel size  $\approx 13.8 \mu\text{m}$**

**Neutron CT pixel size  $\approx 43.0 \mu\text{m}$**

V. Szilágyi, K. Gméling, Z. Kis, I. Harsányi, L. Szentmiklósi (2019). Neutron-based methods for the development of concrete. Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Brittle Matrix Composites, BMC 2019, 183-193

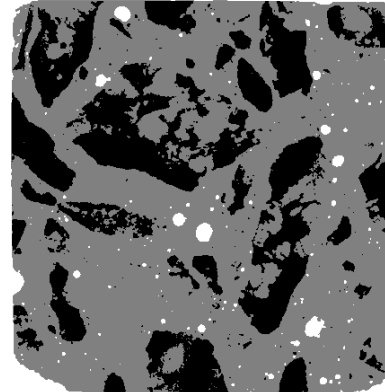
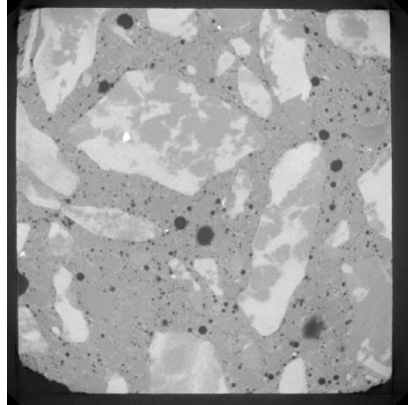
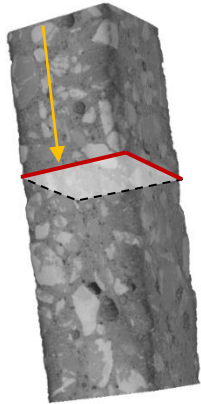
D.F.T. Razakamandimby, & K. Park. (2019). Characterization of air entrained concrete porosity using X-ray computed micro tomography image analysis. Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium on Brittle Matrix Composites, BMC 2019, 139-146



# Image Segmentation

## □ X-ray CT (Depend on the material density)

Image Segmentation : Otsu method



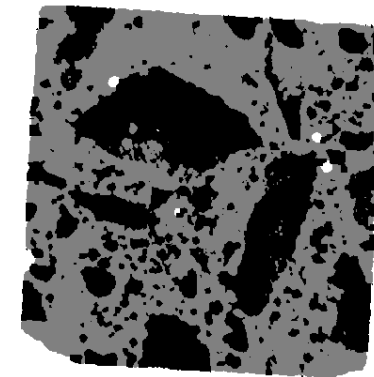
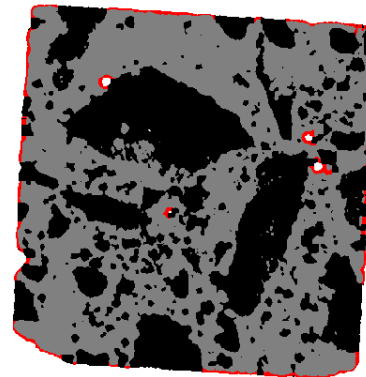
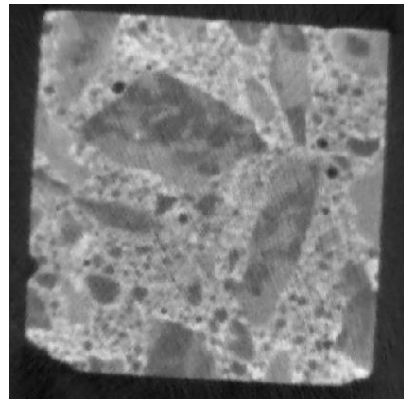
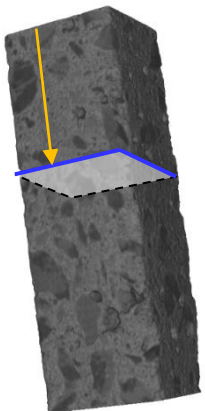
$$\rho_{Quartz} = 2.67 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

(Howie et al. 1992)

$$\rho_{C-S-H} = 2.604 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

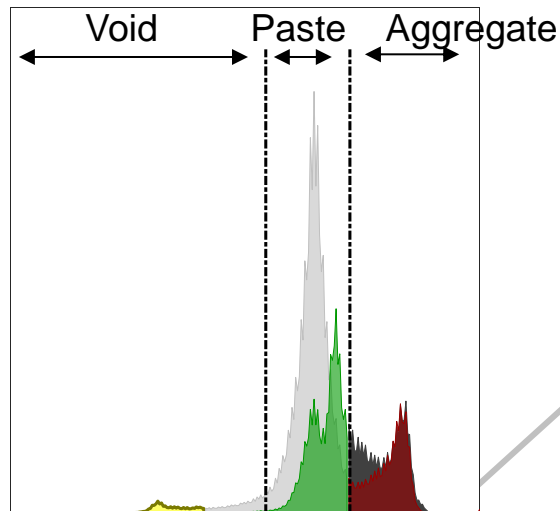
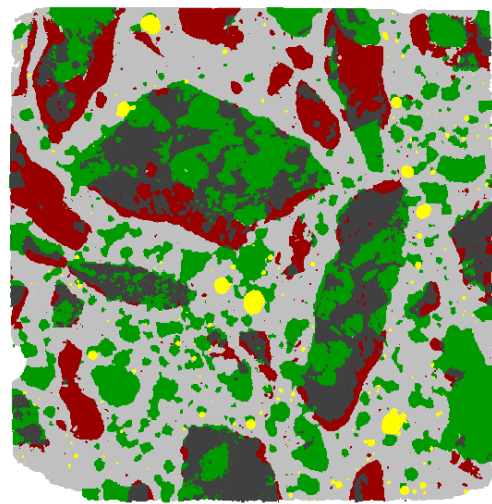
(Allen et al. 2007)

## □ Neutron CT (Depend on the hydrogen component)



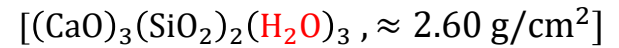
Remove partial volume effect

# Microstructure Reconstruction

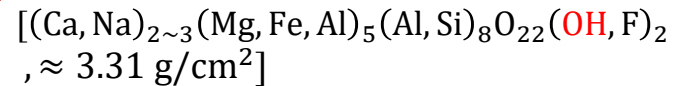


- Void
- Paste
- Aggregate (X-ray only)
- Aggregate (Neutron only)
- Aggregate (X-ray and neutron)

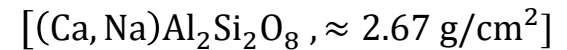
C-S-H (Paste)



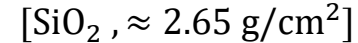
Hornblend [각섬석](Gabbro)



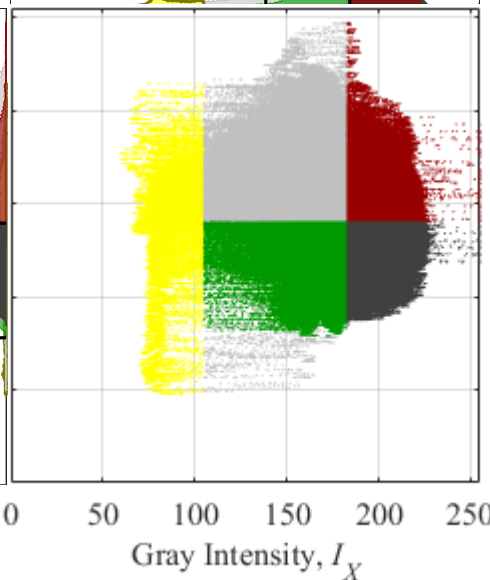
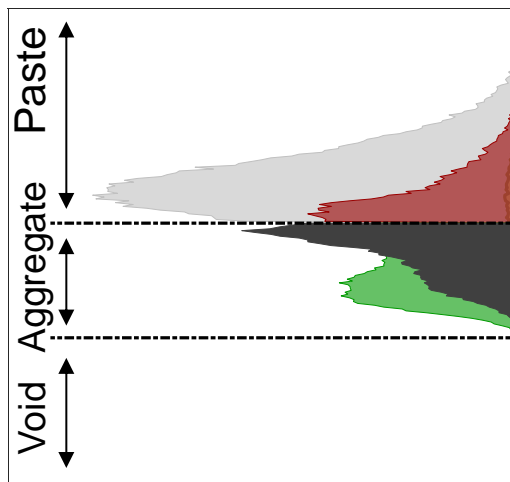
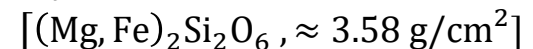
Plagioclase [사장석] (Gabbro)



Quartz [석영] (sand)



Pyroxene [휘석] (Gabbro)



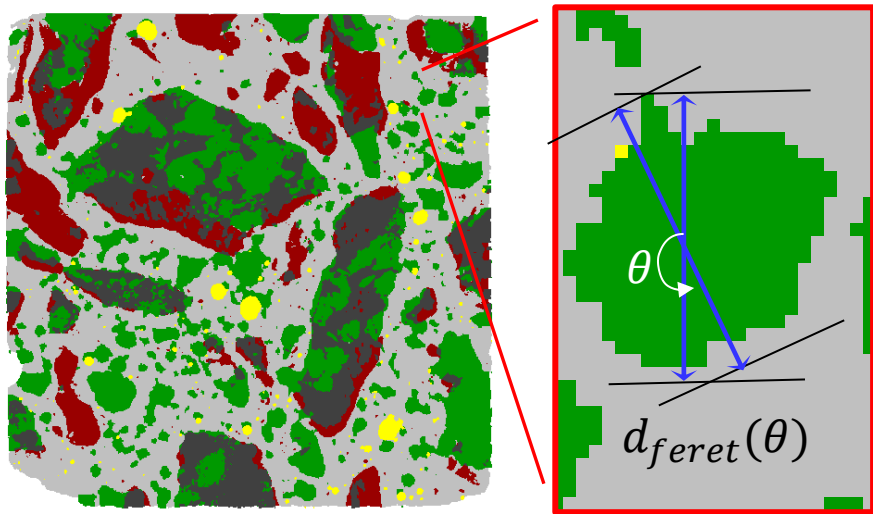
--- Otsu threshold

H.T. Kim, D.F.T. Razakamandimby, V. Szilagyi, K. Zoltan, L. Szentmiklosi, M.A. Glinicki, and K. Park, 2021 Reconstruction of concrete microstructure using complementarity of X-ray and neutron tomography, Cement and Concrete Research 148, 106540

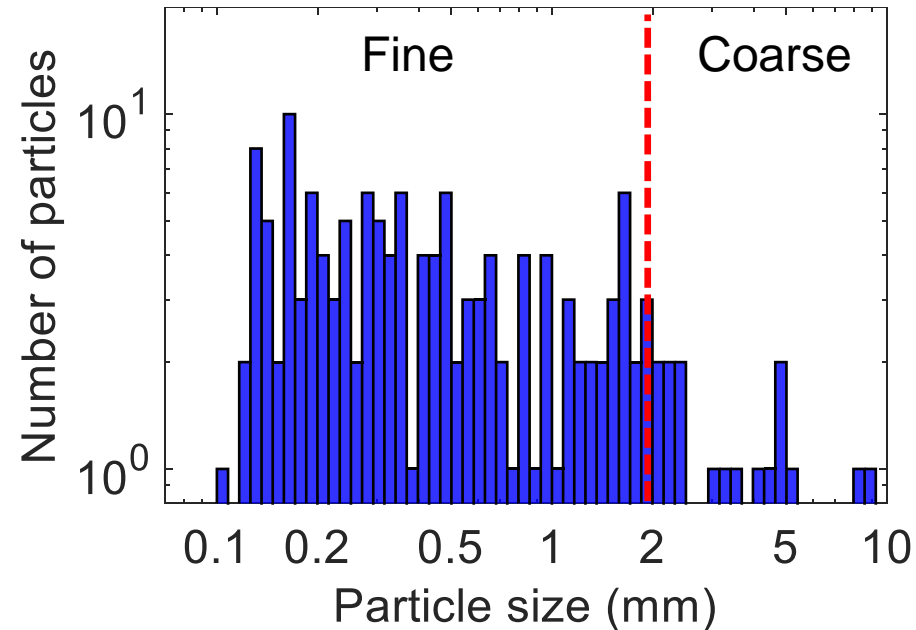


# Microstructure Reconstruction

## Aggregate Particle Size

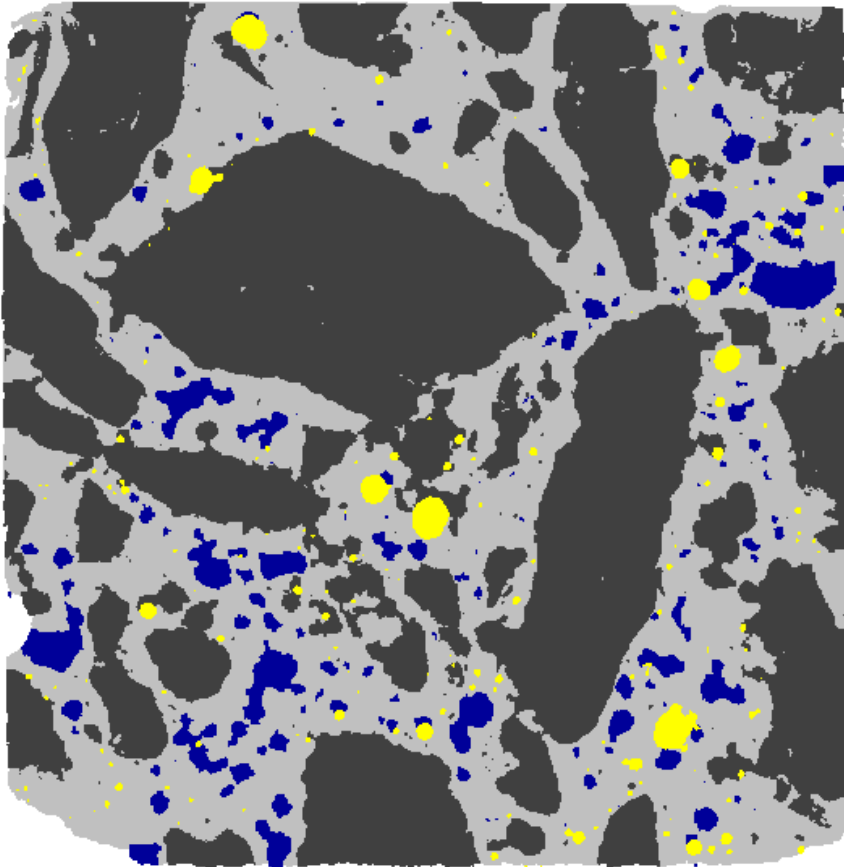


$$\text{Particle size} = \frac{1}{180} \sum_{i=1}^{180} d_{feret}(\theta_i)$$

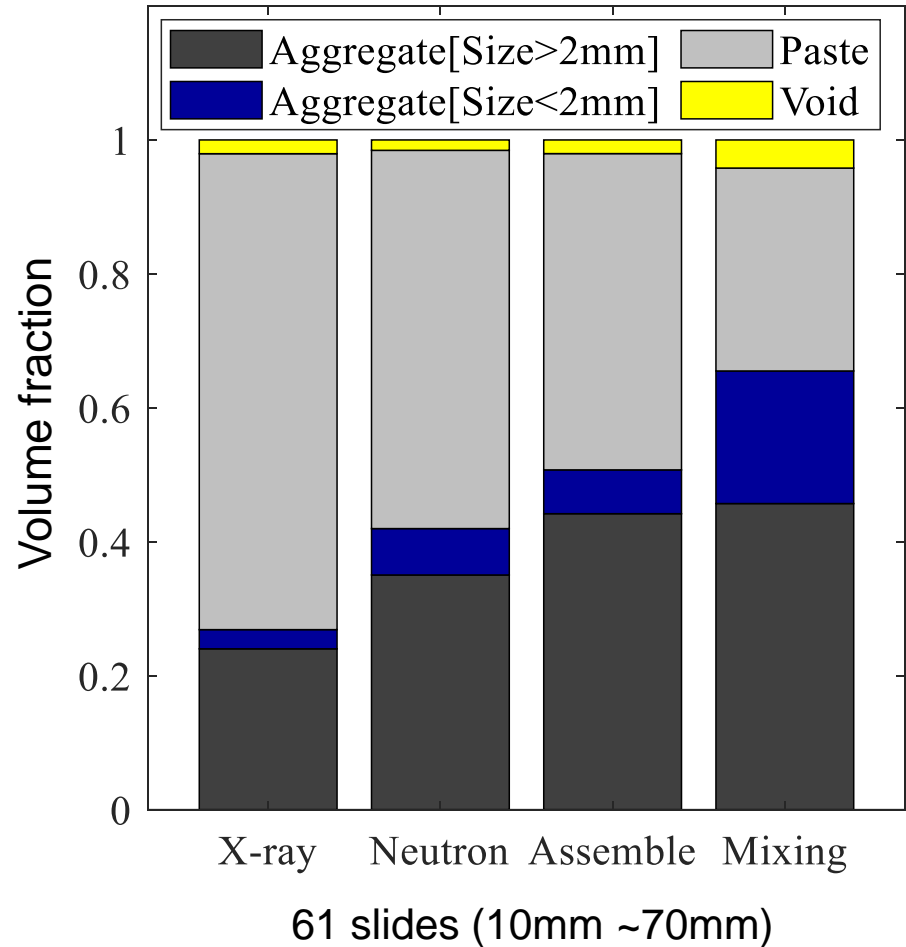


# Verification

## □ Microstructure

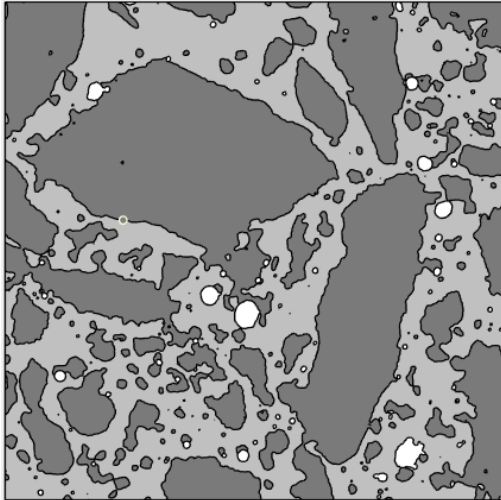


## □ Volume Fraction



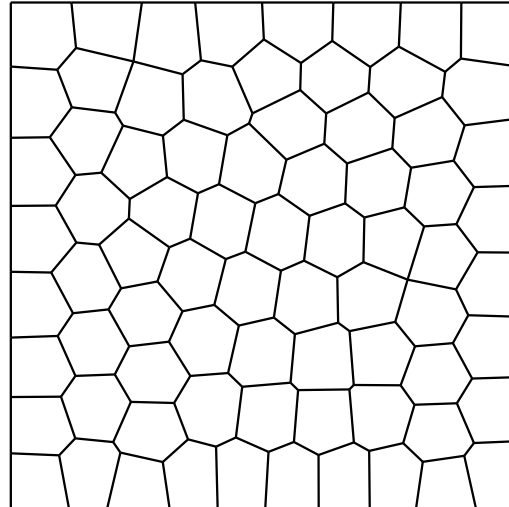
# Mesh Generation based on the Image

Microstructure

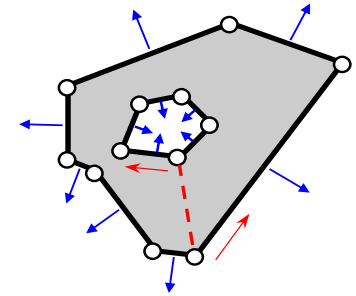
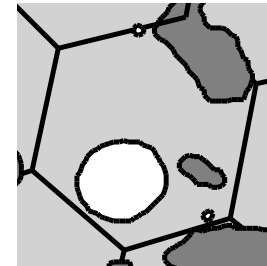


$n_{\text{elem}}$  of CVT = 75

Centroidal Voronoi Tessellation (CVT)



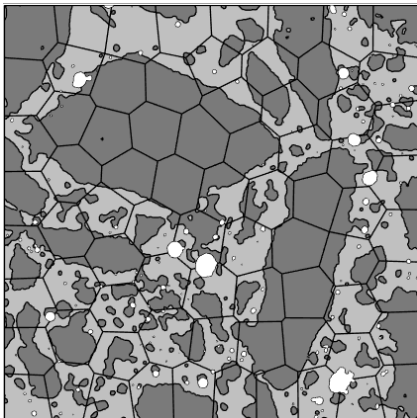
$n_{\text{elem}}$  of CVT = 300



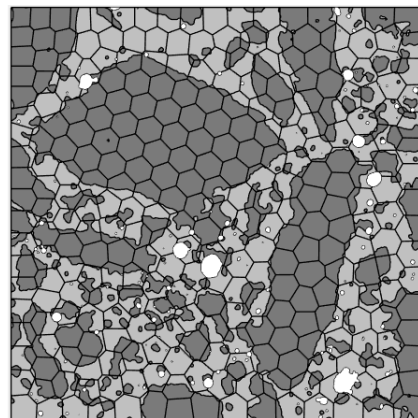
Non-simple Element

$n_{\text{elem}}$  of CVT = 2500

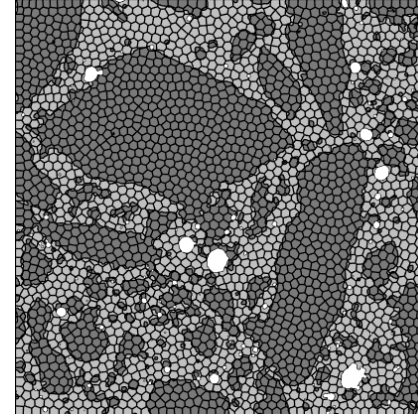
$n_{\text{elem}}$  of CVT = 10000



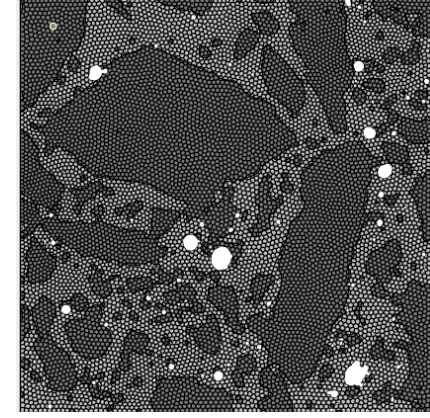
$n_{\text{elem}} = 264$



$n_{\text{elem}} = 432$



$n_{\text{elem}} = 2497$



$n_{\text{elem}} = 8956$

Kim, H. T., & Park, K. 2022. Computed Tomography (CT) Image-based Analysis of Concrete Microstructure using Virtual Element Method. *Composite Structures*, 115937.



# Virtual Element Formulation

## □ Governing Equation

$$\int_{\Omega} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{u}) : \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{v}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{t} \, d\mathbf{x} \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{K}_0$$

## □ Preliminary Space

$$\tilde{\mathcal{V}}(F) = \{v_h \in \mathcal{H}^1(F) : \Delta v_h \in \mathcal{P}_1(F) \text{ in } F, v_h|_e \in \mathcal{P}_1(e) \forall e \in \partial F\}$$

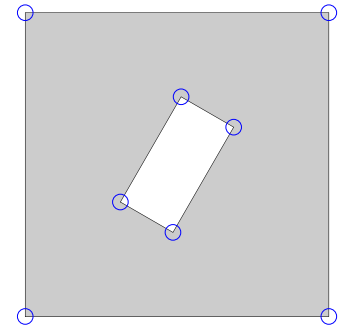
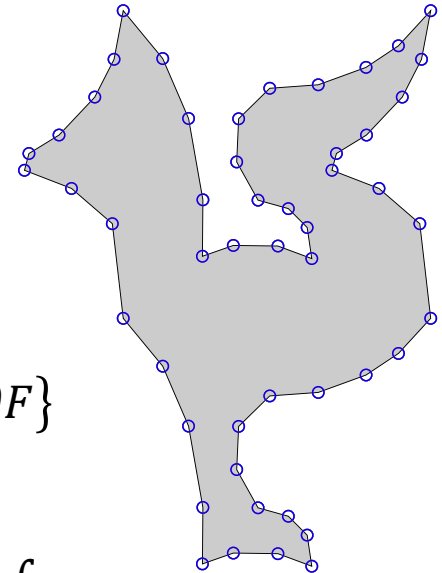
## □ First Projection by Projection Operator

$$\int_E \Pi^0 \nabla \phi_i \cdot \mathbf{m}_\alpha \, d\mathbf{x} = \sum S_{i\beta} \int_E \mathbf{m}_\beta \cdot \mathbf{m}_\alpha \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\partial E} \phi_i \mathbf{m}_i \cdot \mathbf{n} \, ds - \int_E \phi_i \operatorname{div} \mathbf{m}_i \, d\mathbf{x}$$

## □ Projection of Displacement

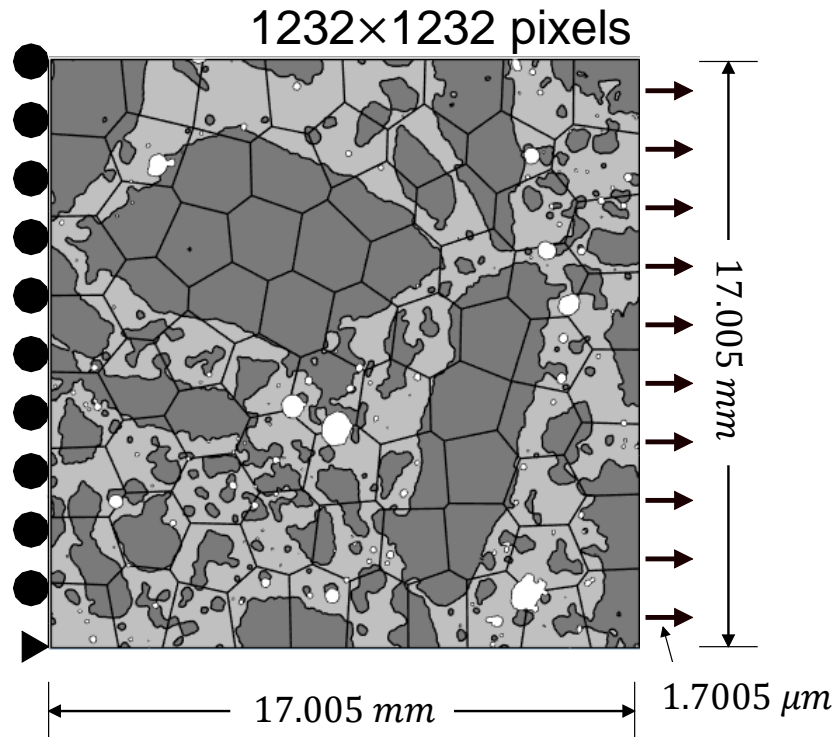
$$\int_E (\Pi^0 v_h) p \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_E v_h p \, d\mathbf{x} \quad \forall p \in \mathcal{P}(E)$$

$$p = \sum a_i \cdot m_i \quad m_1 = 1, \quad m_2 = \left( \frac{x-x_c}{h_e} \right), \quad m_3 = \left( \frac{y-y_c}{h_e} \right)$$



Beirão da Veiga, L., Brezzi, F., Cangiani, A., Manzini, G., Marini, L. D., & Russo, A, 2013, Basic principles of virtual element methods. *Mathematical Models and Methods in Applied Sciences*, 23(1), 199-214.

# Uniaxial Tension Test



## □ Meshes

- VEM mesh : 432, 632, 2,497, 4,812, and 9,021 elements
- $n_{elem}$  in VEM meshes less than **0.604%** of the Reference mesh

## □ Reference solution

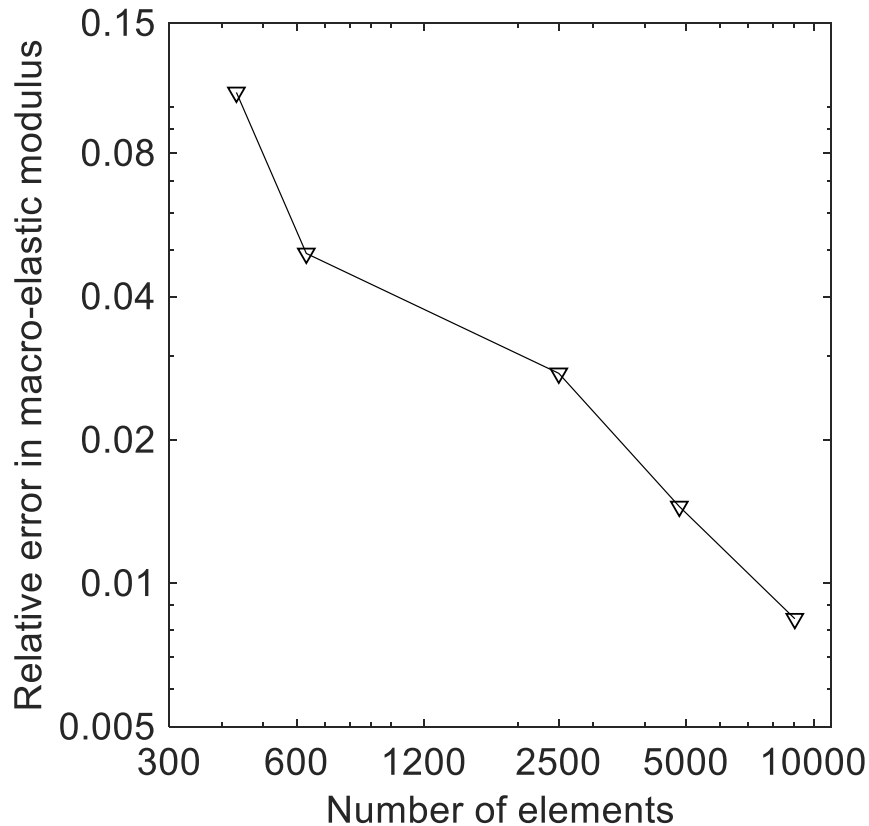
- Pixel-based FEM (Abaqus)
- $n_{elem} = 1,494,856$

## □ Material Properties

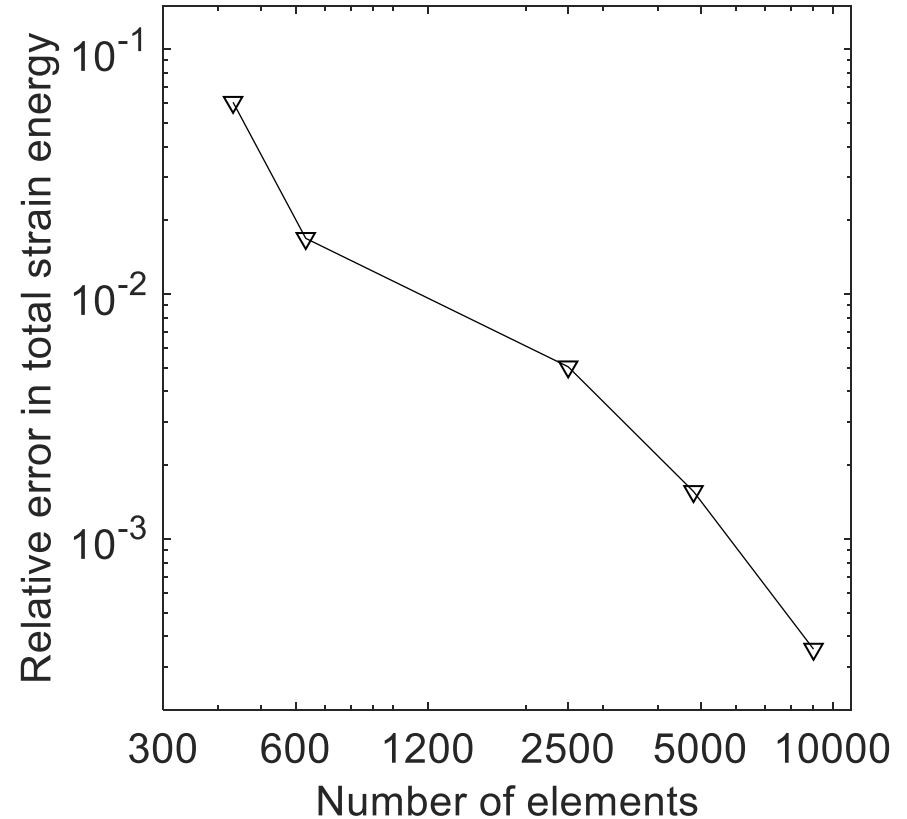
- **Aggregate** :  $E_a = 60 \text{ GPa}$  ,  $\nu_a = 0.25$
- **Paste** :  $E_p = 20 \text{ GPa}$  ,  $\nu_p = 0.2$

# Result

## □ Macro Elastic Modulus

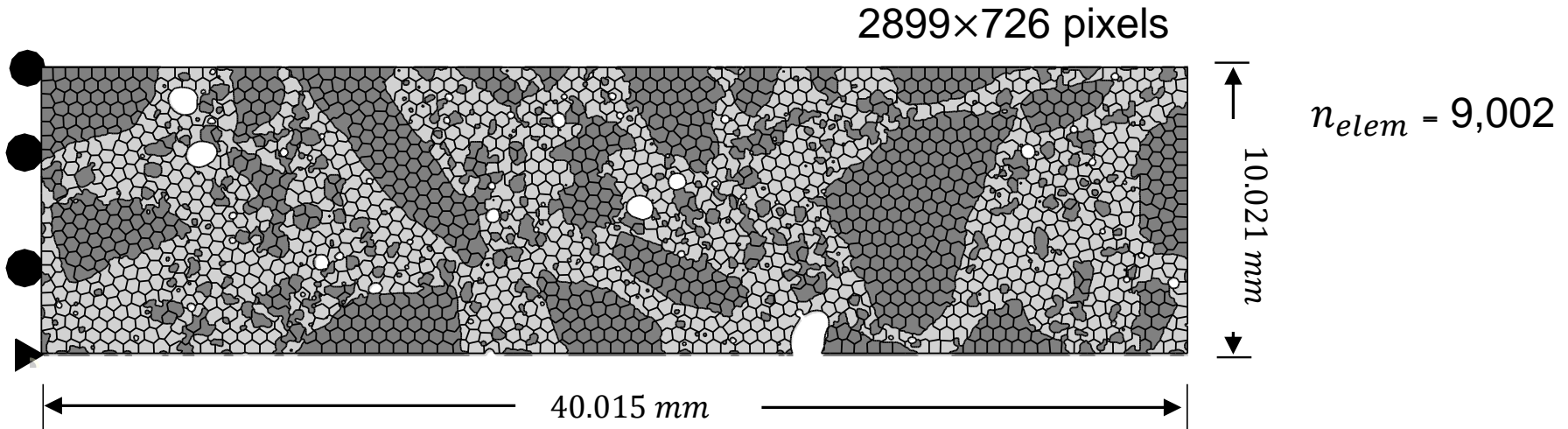


## □ Total Strain Energy





# Aggregate Volume Expansion



## □ Material Properties

### ■ Aggregate

$$E_a = -3.16 \times 10^{-19} r_n + 60.42 \quad \nu_a = 0.25$$

$$\varepsilon_{V,a} = 5.78 \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{0.9997 + (1 - 0.9997) \exp[1.36 \times 10^{-15} (1 - 0.9997) r_n]}} \right\}$$

### ■ Paste

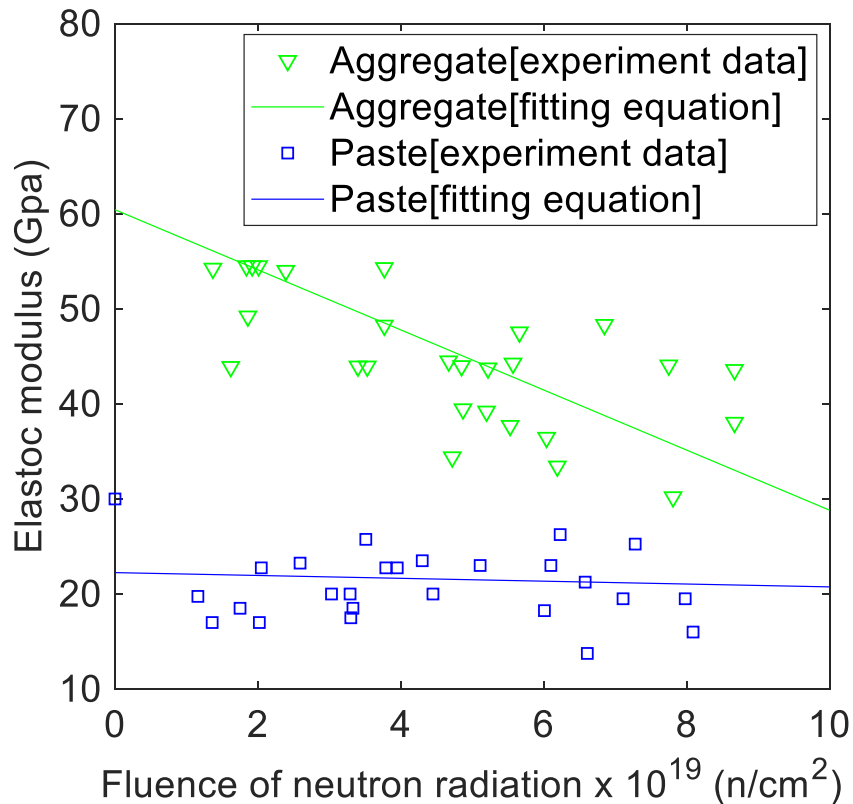
$$E_p = -0.15 \times 10^{-19} r_n + 22.25 \quad \nu_p = 0.2$$

$$\varepsilon_{V,p} = -3.1 \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{0.9979 + (1 - 0.9979) \exp[2.588 \times 10^{-16} (1 - 0.9979) r_n]}} \right\}$$

Jing, Y., & Xi, Y. (2017). Theoretical Modeling of the Effects of Neutron Irradiation on Properties of Concrete. *Journal of Engineering Mechanics*, 143(12), 04017137. [https://doi.org/10.1061/\(asce\)em.1943-7889.0001360](https://doi.org/10.1061/(asce)em.1943-7889.0001360)

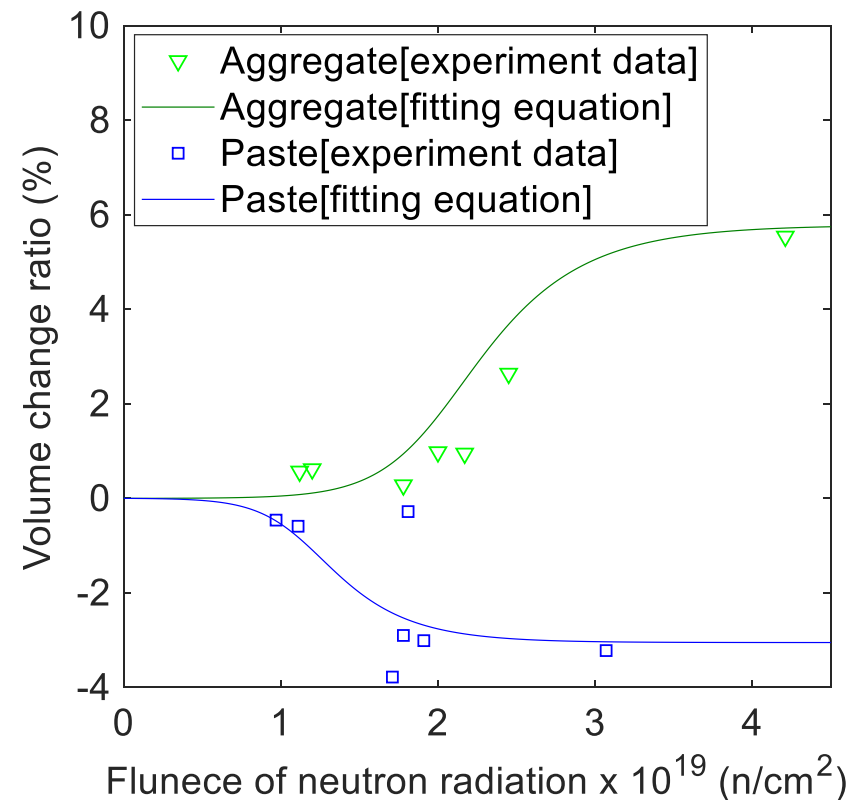
# Irradiation Effect on the Material

## Elastic modulus



$$E = ar_n + b$$

## Volume change



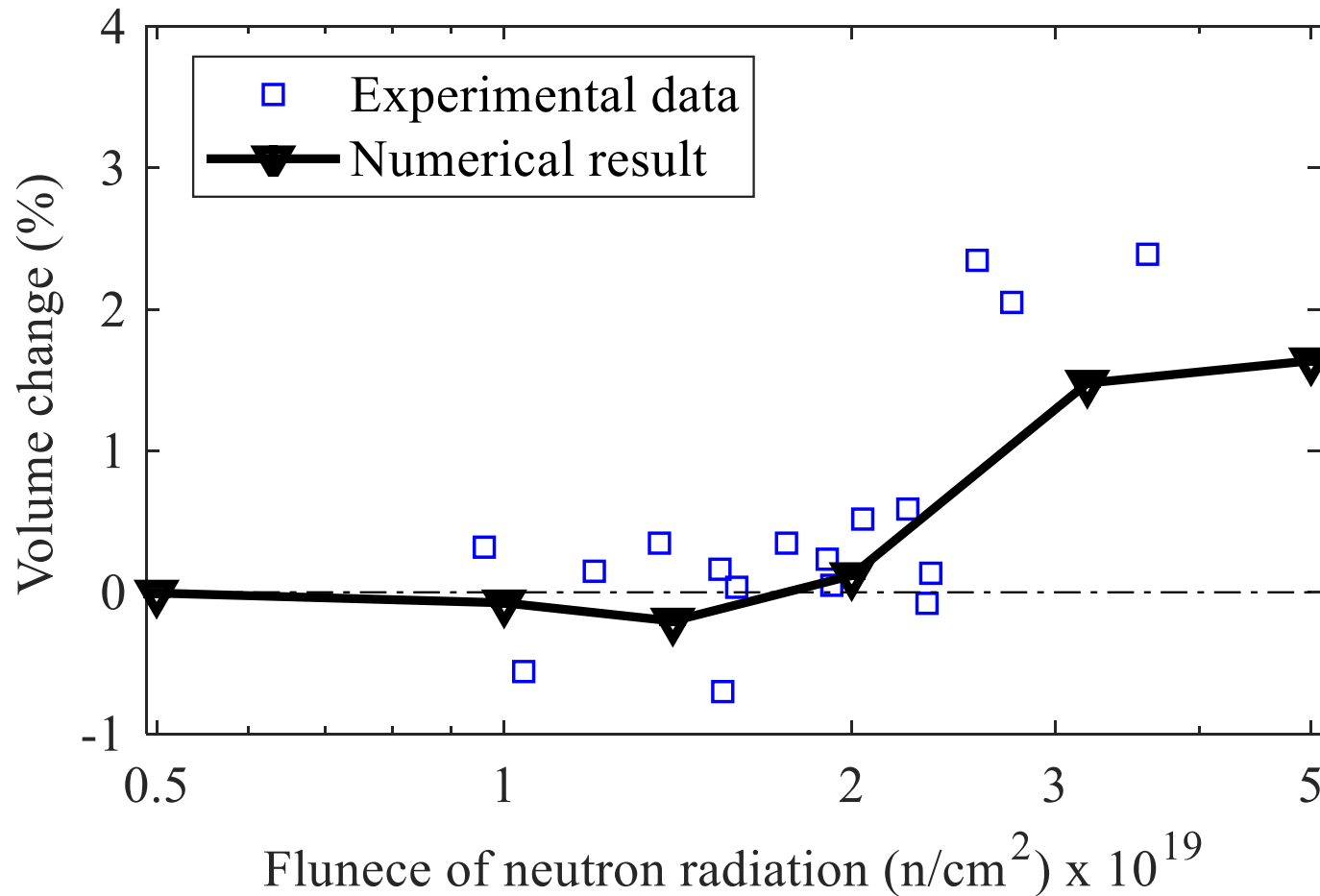
$$\varepsilon_0 = \rho_{max} \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{A + (1 - A)\exp[B(1 - A)r_n]}} \right\}$$

Jing, Y., & Xi, Y. (2017). Theoretical modeling of the effects of neutron irradiation on properties of concrete. *Journal of Engineering Mechanics*, 143(12), 04017137.



# Result

## □ Volume Change



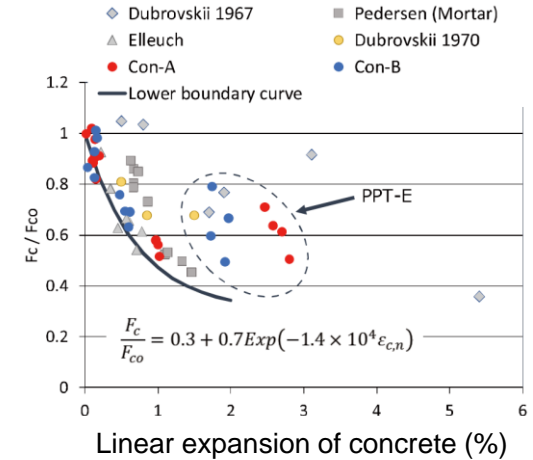
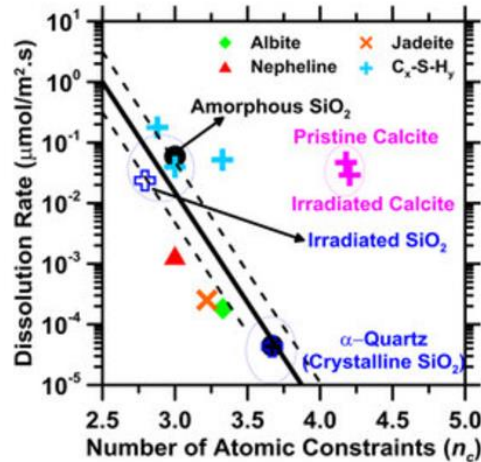
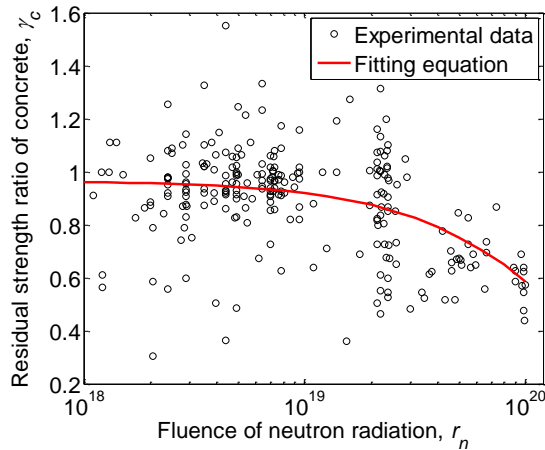
Elleuch, L. F., Dubois, F., & Rappeneau, J. (1972). Effects of neutron radiation on special concretes and their components. *ACI Special Publication*, 43, 1071–1108.

# Summary

- X-ray와 Neutron CT 를 상호보완하여 poly-mineral aggregate를 사용한 실제 콘크리트의 미세구조를 재구성한다.
- 재구성된 Digital image를 기반으로 다각형요소를 이용하여 복잡한 콘크리트 미세구조를 효율적으로 이산화 한다.
- 전체 요소개수에 상관없이 미세구조의 형상에 대한 정확성을 유지할 수 있으며, homogeneous mesh의 요소개수를 통해서 사용자가 요구하는 수치해석의 정확도를 확보한다.
- 이미지 기반 미세구조 해석을 통해 비파괴적 방법으로 중성자 조사환경과 같이 극한 환경에서 콘크리트의 재료특성 평가를 진행하고자 한다.

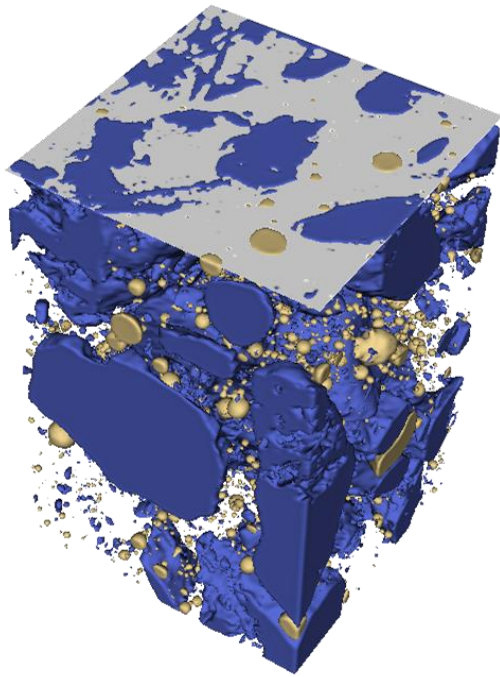
**Thank you**

# Irradiation effects on the Concrete

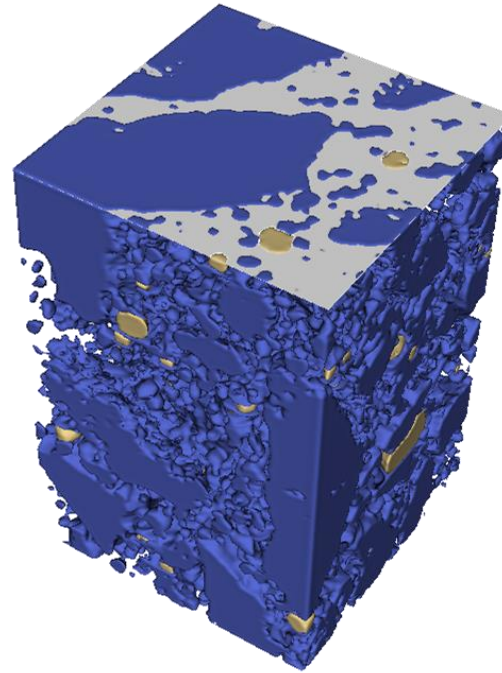


- Field, K. G., Remec, I., & Pape, Y. Le Pape., 2015. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, 282, 126–143.
- K. Park, H.T. Kim, T.H. Kwon, and E. Choi, 2016, *Nuclear Engineering and Design* 310, 15-26
- Pignatelli, I., Kumar, A., Field, K.G., Wang, B., Yu, Y., Le Pape, Y., Bauchy, M. and Sant, G., 2016. *Scientific Reports*, 6, 20155
- Maruyama, I., Kontani, O., Takizawa, M., Sawada, S., Ishikawao, S., Yasukouchi, J., ... Igari, T. 2017. *Journal of Advanced Concrete Technology*, 15(9), 440–523.

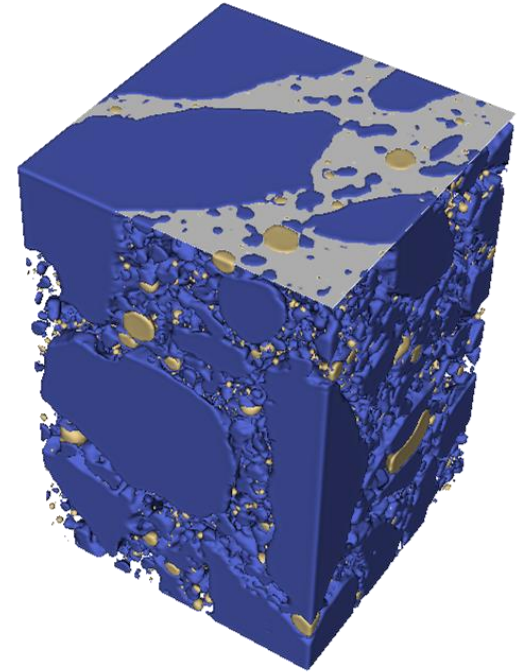
# 3D Concrete Microstructure



**X-ray CT**



**Neutron CT**

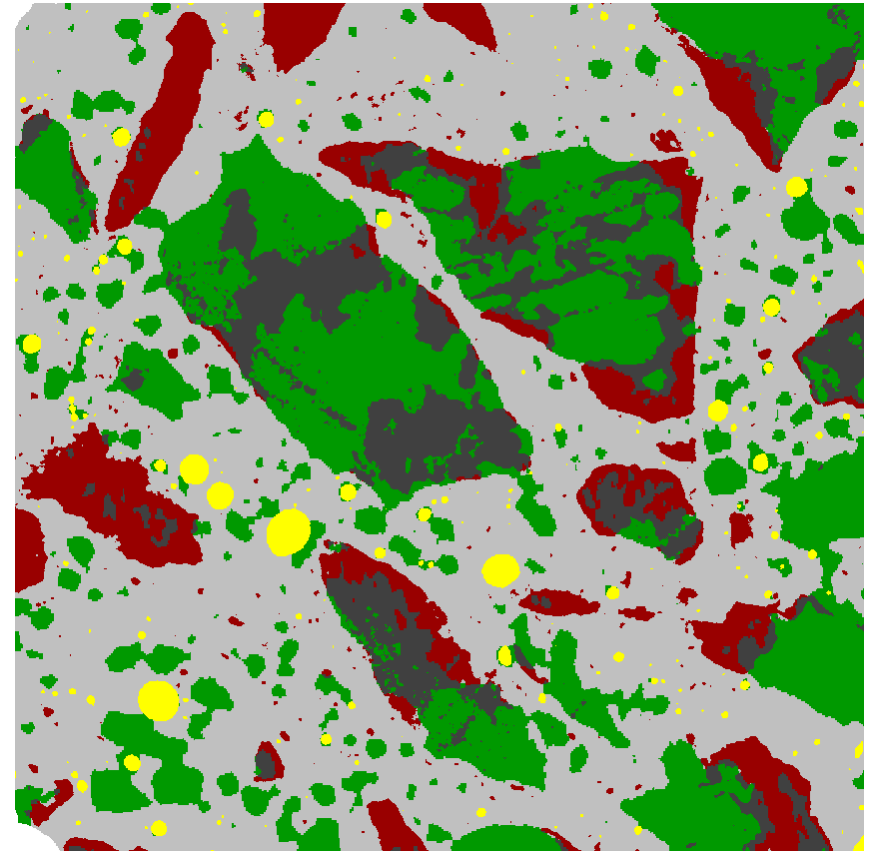
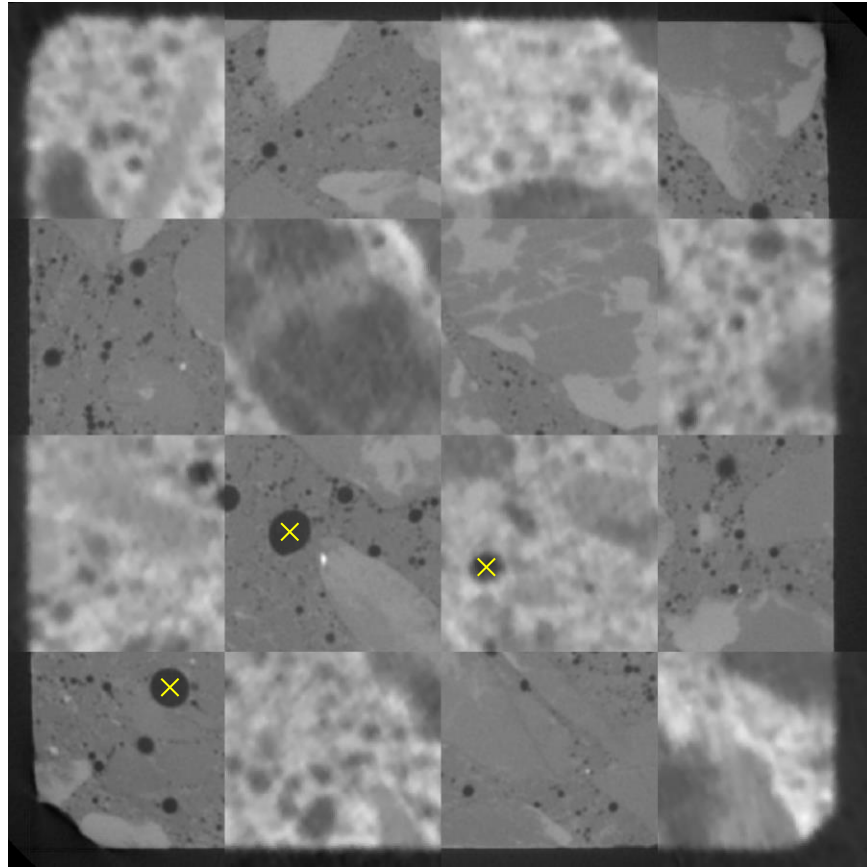


**Assemble**

H.T. Kim, D.F.T. Razakamandimby, V. Szilagy, K. Zoltan, L. Szentmiklosi, M.A. Glinicki, and K. Park, 2021  
Reconstruction of concrete microstructure using complementarity of X-ray and neutron tomography,  
Cement and Concrete Research 148, 106540

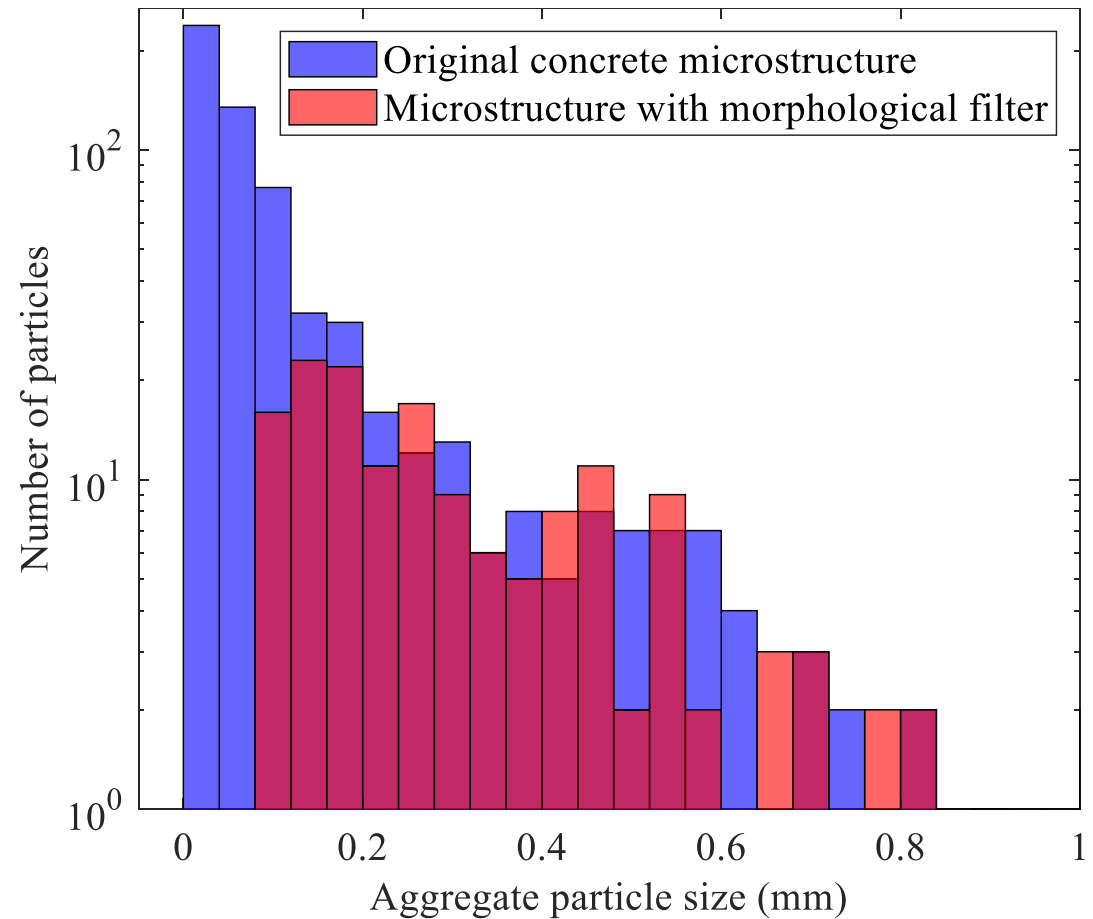
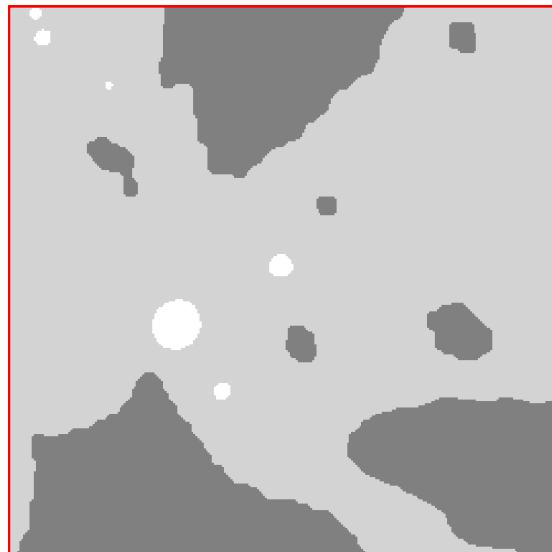


# Combined x-ray & neutron image

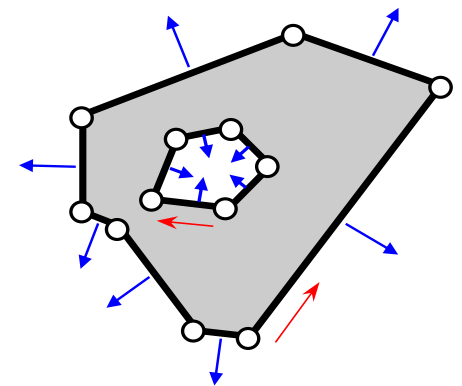
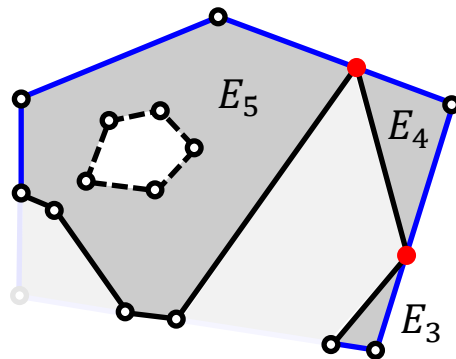
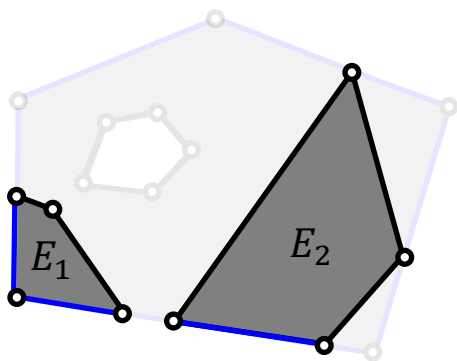
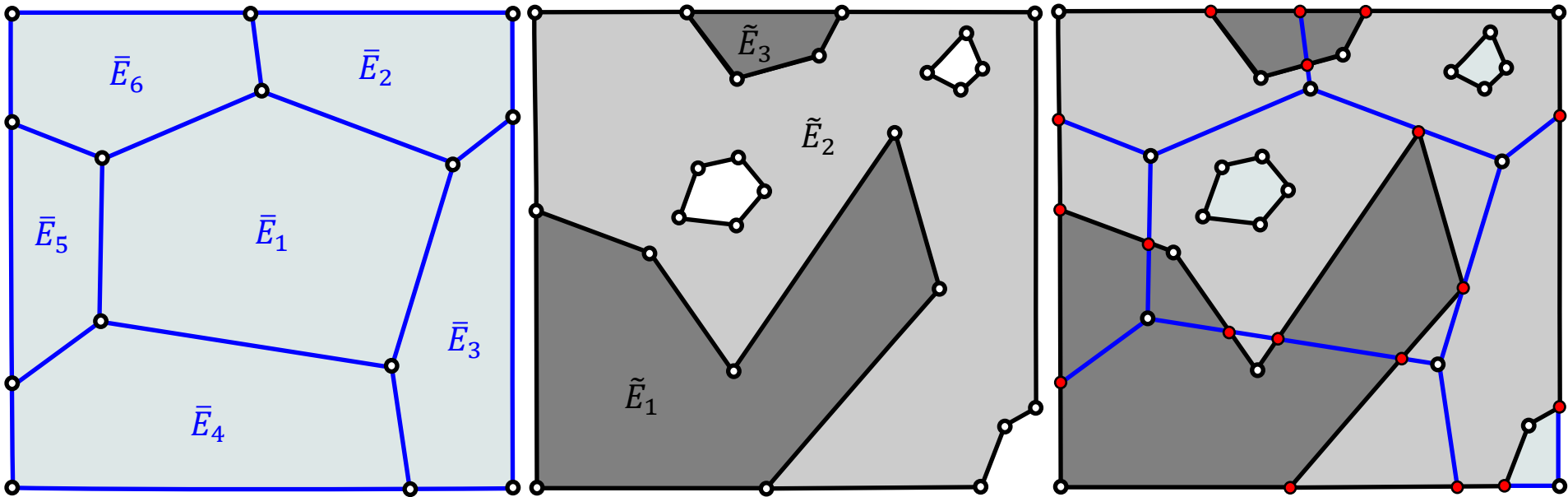




# Morphological Filtering



# Mesh Generation



Non-simply connected elements

# $L^2$ Projection Operator

## □ Projection of Displacement

$$\int_E (\Pi_1^0 v_h) p_1 d\mathbf{x} = \int_E v_h p_1 d\mathbf{x} \quad \forall p_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1(E)$$

$$p_1 = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n_{p_1}} \alpha_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \quad m_1 = 1, m_2 = \frac{x-x_c}{h_P}, m_3 = \frac{y-y_c}{h_P}, m_4 = \frac{z-z_c}{h_P}$$

## □ Projection of Strain

$$\int_E (\Pi_0^0 \nabla v_h) \cdot \mathbf{p}_0 d\mathbf{x} = \int_E \nabla v_h \cdot \mathbf{p}_0 d\mathbf{x} \quad \forall \mathbf{p}_0 \in [\mathcal{P}_0(E)]^2$$

$$\mathbf{p}_0 = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n_{p_0}} a_{\alpha} \mathbf{m}_{\alpha} \quad \mathbf{m}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{m}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{m}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\int_E \Pi_0^0 (\nabla v_h) \cdot \mathbf{p}_0 d\mathbf{x} = \int_{\partial E} v_h \mathbf{p}_0 d\mathbf{x} - \int_E v_h \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{p}_0) d\mathbf{x}$$



# Construction of Stiffness Matrix

## □ Element Stiffness Matrix

$$\mathbf{K}_E = \mathbf{K}_{E,c} + \mathbf{K}_{E,s}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{E,c} = \int_E \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{C} \mathbf{B} \, dx$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^d [\Pi_0^0 \nabla \phi]_{\alpha} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{B}}_{\alpha}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{B}}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{B}}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for 2D}$$

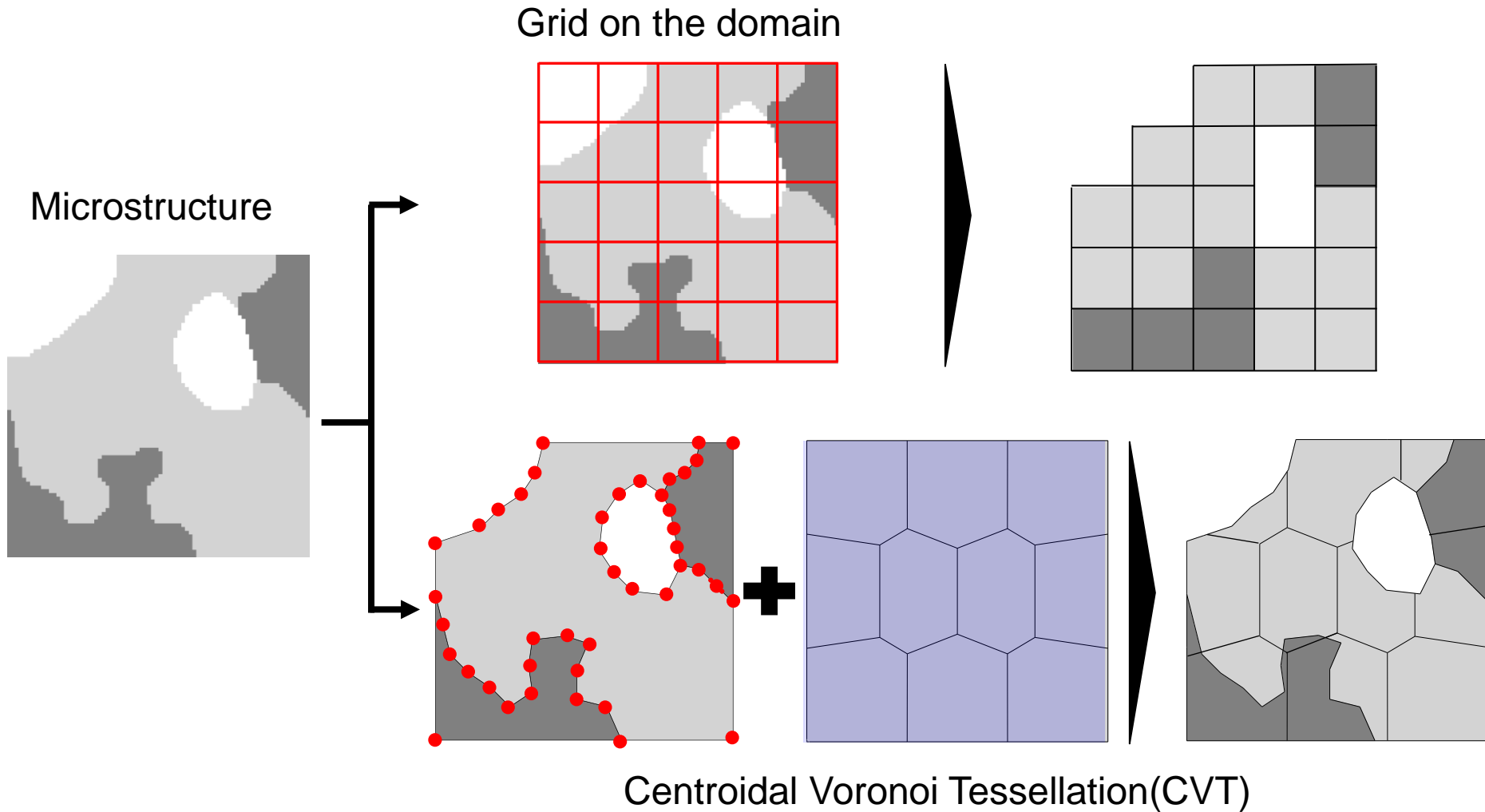
$$\bar{\mathbf{B}}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{B}}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{B}}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for 3D}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_{E,s} = \bar{\mathbf{K}}_{E,s} \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{K}}_{E,s} = (\mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{P}_1^0)^T \mathbf{\Lambda} (\mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{P}_1^0)$$

K. Park, H. Chi, and G.H. Paulino, 2020, Numerical recipes on virtual element method for elasto-dynamic explicit time integration, International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering 121, 1-31

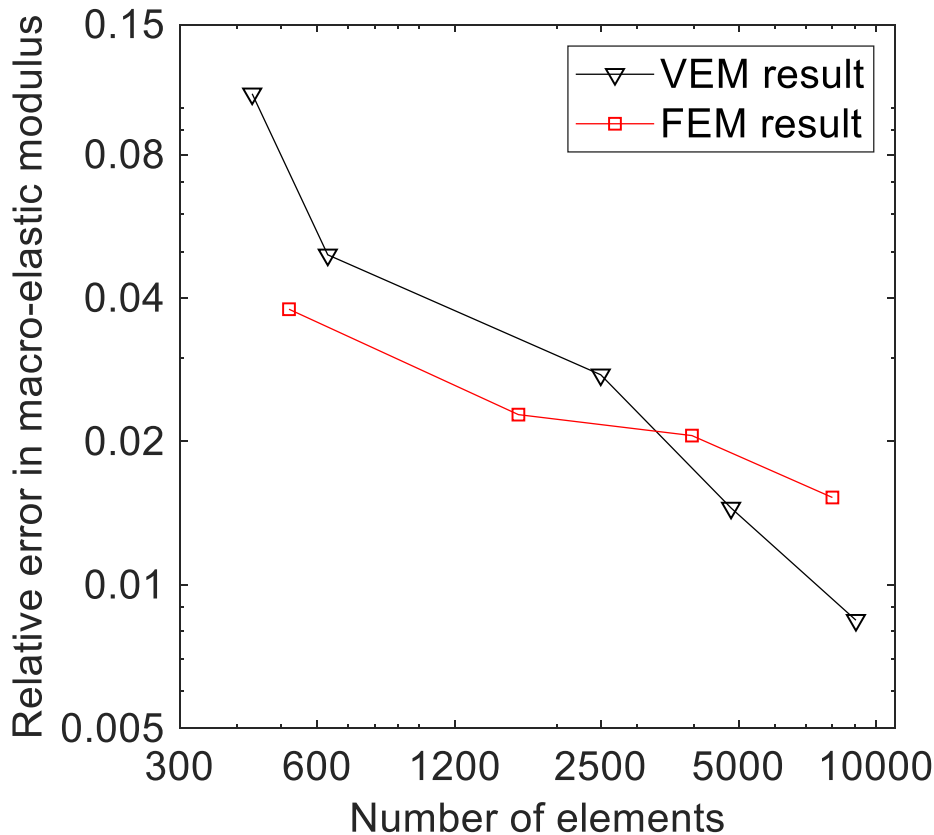
# Mesh Generation based on the Image



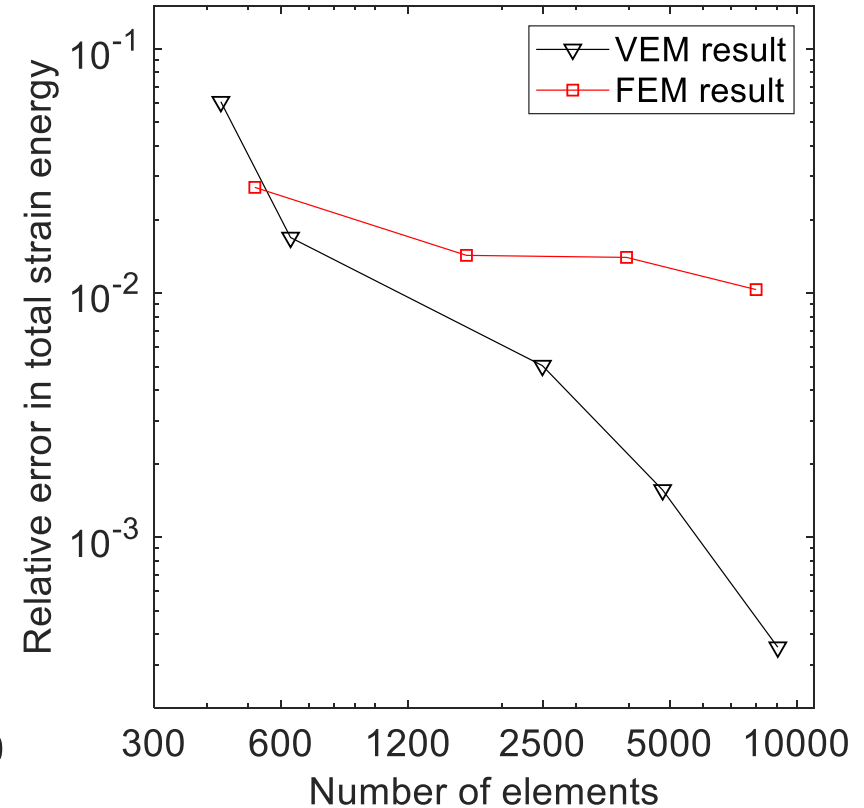
Kim, H. T., & Park, K. 2022. Computed Tomography (CT) Image-based Analysis of Concrete Microstructure using Virtual Element Method. *Composite Structures*, 115937.

# VEM vs FEM

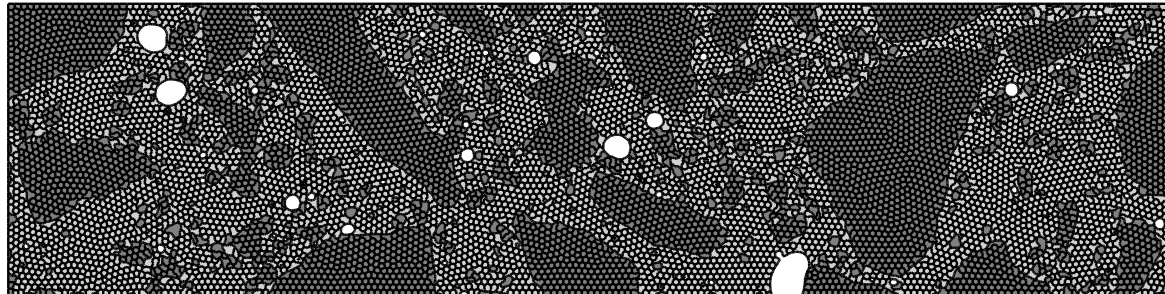
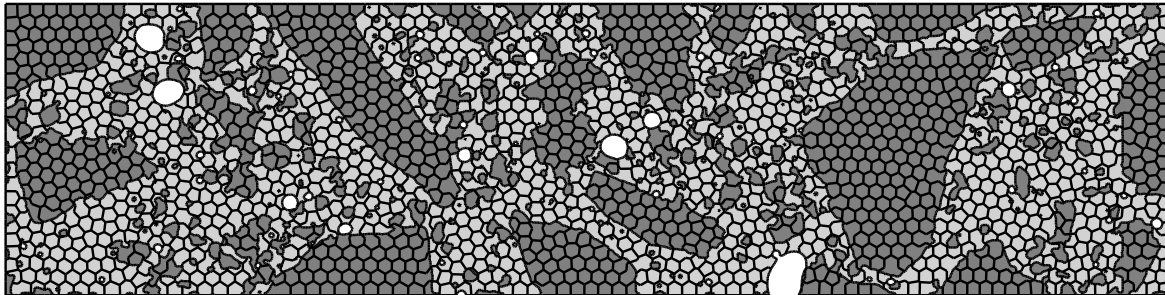
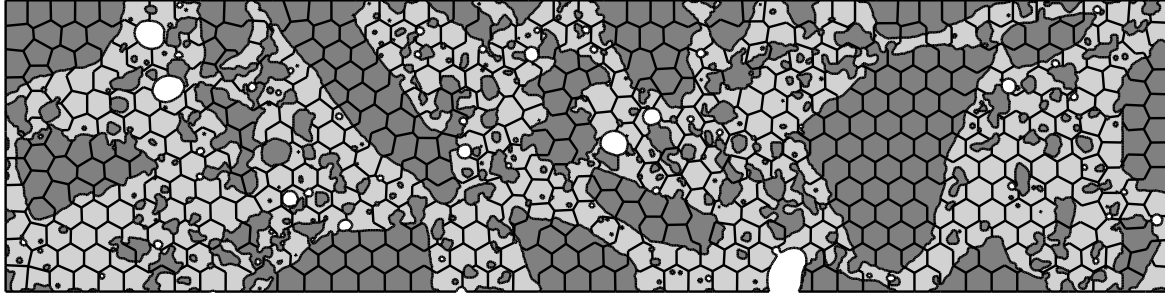
## □ Macro Elastic Modulus



## □ Total Strain Energy



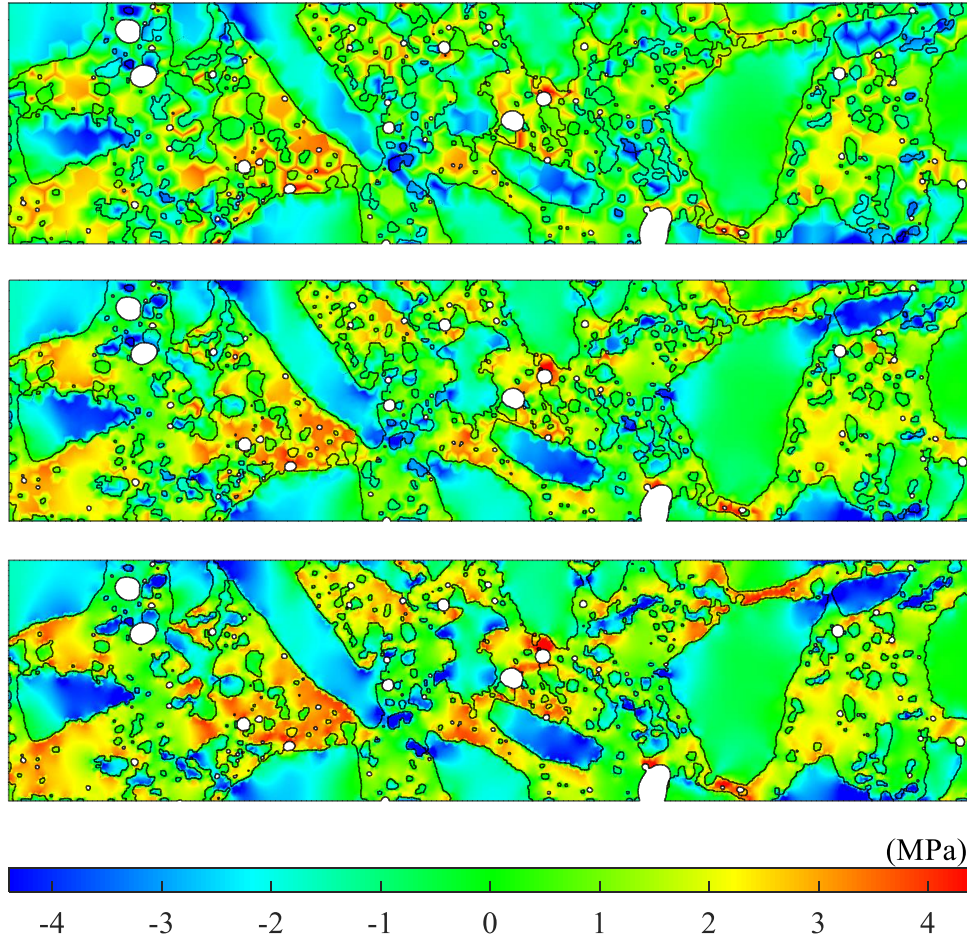
# Meshes





# Aggregate Volume Expansion

## □ Horizontal stress field





# Aggregate Volume Expansion

- Strain error :  $H^1$ -type skeletal norm error

